

Proust questionnaire: Dr Eric Cadesky



What profession might you have pursued, if not medicine?

Children's book author.

Which talent would you most like to have?

Musical talent would be nice. Or to have actually been as good at sports as I remember I was.

What do you consider your greatest achievement?

My daughter, whose laughter and boundless wonder imbue me with perspective and gratitude.

Who are your heroes?

The women in my life. Refugees. Single parents.

What is your favorite activity?

Anything outdoors and active. Or indoors and quiet. Basically, anything where I'm awake, although sleeping is nice too.

Dr Cadesky is Doctors of BC's new president. He lives in Vancouver.

What is your idea of perfect happiness?

Being in the moment with loved ones.

What is your greatest fear?

Knowing I could have helped more and didn't.

What is the trait you most deplore in yourself?

Reflexive cowardice before giving bad news.

What characteristic do your favorite patients share?

Humor, humility, candor, and appreciation.

Which living physician do you most admire?

My colleagues working hard to care for people in communities and facilities despite increasing acuity and decreasing resources.

On what occasion do you lie?

When I think that I'm protecting others and haven't yet realized that I'm the needy one.

Which words or phrases do you most overuse?

Let's start with this, and we'll go from there.

Where would you most like to practise?

In a place with adequate resources, re-

wards for valuable care, and support for work-life integration.

What technological medical advance do you most anticipate?

The adoption of technologies we have—secure messaging, video-conferencing, patient health records—and the death of technologies we use like fax machines and printers.

What is your most marked characteristic?

An aquiline nose and a staunch belief in people's good.

What do you most value in your colleagues?

Sincerity.

Who are your favorite writers?

Haruki Murakami, Christopher Hitchens, Joni Mitchell, Monty Don, J.K. Rowling, anyone with a cooking blog.

What is your greatest regret?

Allowing teenage insecurity to distract me with jealousy of others instead of finding ways to improve myself.

How would you like to die?

Not knowing that I did, but knowing that my affairs were in order and not a burden to others.

What is your motto?

Work hard and be kind.

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