

## **Interview Assessment #2**

Name of Professional: David Moore

Profession/Title: Cardiovascular Surgeon

Business/Company name: Baylor Scott & White in Plano

Date of Interview: 6 October 2017

The second informational interview I conducted was with Dr. David Moore, a cardiovascular surgeon at Baylor Scott & White in Plano. This would be my first interview with an actual surgeon so I looked forward to expanding my knowledge specific to cardiovascular surgery. Dr. Moore told me that he has had experience with ISM in the past so the informational interview process was not new territory for him.

What drew Dr. Moore most towards surgery was the excitement behind surgery and being able to have a plan, execute that plan, and potentially save someone's life. I found this belief very relatable and found that this is the very same reason I am drawn to surgery. The ability to completely change someone's life through surgery is a unique talent not many can do but is greatly needed around the world. I found some relief in this information because I found that the reason I was drawn to surgery was not as superficial and unrealistic as I had originally thought. Dr. Moore also mentioned that the most rewarding part of surgery is the satisfaction from solving a difficult problem and the patient gratitude. The process behind perfecting the surgical procedure and the surrounding events needed to ensure the patient has the best chance of survival is extremely extensive yet intriguing. This side of surgery is similar to the administrative aspect of healthcare that I learned about in a previous interview. I consider problem-solving one of my strengths so I believe that aspect of my personality would benefit me greatly in this field.

Also mentioned, was the lifelong gratitude exhibited by past patients to their surgeons. Dr. Moore claimed that he receives many thank you cards and holiday cards from patients around Christmas time that highlight their appreciation for the work he did for them and how he totally altered the course of their lives. This aspect of being a surgeon is what also drew me to surgery and continues to hold my fascination. There are many inspiring stories about surgeons and patients meeting again many years after a procedure and how significant the impact of the surgery on the patient's life is. I have always wanted to be able to impact someone's life in a positive and significant way so this is something incredibly exciting.

One unfortunate drawback that I learned about cardiovascular surgery is that it is an incredibly time-consuming lifestyle. After the four years of undergrad and four years of medical school, there is still 5-6 years of residency along with 2 years of specialization. While this long and rigorous educational route is incredibly exhausting,

the financial toll of the process is bewildering too. The introduction of this information has caused me to falter in my strides toward being a surgeon. Not only will I have to spend 15-16 years of my life in school, I will be making close to minimum wage, not nearly enough to be able to be financially independent. This educational process is also what causes so many medical students to go into immense debt with student loans. Dr. Moore informed me that when he went to school, it only cost a very small portion of what it does now and that the financial stress of pursuing education turns many potential surgeons away. This newfound information has led me to think about whether I truly want to follow this path of surgery despite my doubts about my future stability.

Despite the introduction of surgery's pitfalls, the interview was extremely informative and allowed me to take a look into the life of a real surgeon. The unique opportunity to speak with Dr. Moore will help me in making an educated decision about my future and my career path.

Challenging life's work = rewarding

Sense of satisfaction of dealing with patients and giving them hope

Rewarding: sense of satisfaction in taking a challenging problem and finding a solution. Is this someone who will benefit from surgery? What operation should occur? Very much riding on the line. Patients are very appreciative and the lifelong gratitude expressed. For each individual person is a huge deal.

Healthcare professional: -true interest in intellectual drive to know as much as you can. Never stop learning. - good judgement about who you can help and who you can't. Help people see the truth about their condition. Communication skills to help patients and their families make the right decision. Be able to educate distraught families about health conditions. - some ability to relate to people in a warm and comforting way. Empathetic, instead of being detached from them

Surgeon: 1. Have to have a lot of resilience. Can't get upset if you get berated or have a bad result. Education hours grueling and superiors treat you badly. Not easily discouraged. 2. Physical endurance for the surgeries that can take a while. Be able to deny self and embrace surgery as a way of life. Divorces and family problems very common among specialized surgeons such as neurosurgeons and cardiovascular surgeons. 3.

