



Harold (Hal) J. Robinson, MD

City: Marberth, PA

Date of Graduation from Medical School: 1957

Medical School Graduated From: University of Pennsylvania

Residency Location: Bryn Mawr Hospital, Pemma Hospital

Specialty: Cardiology

What factors influenced your decision to be a physician?

My father was a "GP".

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 (Louis C. Robinson); Larry Tayler, M.D.; John Strang, MD; Tom Hopkins, MD; Max Strumia, MD; Joseph Nicholson, MD; Harold Rowland, MD

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

When I saw my first private patient and answered her questions (after realizing that none of my training gave me the everyday questions that would be posed and that I'd still have to come up with a response).

As you were training to be a physician, what one piece of advice could you not have done without?

Learn to listen to heart actively, not passively – i.e. listen for A.I. murmur, don't just lay on the stethoscope and see if you hear something.

What advice would you give to medical students graduating in the class of 2007?

It's much more gratifying to resolve the problem case on your own (history, physical, analysis) than to wait for a test report.

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

The change from the 50's where we hoped the heart attack victim would survive, to the 70's when we could intervene and help them survive.

What regrets, if any, do you have about your medical career?

The last few years – the 90's – when our decisions were replaced by the distractions of the 3rd parties and their bottom line; the degrading of the physician, the ethics; the collegiality and the opportunity to think rather than follow an imposed "pathway".

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

The middle aged man who died two weeks after I had resurrected him. I felt defeated until his wife expressed her gratitude for the last two weeks they had together.

