



Francis E. Banich, MD

City: Elmhurst, IL

Date of Graduation from Medical School: 1957

Medical School Graduated From: Loyola University, Stritch School of Medicine

Residency Location: Cook County Hospital

Specialty: General Surgery

What factors influenced your decision to become a physician? I had an uncle who was a family practitioner and was dedicated to medicine. He picked me up at my home and I would accompany him every Sunday morning to the hospital where he made rounds.

Did you have any mentors or influential people in the course of your medical training or career who made an impact on you? Karl Meyer – Peter Rosi – Nicholas Capos – Fred DePeyster and Lloyd Nyhus – Robert Baker – Robert Freeark – Paul Fox and John Keeley.

Did you experience a defining moment that made you feel you had become a physician? Christmas eve in the late 1960's I was called to the ER – a 7 year old was struck by a car – he had multiple injuries - ruptured spleen – pelvis fractures. He survived to become an airline pilot.

As you were training to be a physician, what one piece of advice could you not have done without? If a patient states he is in a financial crisis – Dr. Meyer said – “Never use a collection agency. Tell the patient you can pay your bill when times are better” – they occasionally do pay but they will refer you their friends.

What advice would you give to medical students graduating in the class of 2007? Spend as much time as you can in continuing education – knowledge and confidence will make the profession ‘fun.’

What is the most significant medical innovation you experienced in your years of practice? Hyperalimentation & laparoscopic surgery and electrosurgical devices.

What regrets, if any, do you have about your medical career? None – I have many grateful patients – performed thousands of operative procedures and perhaps I was able to change someone's destiny.

Is there one patient, situation or incident that stands out above all others in your career? I have too many but doing my father's cholecystectomy common duct exploration stands out. After completing the primary procedure I redraped and repaired a left inguinal hernia only because he did not wish to return to the hospital for another operation.