

The Proust Questionnaire has its origins in a parlor game popularized by Marcel Proust, the French essayist and novelist, who believed that, in answering these questions, an individual reveals his or her true nature.

Proust questionnaire: Cindy Verchere, MD



What profession might you have pursued, if not for medicine?

High school teacher or clothing designer. I do have occasional rock star fantasies, though.

Which talent would you most like to have?

To be able to sing in public without seeing people cringe.

What do you consider your greatest achievement?

To have helped create our family—marrying a great husband and raising three interesting, creative kids.

Who are your heroes?

People who just get on with doing the right thing, despite politics, press, or pressure.

Dr Verchere is a pediatric plastic surgeon at BC Children's Hospital, a clinical associate professor at the University of British Columbia, and a member of the consultative staff at Vancouver General Hospital (UBC). She has been a member of the *BCMJ* Editorial Board since 2009.

What is your idea of perfect happiness?

Reading a good book on a quiet warm day in my garden while nursing a glass of Kettle Valley pinot gris and not feeling guilty about it.

What is your greatest fear?

That I will have early dementia.

What is the trait you most deplore in yourself?

Lots—impatience, stubbornness, and procrastination probably lead the list.

What characteristic do your favorite patients share?

Easy smiles and openness.

On what occasion do you lie?

When telling the whole truth will be too hurtful and lying won't have major implications.

Which words or phrases do you most overuse?

Airway schmayrway.

What is your most marked characteristic?

Wordiness?

What medical advance do you most anticipate?

Off-the-shelf, permanent, full-thickness skin substitute for treatment of burns.

What do you most value in your colleagues?

Honesty, communication, sense of humor, and teamwork.

Who are your favorite writers?

Too many books, too little time. I have had hundreds of favorites in different genres in different phases of my life from Madeleine L'Engle, Bryce Courtenay, Harper Lee, Agatha Christie, and Stephen King to Emily Bronte, Stuart McLean, Arthur Hailey, Maya Angelou, Jodie Picoult, and Douglas Coupland.

What is your greatest regret?

Sweating the small stuff.

How would you like to die?

In my sleep in my eighties with no fuss.

What is your motto?

Make happiness and honesty true priorities.

Tell us a bit about yourself. Please complete and submit a Proust Questionnaire—your colleagues will appreciate it.



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