

Medicine beyond the classroom

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Becoming a medical doctor was my childhood dream come true. I loved Art as much as I loved medicine as a child. Having grown up both next to the sea and in close proximity to paddy fields, in a village near Chilaw, my childhood was filled with many scenic memories which I always incorporated into my paintings.

My father, Mr. Dhananjaya Jayasinghe, currently the principal of Ananda National College, Chilaw is my biggest inspiration. His art work at home was the foundation of my artistic career. Seeing me mixing watercolors and converting a blank white paper into a colorful art made his day. Over the years, I participated in many interschool, district and provincial level art competitions and won many awards. In 2005, I won first place in an all island art competition. During my advanced level examination days, I used to draw summary diagrams for all three subjects, especially in Biology. This helped me to gain good results in 2011 and get selected to the medical faculty.

Life in medical faculty was filled with many unforgettable memories. Though I cherish every bit of my life as a medical student, I was missing art and was not sure how to incorporate my passion for art into medicine. I had my first breakthrough during the 1st year Anatomy dissections. I started seeing the beauty within the human body through anatomical figures and pictures. It ignited my passion for drawing again. Drawing anatomical structures helped me to memorize subject matter.

While I was in the 3rd year, I was able to utilize my skills in drawing anatomical diagrams for the “Basic Anatomy” book written by Prof. Rizvi Hassan, Senior lecturer of the Department of Anatomy. These were colour pencil drawings, which were scanned and incorporated into his publication. Following the completion of final year exam, I was attached as a demonstrator to the Anatomy department. I again utilized my drawing skills to explain detailed anatomical knowledge to my fellow juniors. I saw the potential and wonders I could do if I learnt digital drawing and started self-studying the field. I was invited to submit drawings for Prof. Sanjeewa Padumadasa’s book on Obstetric Emergencies published by Taylor and Francis group.

I have also drawn multiple digital illustrations for surgeons, for their case reports and other publications. These artistic works not only gave me satisfaction, they also provided me with financial gains. Through the Fiverr website, which is a provider of freelance service for the Lean Entrepreneurs, I was able to submit my graphic designing artwork to the international community. Finally

I walked out from the medical school with a distinction in Surgery. Five years in medical faculty flies without your knowledge and it is easy to get trapped in books forgetting who you are. One should never give up their life beyond medicine. There is always a way to incorporate your life skills into medicine, making medicine an inherent part of you.

