

Interview Assessment #1

Name of Professional: Alan London

Profession: General Surgeon

Hospital: Surgical Specialists

Date of Interview: 9/7/16

My first was interview conducted with Dr. Alan London, a general surgeon who practiced in both Plano and Frisco. From our meeting I had hoped to understand the negative aspects of the job and what difficulties I could expect to see in the future. While I knew the benefits, rarely could I find sources that explain the drawbacks of taking a job in the medical field. So as a result, I decided to learn about the less talked about negative aspects of the field. Another aspect I wanted to understand was schooling, as with schooling I can change my path right now so that it can be more beneficial in the future.

The most important thing I learned in this interview was the role the government plays in health care. Dr. London explained to me how deductibles were becoming higher and higher so less patients could afford them. He told me about his personal hardships and how his salary is actually declining, but his visits are becoming more expensive. This was one aspect that had a big impact on how I saw my field

because even though supposedly philanthropic, it is actually very difficult for people to get help. He discussed how governmental regulations were changing drastically every year and it is very difficult to maintain the business and political policies involved in practicing the field. This gave me insight on how in order to maintain a successful career as a doctor, I have to look to keep updating myself and finding out ways to keep my visits as cheap as possible so that more people can have access.

Another aspect we discussed was schooling. While Dr. London recommended me to be in the top of my class to ensure a seat in college, he did not recommend any high school courses. He instead said that you learn the most in surgeon school and in actual practice, and as long as I take biology or some science course I should be capable of that job. This gave me some confusion as I didn't understand why most colleges favored students who take courses like health science if they had such minor impacts in total. He also recommended a minor in psychology, which was new to me as previously I had only seen business or chemistry minors. However this made sense as good patient and doctor understanding will be founded on the basis of psychology. He gave me confidence that I am where I should be now, but need to keep an eye out for future educational opportunities.

A final topic of discussion was trust from patients. Dr. London discussed how it is difficult to gain trust from patients early on and until you earn your "gray hairs" in the field, patients will go to second opinions. I know that I should be prepared for this and should work with more practiced, older doctors in the beginning years of my career to gain more patient trust. Later on, once I am established, I can venture to my

own specialties. However the only thing to do is to remain calm and professional at all times and never take it offensively. The patient is always entitled to what he or she perceives as the best care.

Overall this meeting taught me to adapt and mature with my practice and career. I need to be knowledgeable on not just my area, but the areas surrounding it. It is important to be up to date with government policies. In addition, to pay attention to my schooling but not take the health courses taken in high school to be the end all be all. And finally, to be patient in gaining trust of patients. Though this interview was nerve-racking, it created a greater depth of knowledge for me to expand through research and interviews and I will continue to do so .