



**Charles H. Duckett, MD**

**City:** Winston Salem, NC

**Date of Graduation from Medical School:** 1957

**Medical School Graduated From:** Wake Forest University School of Medicine

**Residency Location:** University of Virginia Hospital

**Specialty:** Family Practice

---

**What factors influenced your decision to become a physician?** Life with father, a very busy general practitioner.

**Did you have any mentors or influential people in the course of your medical training or career who made an impact on you?** Many, but Drs. Wingate Johnson and Eben Alexander were among them.

**Did you experience a defining moment that made you feel you had become a physician?** No, always wanted to be a physician from childhood on.

**As you were training to be a physician, what one piece of advice could you not have done without?** To be 'caring' – and as Dr. Wingate Johnson said: 'It is your responsibility to help prolong life, but not to prolong suffering.'

**What advice would you give to medical students graduating in the class of 2007?** Medicine is a wonderful profession; enjoy it, and use care to avoid the greed that can so easily get in the way of caring for people.

**What is the most significant medical innovation you experienced in your years of practice?** The development of knowledge and modalities in the care of individuals with coronary vessel disease.

**Is there one patient, situation or incident that stands out above all others in your career?** Yes, the very difficult, but successful delivery of a healthy baby (breech) to a mother whose husband was in Vietnam at the time.