

1. Why did you choose medicine?

Biology and art, like painting and ceramics, were my favorite subjects when I was in school. I was also interested in the nuances of human behavior, perceptions, and human nature - how we think and make decisions, what influences us, why we do the things we do, and what makes us human. I find helping people in need very rewarding and see the importance of empathy and humanity. Medicine was the best combination of what I am interested in, what I enjoy doing, and what I value.

2. Why did you choose surgery?

I like working with my hands, creating things, and being able to fix an acute problem. There is an art to surgery that is unique from other fields of medicine. Among the surgical subspecialties, I like the pathology and types of operations we do in general surgery the most.

3. What lessons have you learned during your journey?

Healthcare is a multidisciplinary team effort. There is something to learn from every member of your team - from nurses, APPs, fellow residents, attendings, and students, to case managers, scrub techs, respiratory therapists, pharmacists, and other consultants. Stay humble and open-minded. And most of all, be kind.

4. What words of wisdom do you want to leave for the residents?

The road to becoming a surgeon is long, there will be good days and bad days, but in the end it is so worth it when you enjoy what you do. Things I learned since intern year and still hold true: Load the boat, don't be afraid to ask for help. The right thing to do is often the hardest. Lead by example.