



J. Sidney Fulmer, MD

City: Spartanburg, SC

Date of Graduation from Medical School: 1957

Medical School Graduated From: Emory University Medical School

Residency Location: University of Virginia, Charlottesville, VA

Specialty: Ob-Gyn

What factors influenced your decision to become a physician? 1) From high school on, I wanted to be a doctor; 2) My great uncle was a family practice doctor and continued to work until the age of 95! 3) I am still in practice at age 75 – after over 43 years, but I am retiring soon.

Did you have any mentors or influential people in the course of your medical training or career who made an impact on you? 1) Dr. Norman Thornton, Head of the Department Ob-Gyn at University of Virginia, while I was a resident; 2) Dr. Lester Wilson, Professor Ob-Gyn at University of Virginia; Dr. Edgar Fincher, Neuro-surgeon, Professor at Emory University.

Did you experience a defining moment that made you feel you had become a physician?
Yes – when I delivered my first baby – all by myself.

As you were training to be a physician, what one piece of advice could you not have done without? The technique of surgery matters very little unless you first master good surgical judgement (often stated by Dr. Norman Thornton.)

What advice would you give to medical students graduating in the class of 2007? 1) Get the very best education you can and all else will fall into place; and for your patients – compassion, compassion, compassion.

What is the most significant medical innovation you experienced in your years of practice?
Mammography, ultrasound, CT scans & MRI's, but each month brings something new.

What regrets, if any, do you have about your medical career?
None, except not enough family time, time for those who love you the most.

