

Forum: [MyElimu | Home for Students to Share Knowledge](#)

Thread: [How Do I Become A Great Doctor!!](#)

Nelly kessy - October 3, 2016, 9:48 am

Learn to be honest. Honesty builds trust. Trust is everything.

Start by saying "I don't know" when you don't know.

I've worked in a few pediatric intensive care units where the pressure to be quick thinking, technically proficient and comprehensive in consideration is synonymous with the pressure to be right. Many young intensivists view being wrong as detrimental to patient care. But the few great intensivists I have come to admire have learned and demonstrated the power of saying "I don't know." It invites group thought into complex situations. Other members of the healthcare team (nurses, nurse practitioners, hospitalists, students) can often contribute importantly but they will be shut down in the presence of a physician who does not welcome it. The ability to say "I don't know" takes more courage than one can anticipate - especially when it concerns the well-being of a patient. Yet, it's a powerful tool that flies in the face against ego-prone doctors or the stereotype that doctors are all-knowing. The exemplary physician that models this behavior distributes accountability which enhances team performance. They catalyze important discussions that can help uncover a medical mystery. And contrary to common belief, doing this does not detract from respect and trust - even from patients and their families.

Learn how to say "I made a mistake"

Most hospitals have Morbidity and Morality (M&M) conferences where we review major complications and deaths on a monthly basis. Many

times, the physician under scrutiny during these conferences are defensive and self-justifying. It's very frustrating when an opportunity to learn is outweighed by a physician's refusal to admit a mistake.

It was during one of these conferences, that one of my mentors under review for a neurological complication (stroke) in a patient said with confidence "I should have done this differently." It was such a dramatic difference from the typical response that the room was strikingly quiet. The admittance sparked a fruitful discussion that led to major system-level changes. In subsequent conferences, other physicians were inspired to be more introspective about their practice. Most importantly, patients were the benefactors as subsequent error prone behaviors were prevented. It was not surprising to me that this physician ultimately became the physician-in-chief in a prominent children's hospital. To me, this is an unusual example of that sets apart extraordinary physicians from great physicians.

I think there are other attributes to becoming an extraordinary physician (balancing personal with professional needs, inspiring and motivating others, etc). As others posted, being smart, proficient, compassionate and dedicated are necessary characteristics to be a great physician. I believe the extraordinary physician is able to model behavior that motivates and inspires other physicians: it starts with saying "I don't know" or "I made that mistake" that dismantles walls supported by ego. It catalyzes important changes in healthcare that ultimately improves patient care.

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Damian - April 30, 2017, 2:13 pm

Thank

aba brian - May 10, 2017, 9:38 am

Hey Excuse me I was asking how could I apply for a diploma level of education on pharmacy?

Sent from my iPhone using [MyElimu](#)

Damian - June 3, 2017, 3:47 am

Study well