



Joseph Nader, MD

City: Allentown, PA

Date of Graduation from Medical School: 1958

Medical School Graduated From: Javeriana University, Columbia

Specialty: Cardiology

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

- The two physicians that practiced in my hometown.
- The old homeopathic pharmacy I visited frequently.
- My high school chemistry and science teachers.
- My reverence for life, but most of all my father's premature and tragic death.
- My choice of cardiology was influenced by the heart; its intriguing structure and function, and the amazing sounds I heard with my stethoscope.

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

The night I performed as a surgical resident on call, an unsupervised laparotomy in a young woman in shock. My diagnosis was correct (ruptured ectopic pregnancy) and the surgical procedure was successful; I had saved her life. I felt relieved and I knew then, that I had become a true physician.

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

My chief of cardiology at Hahnemann, Dr. Likoff told me, "if you want to be successful, dress well, your patients will respect you more. Listen to them carefully, be warm and honest in your assessment, and you will earn their trust. Show them empathy and they will become your friend." He was quite right.

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

The development of cardiac ultrasound and doppler, a sophisticated technique that allows one to see in real time the inside of the heart, the motion of its walls, the function of its valves, and the direction of its flow.