DAVID

HURRELL

SENIOR
CONSULTING
CARDIOLOGIST

Current Location:
Excelsior, MN
Graduation Year: 1985
Major: ACS Chemistry
Degree: Bachelor of
Science, Doctor of
Medicine
Employer:
Minneapolis Heart Institute

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ASK THE ALUM

Provide a brief job description. In your own words what do you do on a daily basis?
I care for patients with heart and vascular related problems. I provide both inpatient, hospital based, care as well as outpatient, clinic based, care. I also travel to several communities within Minnesota and western Wisconsin providing care within the local clinics and hospitals. From a procedural standpoint, I am involved in several imaging modalities including echocardiography, nuclear cardiology and all related modalities of stress testing. I lead the educational initiatives of the Minneapolis Heart Institute Foundation.

What skills are most important for you to be successful in your position?
I have always told students I mentor that you need to love education and lifelong learning to be a physician. I have been amazed by the new testing and treatment modalities that have evolved over my career. A desire to care and interact with people on a very personal level is important given the role you play in a patient's life.

What do you like best about your job?
I love the connection I have with my patients. I get to meet and interact with people I would never cross paths with if it wasn't for what I do. I also love science and the technology and treatments keep me very connected to the scientific side of healthcare.
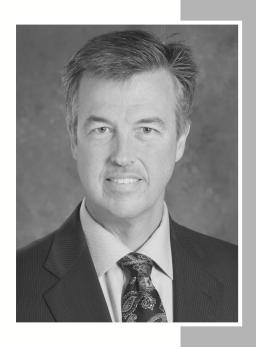
What is the most challenging part of your job?
Not all patients do well and you need to learn how to cope with all outcomes. It can be emotionally and mentally draining. Also, healthcare is a business and a bureaucracy. Dealing with the administrative side of healthcare is a necessary evil.

What is one piece of advice you would offer alumni looking to enter your career or industry?
You have to love school. It is a long journey, but yet incredibly rewarding.