



Donald Henderson Nowlin, MD

City: Harlingen, TX

Date of Graduation from Medical School: 1958

Medical School Graduated From: University of Texas Medical School, Galveston

Specialty: Orthopedic Surgery

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

Family members, especially my mother began my first interest in medicine about the age of five. I never changed my interest and ultimately reached my goal. I've never been sorry or disappointed; medicine has been a wonderful experience.

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

Yes, when I experienced my first week of internship at Kansas City General Hospital, I felt I had truly become a physician.

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

I don't remember in what order I received the advice, but a phrase sticks with me, and was notably passed on to me from Professor Dr. Raymond Gregory (Internal Medicine), "Listen to your patients."

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

In 1968, I attended the American Academy of Orthopedic Surgery National Meeting. I was privileged to hear Dr. John Charnley present his "total hip" procedure to American orthopedic surgeons. It was a stupendous body of work and it has since proved to be the greatest advance in orthopedic surgery in 500 years (my opinion).