



Alfred Burden, Jr., MD

City: San Antonio, TX

Date of Graduation from Medical School: 1958

Medical School Graduated From: Baylor College of Medicine

Specialty: Ophthalmology

What factors influenced your decision to become a physician and your choice of specialty?

I always wanted to do something to improve people's lives. During my internship, I spent a month on ophthalmology service and became fascinated with the eye and the meticulous, delicate surgery required to repair it or correct other problems. The ability to restore sight was almost a miracle and there was nothing to compare with the feeling of accomplishment when I could help the blind to see, change the appearance of a child with crossed eyes to become beautiful, etc...

Did you experience a defining moment that made you feel you had become a physician?

When I became a fellow of the American College of Surgeons.

As you were training to be a physician, what one piece of advice was most valuable to you?

Learn to perform your eye surgery without an assistant, because there will be times when none is available.

What is the most significant medical innovation you experienced in your years of practice?

Intraocular lens implants with cataract surgery. I was the first ophthalmic surgeon to implant one in a patient's eye in San Antonio, TX.