



**John L. Kuehn, MD**

**City:** Medina, OH

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

**Medical School Graduated From:** Ohio State

**Residency Location:** Menninger School of Psychiatry

**Specialty:** Psychiatry

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**What factors influenced your decision to become a physician?**

Father and grandfather were MD's; visiting their office; summer job experience working at Toledo State Hospital; making 'house calls'; and observing surgery with my father (who was also an anesthesiologist).

**Did you have any mentors or influential people in the course of your medical training or career who made an impact on you?** My father, A. J. Kuehn, MD; Richard Kutz, MD (Surgeon in Toledo), Karl and Will Menninger, MD (Topeka, KS), Preston G. McLean, MD (Internist, Psychiatrist, Psychoanalyst, teacher – "A man for all seasons").

**Did you experience a defining moment that made you feel you had become a physician?**

Yes – being on "alone" in ER at Columbus White Cross Hospital and trying to save life of a woman with ruptured aneurysm. (She didn't make it).

**As you were training to be a physician, what one piece of advice could you not have done without?** Join "study group" (at medical fraternity) to get through first two years! – Don't get too big a head – many medical students are bright – but 'immature,' also many make poor marital choices.

**What advice would you give to medical students graduating in the class of 2007?** Do not envy your colleagues who have more money. Bigger issues, cars, "toys" – this is purchased at the price of your wits and your soul! Do not 'sell out'. Do not allow yourself to be "corrupted."

**What is the most significant medical innovation you experienced in your years of practice?**

Revolutions in treatments, for the mentally ill, and for cancer – most of which are no longer a "death sentence."

**What regrets, if any, do you have about your medical career?** When I was a founder of psychiatry at a new medical school, I didn't pay enough attention to "medical politics" e.g., "town and gown" conflicts.

**Is there one patient, situation or incident that stands out above all others in your career?**

Yes, working with many years with a patient with chronic schizophrenia, who one day gave me a biography of Mozart.

