



Roman L. Patrick, MD

City: St. Louis, MO

Date of Graduation from Medical School: 1957

Medical School Graduated From: Duke University

Residency Location: Duke University

Specialty: Pathology

What factors influenced your decision to become a physician? Interest in medical science, family doctor cultivated my interest. My piano teacher was a physician who took a personal interest in my development as a teenager.

Did you have any mentors or influential people in the course of your medical training or career who made an impact on you? Professors and staff at Duke Medical School. Highly individualized education.

Did you experience a defining moment that made you feel you had become a physician? Day of graduation from medical school.

What advice would you give to medical students graduating in the class of 2007? Seek advice from medical staff on details of various specialties – pros and cons. Think carefully about where you want to live.

What is the most significant medical innovation you experienced in your years of practice. Development of organ transplantation, field of genetics. An unfortunate aspect of modern medicine is prolonging life and suffering toward the end of life.

What regrets, if any, do you have about your medical career? None. Perfect for me in my time. I would not consider medicine today, too controlled by third parties.

Is there one patient or incident that stands out above all the others? Dean Davison, Duke Medical School founder and first dean, instilled a love of the study of medicine in students. To this day, I love studying medicine.