



GETTING TO KNOW YOU

Last month we asked our resident physicians to share a little about themselves. We wanted to know what motivates them, how they picked their specialty or what keeps them inspired. Here is just a few of the responses we got...

“I find that I’m inspired by compassionate preceptors. Sometimes patient care can be very challenging, especially with chronic illness. Preceptors who validate my worries (and who buy me the occasional lunch) really help change my perspective.”

“I picked Family Medicine because of the relationship you get to build with patients. One of my most memorable experiences in clerkship was following a patient throughout her prenatal visits in the clinic, delivering her baby and then also seeing her and the baby post partum. I can’t wait to develop my own patient panel who I can follow regularly as well as their families!”

“I saw my first successful code blue this week. After several years in clerkship and residency, a pager that summons me to code blue has always inevitably ended in a death pronouncement. However, when the patient stabilized and was asking what happened, a renewed sense of purpose and pride washed over me. The grace and confidence of the code leader and the smooth collaboration of the allied health team awed me. Medicine can leave us battered, but never defeated.”

“The Patients! Who let us learn about them, from them and with them! It is an honour to be a part of a person’s life at some of the key moments and this is what keeps me going!”

“The best thing about residency training is the amazing friendships I have made with my co-residents. I am so grateful to have them by my side as we navigate the challenges of residency.”

“I picked my specialty because Psychiatry looks at all the different aspects of health and wellness (bio/psych/social) and takes them all into account when treating a patient. This was my favorite part of working with patients because discharge planning took into account things like homelessness and medication coverage which could contribute to re admission rates which on other rotations weren’t considered as much.”



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“I love the diagnostic aspect of medicine! I fell in love with anatomical pathology early on in medical school. It was first year histology classes. Most of my class skipped those lectures as it was considered “low yield” for exams, but I secretly loved them. I would spend hours working on our histology assignments. I like that we work behind the scenes by providing diagnoses that guide patient management. We also get to see extremely rare cases all the time. Plus, we have amazing regular work hours and only a few weeks of home call a year!”

“I am a Peds resident at UofA. I may be biased but I think Pediatrics is the best program because we get to incorporate play and fun into medicine (like giving our patients “water guns” ie saline syringes to spray at our staff on rounds). “

“The best part about my program is my AMAZING co-residents who make work fun. So far, the best thing about residency has been getting to know my new colleagues. I’m in radiation oncology, a small program, so it’s been awesome building relationships with my co-residents and meeting the radiation oncologists. The Cross Cancer is such an exceptional place to work, where the allied health teams are incredibly kind to their patients and each other. The level of support I’ve received has made the transition into residency really fun.”

“When I was trying to decide on a program in medical school I was rounding on the pediatrics CTU ward back home (MB). it was a stressful, busy and bleh day on the wards. Rounds were dragging on and I was starting to get hungry. There was a large group of doctors talking in a circle, blocking access down the hallway. With the subspecialists chatting with us and all the learners, I think we had a crowd of 10 people! All of a sudden, the crowd parts to the sides and I figured a nurse or parent was trying to get through. Instead, it was a young child in a toy car who was trying to drive by. Everyone stopped their medical jargon discussion without question to move over and let this kid enjoy a little bit of fun. It was so simple but it made me smile and realize that pediatrics can be very serious, but sometimes in life you need something to pull you out of that. I picked pediatrics because I find a lot of joy in caring for kids. They have such a neat approach to life and I am never bored with what they say.”

“For me, Pediatrics always seemed like the natural fit. Working with kids came easily to me. As I have spent more time in Pediatrics I have realized how rewarding it is to advocate for vulnerable children and support families through our complex medical system. Even on the most difficult days, there’s always a cute smile waiting for you.”