



Howard Denbo, MD

City: San Francisco, CA

Date of Graduation from Medical School: 1958

Medical School Graduated From: University of Iowa

Specialty: Vascular Surgery

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

I always wanted to become a medical doctor and this was enhanced by a year as a combat medic in Korea, from November 1950 to 1951. I thought I wanted to be an orthopedic surgeon, until I saw all those patients with ropes and pulleys on their legs as a resident. Cardiovascular was the newest specialty on the horizon then, and that was enticing.

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

There were many over the years. Probably during my year in charge of the emergency room in a large county hospital, treating patients with many challenges acutely.

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

Be persistent - training and treating may take a long time, but don't give up.

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

Use of artificial grafts in vascular surgery.