Ricardo Correa, MD: Gratified by patients’ simple “thank you”

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Staff News Writer
The AMA “Members Move Medicine” series profiles a wide variety of doctors, offering a glimpse into the passions of women and men navigating new courses in American medicine.

On the move with: Ricardo Correa, MD, an endocrinologist who is assistant professor of medicine in the department of endocrinology, diabetes and metabolism at Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University.

AMA member since: 2009.

What inspired me to pursue a career in medicine: I love to help others and find solutions to problems through health care research. Medicine is the perfect combination of helping, teaching and science.

How I move medicine: I try to collaborate as much as I can with organizations that support patients and physicians. I contribute with patient groups to help them understand their problems and try to make their lives easier.

Career highlights: I volunteer in a free clinic and the most amazing moment is when a patient thanks me for the job I do with them. There is nothing that is more valuable for a physician than the smile and thanks from a patient. No awards can beat that.

Advice I’d give to those interested in pursuing a career in medicine: You should do it. If you care about others and you want to make a change in this world, medicine is your answer. The work is intense, but it is the most rewarding job that you can find—you will change the life of a person or a community.

Aspect of my work that means the most: Clinical contact with patients and understanding their stories. Also, I enjoy teaching others and teaching the joy of medicine to my fellows, residents and students. Doing research, being a clinical educator and seeing patients are what keep me happy in life.

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