

Interview Assessment #1

Name of Professional: Gary Schwartz, M.D.

Profession: Thoracic Surgeon

Company: Baylor University Medical Center

Date of Interview: 26 September 2017, 4:30 pm

My first interview was with Dr. Gary Schwartz, a thoracic surgeon in Dallas, Texas. From my interview, I wanted to get a grasp on the normal, general duties of a surgeon. I was actually on the way to his office and I had met Dr. Schwartz in the elevator while he was on his way to a meeting. From that moment, I was looking forward to our interview. He was very personable and very open about his job. From the very start, I learned that being personable is a very good trait to have of you are a surgeon, since a patient is about to have surgery from that doctor.

From the interview, I learned extensive amounts of information about the obligations of a surgeon. In general, he spends 3-4 days in the operating room, while 1-2 days in his office. His days were usually pretty long, which I was expecting completely. If I am pursuing a career of surgery, I need to be okay with the long days: I should be, since it is so enjoyable.

When I asked about the most rewarding aspect of his job, he commented on being able to cure cancer in a patient with surgery. This was so captivating to me. My love for surgery expanded when I started learning of the abilities of surgeons, like curing a severe disease with one operation. Hearing Dr. Schwartz talk about his success stories just made my heart melt in happiness. I realized how much I wanted to help people like he does. On the contrary, I also asked him about the hardest part of his job. He said it was about emotionally handling death. I understood this completely. I believe that that will be one of the hardest parts for me too. However, I am able to focus on handling it just like he does. It is not the end of success, so I have to learn how to move on, which I think will be crucial for becoming a surgeon.

The other big thing that we talked about was school past high school. Traditionally, after four years of college, a surgeon will go to four years of medical school and follow up with a residency and fellowship for around 5-9 years of extra training. This really was quite shocking to me. To become a surgeon, it will take at least 9 to 13 years of school. It was kind of upsetting, but thinking about the immense rewards of being a surgeon, it is well worth it. Having the ability to cure somebody's disease makes me absolutely thrilled. Being able to have a profession like this is so worth the work, and Dr. Schwartz really revealed that to me while he was talking about his profession.

As the interview was ending, Dr. Schwartz received a page to go down to the Intensive Care Unit at the hospital and was kind enough to invite me to go with him. We arrived at the ICU and I saw two patients fighting for their lives: One had an esophageal rupture, while the other was suffering from severe influenza. Dr. Schwartz was quick on his feet to absorb information from his staff and give information back. This truly inspired me in that his leadership skills kept

for a smooth time in the midst of chaos. I realized how important it is to be calm while speaking to others, and how that makes everything run more smoothly. I am definitely implementing that into every aspect of my life. It was very exciting to be down in the ICU, but I learned about the things that a surgeon has to do besides surgery. After meeting with Dr. Schwartz, I now know that there are so many different aspects of the job like taking care of the patient significantly before or after the surgery. I have a new profound knowledge for the profession of a surgeon. I am so grateful to have met Dr. Gary Schwartz, and I truly think that his expertise has benefited me significantly.