

## 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.

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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.

**Submit a Proust Questionnaire** – your colleagues will appreciate it.

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