



**Robert Nicholson Milling, MD**

**City:** Columbia, SC

**Date of Graduation from Medical School:** 1958

**Medical School Graduated From:** Medical University of South Carolina

**Specialty:** Psychiatry

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

To become a physician – interest in science and helping people.

To become a psychiatrist- vocational interest tests halfway through medical school, which led me to externship at South Carolina State Hospital, and contact with Dr. Elmore Martin, a clinical psychologist. He was exceptional in every way who became a lifelong mentor and friend. Prior to vocational interest tests, I considered psychology a pseudoscience and had never had a course in psychology. I've had a very satisfying career with many recognitions and accomplishments.

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

I can't recollect a defining moment or event but when I started my clinical rotations I knew I was destined for a career as an MD. My most defining moments were in the ER during a rotating internship – one never knew what was coming next, but being there assessing the situation and dealing with it was a high.

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

Keep learning and perfecting your skills, be morally upright and just fair and compassionate in all you do.

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

CT Scans and MRI's for diagnosis – PT scans for brain function, new drugs for mentally ill – anti psychotics benzodiazepines, antidepressants and a host of antibiotic and CV drugs.