



**Pietro Russo, MD**

**City:** Cumberland, RI

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

**Medical School Graduated From:** Messina Medical School, Italy

**Specialty:** Pediatrics

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

One of the major factors that influenced me to become a physician happened at the age of 13, when I was stricken by malaria and encephalitis, I was very sick. When I woke up after having delirium and a very high fever with loss of consciousness, the first thing I saw was the smiling face of my physician. He was comforting and reassuring my mother, saying that everything will be fine. At that moment I decided to be a physician and a pediatrician.

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

Yes. When I was a resident working in the emergency room I took care of a child with severe respiratory distress due to asthma. I stayed with him until the crisis was over and his smile reminded me of my childhood experience with my doctor.

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

Be yourself, be honest and be truthful to your patients, do not do more than what you know.

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

The introduction of computers, the internet and the very fast movement of research.