

I was twenty minutes early, coffee in hand, excited to have my first meeting with a urologist at Dazbog Coffee. Twenty minutes whittled down to five, and nobody came to greet me. Growing concerned, I checked my email one more time. A sinking feeling washed over me as I realized I was at Dazbog Coffee - at the wrong hospital, twenty minutes across town! Now late for the meeting, I hastily scrambled toward the door, rushed into my car, and quickly called the urologist regarding my mistake. To say the next thirty minutes were chaotic is an understatement. I made a wrong turn, spilled my coffee all over my pants and sweat-soaked shirt, and to top it all off stepped into an ankle-deep, mud puddle as I hurried inside. Fortunately, this laborious journey preceded one of the most refreshing, supportive, and exciting conversations I've had in my short career. As I explored my interests and began to understand my career goals, urology presented itself as a specialty where I would not just fit but excel.

While socializing covered in sweat, mud, and coffee is not my typical style, this speaks to my extroverted and social nature, as well as the ease with which I connect with others. Preceptors evaluations have consistently noted my ability to work well with staff, as well as the aptitude of my bedside manner with patients. I will be able to cultivate and nurture meaningful relationships with patients, a skillset I view as essential in the field of urology. Undoubtedly, this will aid in the discussion of difficult topics, such as incontinence and erectile dysfunction, where a strong rapport with patients is of paramount importance. This connection is paired with encounters that are focused and therapies that are commonly successful which allow the physician to still connect with the patient while comprehensively treating them.

Caring for urologic patients not only allows for significant relationship development but offers pathological variety, efficacious surgery, and long-term care. I have decided to prioritize exploring each of these characteristics throughout my rotations, finding each element imperative to my enjoyment of urology. It has been truly exhilarating to diagnose and care for patients with pathologies ranging from renal cancer to infertility and subsequently assist in their curative surgeries. As the field continues to integrate evolving technologies, the career-spanning opportunity to learn new surgical techniques and monitor patient improvement will continue to fuel my passion for the field.

As a urologist, my goal is to lead innovative and creative teaching initiatives to push the envelope of urological education, allowing my life-long proclivity for teaching to merge with my passion for urology. I have facilitated and produced anatomical videography projects, entered multiple teaching roles, and created more than fifty episodes of Rod Squad: The Urology Podcast for Students, which has attained thousands of downloads. My podcast has given me a unique opportunity to advance my own education while simultaneously serving as a resource to hundreds of medical students. This role in education is vital to me, and I aspire to continue developing this skill set throughout my training.

Ultimately, each of my urology rotations has presented me with unique patient stories, varied pathologies, and exciting surgical interventions that have accelerated my excitement for the field. My focus on empathetic and longitudinal care for my patients, innovative surgical techniques, as well as the advancement of urologic medical education will ensure a satisfying urological career. In residency, I will inevitably get mud on my shoes, spill a little coffee, and learn from these experiences. I will be persistent, compassionate, curious, and strive to deliver well-rounded urological care to my patients.