



Earl Dean Merkel, MD

City: Russell, KS

Date of Graduation from Medical School: 1957

Medical School Graduated From: Kansas University

Residency Location: Wesley Hospital; Wichita, KS

Specialty: Family Medicine

What factors influenced your decision to become a physician? Interest in science; helping others; contact to medicine through a brother with polio.

Did you have any mentors or influential people in the course of your medical training or career who made an impact on you? Drs. Mahlou Delp; Robert Manning, Robert Brown, Max Allen, Ronald McCoy, Robert Hudson; Edwin Martin, PhD

Did you experience a defining moment that made you feel you had become a physician? 1958 – starting practice in Russell, Kansas and the trust that patients had in my decision making.

As you were training to be a physician, what one piece of advice could you not have done without? Dr. Delp – “Take care of the practice of medicine and those you care for and medicine will take care of you.”

What advice would you give to medical students graduating in the class of 2007? The best advice I ever had was as in question Constant education and upgrading skills.

What is the most significant medical innovation you experienced in your years of practice? Diagnostic imaging.

Is there one patient, situation or incident that stands out above all others in your career? My training had prepared me well for my career and the presence of consultants to help with special situations.

