

What Makes a Successful Physician? Who is the Best Role Model?

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The world has changed, and so have people's beliefs and values. Our country and its medical atmosphere is not an exception. Which experienced physician can act as a role model for beginners such as residents who spend their lives in challenging and demanding environments (1)? Is the role modeling only for academic purposes? Do medical students change their criteria of success after graduation and entering the market (2, 3)?

Many determinants can be used to define a real role model: earning a defined amount of money per month, living a luxury lifestyle, having a life full of great achievements, being unique or master in doing specific procedures and training potential trainees, doing variety of operations in different subspecialties as a jack-of-all-trades surgeon or as an aid for famous older surgeons, international reputation, domestic reputation and confirmation by the majority of medical society, a history of education in developed countries, working at university as an academic person with lower salary or in the private system with higher payments, having more number of operations in the well-known hospitals, working in a crowded clinic until after midnight and difficulty setting up an appointment for the patients, having a network and shift the patients toward them, more efficient advertisement especially in social media, more scientific and academically acceptable decisions, having low rate of complications, having a high sense of ethics and professionalism, having research activities and higher citations, etc. Wow! The list goes on and on (4-6). Being more financially, scientifically and/or professionally successful, which are more important? We need to re-define the "success role model" for physicians and residents, and by extension, for all of our community. To achieve the objectives of professionalism, respecting others, autonomy, diversity, and to address the higher demands of both doctors and patients, we need authorities to explore the related subjects as soon as possible to have a clear road map. These authorities are educational departments at universities, scientific associations, National Medical Council, Forensic Medical

Organization, and Academy of Medical Sciences.

Currently, we see many unprofessional attitudes that result in superficial success, all of which are presented to the public as a social norm. Sometimes, these false social standards dictate inappropriate mindsets that can ultimately damage the public's trust in physicians and even the professional trust among colleagues; while the rapport is the key to treatment success. The most important factor in education of trainees is known to be hidden curriculum and real enthusiasm of the trainers (7). Maybe defining a better role model could help to have a more professional, trustful, scientific, and dynamic environment for medicine in our country, while our knowledge, decision-making, and techniques seem actually up-to-date in spite of all defects.

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