



Severo K. Guerrero, MD

City: Mesa, AZ

Date of Graduation from Medical School: 1957

Medical School Graduated From: University of Michigan

Residency Location: Not specified

Specialty: Family Medicine

What factors influenced your decision to become a physician? My father taught me all the bones of the body on a skeleton. He also taught me how to identify tropical worms, malaria, schistosomiasis and how to suture.

Did you have any mentors or influential people in the course of your medical training or career who made an impact on you? Dr. George Blahen, the medical administrator at Cook County Hospital extended my training to 18 months, so that I received quality comprehensive preparation to be a well trained family physician.

Did you experience a defining moment that made you feel you had become a physician? During my internship, there was an elderly pateint in the male ward at Cook County who was a "mystery patient." No one could determine his gastrointestinal problem. I was able to demonstrate that he had clonorchiasis (fish flukes.)

As you were training to be a physician, what one piece of advice could you not have done without? I wish someone had advised me to take pre-medical courses in literature, arts and music.

What advice would you give to medical students graduating in the class of 2007? After comprehensive and compassionate patient care, do take quality time with your family and attend church services.

What is the most significant medical innovation you experienced in your years of practice? I introduced the concept of problem oriented medical documentation. "SOAP", S = subjective, O = objective (i.e. vital signs, test results), A = Assessment (differential diagnosis & P = plans, a) diagnostic tests b) therapeutic modalities, c) patient education, follow-up and sign your record.

What regrets, if any, do you have about your medical career? I did not allow time to socialize with the families of my classmates.

Is there one patient, situation or incident that stands out above all others in your career? A comatose elderly patient, after days of unconsciousness suddenly regained consciousness