Physicians Share Their Top Lessons Learned

See opportunity in mistakes:

"Good judgment comes from experience. Experience comes from bad judgment."
Physicians Share Their Top Lessons Learned

Patients are teachers, too:

"You never truly arrive at the pinnacle of knowledge and competence you strive for as a student. Twelve years after graduation from residency, I continue to struggle with humbling lessons in patient care. My patients have replaced my attending physicians as my best teachers."

Physicians Share Their Top Lessons Learned

Retain perspective:

"When you are considering a new procedure or policy, always ask, 'How does it help my patient?''"
Physicians Share Their Top Lessons Learned

Don't be afraid to start over:

"If everything doesn't fit together then start over with a fresh look, you probably missed something important."

Physicians Share Their Top Lessons Learned

Be true to yourself:

"My biggest lesson was to go out on my own and be independent. I didn’t care for the control of administration from hospitals, and [the] bureaucracy of hospital-owned practices. If you have the means, independent practice gives you the freedom that many other employment opportunities don't. It's not easy, but after all, we did get through medical school and residency. You have to be involved in the business side of medicine, and usually you'll stay much more attuned to what is going on in medicine. You can see how legislative decisions directly impact you. Hopefully, that makes you more insightful and proactive politically. I commonly see many physicians in employed settings just 'check-out.' They check-in, perform their shift, and could care less about what's happening in medicine, their future, their finances, and ultimately their profession."
Physicians Share Their Top Lessons Learned

Don’t overlook the obvious:

"When all else fails, examine the patient."

Physicians Share Their Top Lessons Learned

Trust your instincts:

"When you don’t know what to do and your heart says one thing and your brain says another, listen to your heart."
Physicians Share Their Top Lessons Learned

Remember what matters:

"These are challenging times to be a physician. I think what keeps me going are the patients. No matter what happens with healthcare reform, ICD-10, meaningful use, payment models, etc., the patients are the one constant. If I just show up and do my best to take care of my patients, then it is a good day. I tell my residents, students, and myself to treat each patient as if they are your mother or father. No matter how hectic your day, that individual patient visit is all that matters at that time."

Physicians Share Their Top Lessons Learned

Hone your listening skills:

"Listen to your patients and they will tell you what is wrong with them."
Physicians Share Their Top Lessons Learned

Don’t follow, lead:

"Just because everyone is doing it does not mean it is the right thing to do."