

Interview Assessment #3

Name of Professional: Dr. Krishna Satyan

Profession: Neurosurgeon

Company: Dallas Neurosurgical & Spine

Date of Interview: November 19, 2021

Assessment:

My third interview was conducted with Dr. Satyan, a neurosurgeon for the Dallas Neurological and Spine group. Going into this interview, I wanted to gain advice about medical school, and life beyond becoming a physician, as Dr. Satyan was the first surgeon I conducted an interview with.

Dr. Satyan informed me that he did a fellowship in skull-based surgery, dealing with complex tumors at the base of the brain. In terms of job enjoyment, he mentioned that his job is very satisfying to him as he restores the brain to its normal anatomy, and relieves patients' problems. Some advice Dr. Satyan gave me was that if I want to go into medicine I need to make sure that it is the only field I can see myself going into, and that I need to find a specialty that best suits me. This made me look at medicine differently as I always wanted to keep my options open, but now I need to really decide if medicine is my sole passion, something I can see myself only wanting to do. Moreover, something he mentioned that had never really occurred to me was that I don't have to major in pre-med, but rather just have to complete all the prerequisite classes for medical school. He also urged me to try to do research and volunteering, as medical schools look for these key things.

In terms of actual practice, Dr. Satyan explained to me his typical workday routine. Some things he always does is get a patient's history and physical, correlate their symptoms with

the imaging that has been done, and constantly does research looking for new surgical instruments. This showed me that I have to constantly stay up to date with medical advancements, so I can provide the most updated treatment for my patients. On the other hand, some complications that he mentioned can happen during surgery are bleeding, pain, scarring, weakness, or even loss of sensation. Furthermore, a point of struggle Dr. Satyan mentioned to me was that insurance companies have become frustrating to deal with, as companies are very stringent on surgeons, making it hard to deliver quality care to patients. He also brought it up to me that medicine is the only specialty where the payments have gone down with inflation, which is something that I was unaware of.

In terms of Covid, Dr. Satyan still does tele health but less and less as Covid becomes a part of our reality. He explained to me that he doesn't like telehealth, as he needs to examine a patient's size to make sure they are a good candidate for surgery. However as Covid becomes less and less of a problem, Dr.Satyan doesn't think telehealth will ever go away as it has become such a convenient way to see patients at a rapid pace.

Dr. Satyan gave me such great insight, and gave me a new perspective on medicine. As he was the first surgical physician I interviewed, he inspired me to look more at the surgical aspects of neurology.