

# STEPHEN

## BOLLINGER

# ALUMNI CAREER SPOTLIGHT

RESIDENT  
PHYSICIAN IN  
OTOLARYNGOLOGY  
- HEAD AND  
NECK SURGERY

## ASK THE ALUM



### **Provide a brief job description. In your own words, what do you do on a daily basis?**

As a physician in Oto-HNS (ENT), I manage the care of a wide variety of conditions in the head and neck in patients across all ages. I like to tell people I'm the surgical specialist for everything above the shoulders except for the eyes, brain and spine. ENT physicians specialize in head and neck cancer; facial plastic surgery; facial trauma; infections in the ears, nose and throat; disorders affecting the specialized senses of voice, hearing and taste; and sleep disorders, among many other things.

### **What skills are most important for you to be successful in your position?**

The most important skill for me to be successful in Oto-HNS is listening to my patients to identify exactly what problems they are facing, so that I can provide them with the best treatment option to address those problems, whether through surgical or medical interventions. Oto-HNS is a very complex field that treats many complex conditions that require me to have a thorough understanding of each problem my patients face. Working with patients to find solutions is critical to finding the best treatment option for each patient.

### **What do you like best about your job?**

I love being the expert for such a wide variety of conditions that affect people each and every day in so many ways. Knowing that my patients can trust me to determine the best treatment for them is the best feeling I can have as a physician.

### **What is the most challenging part of your job?**

The most challenging part of my job is ensuring that I balance time caring for patients and spending time with my family. Providing the highest quality of patient care requires a great deal of sacrifice from my family each and every day. I would not be able to pursue my passion in Oto-HNS without the incredible support I have from my amazing wife Katie.

### **What is one piece of advice you would offer alumni looking to enter your career or industry?**

Find a career that you are passionate about that drives you to make yourself better each and every day. Physicians and many other health care professionals come from a wide variety of backgrounds, and many of the best medical professionals had careers in other fields before starting their careers in medicine. Devoting my career to helping people through medicine was one of the best decisions I have ever made.

### **Current Location:**

Columbia, MO

**Graduation Year:** 2014, 2018

**Major:** Chemistry, Psychology, Medicine

**Degree:** Bachelor of Science, Doctor of Medicine

**Employer:** University of Missouri Health Care

### **Contact Information:**

**Email:** [BollingerMD@outlook.com](mailto:BollingerMD@outlook.com)

**Phone:** 605-222-6710

**LinkedIn Page:**

[www.linkedin.com/in/stephen-bollinger-md-a0a48437/](http://www.linkedin.com/in/stephen-bollinger-md-a0a48437/)

**Doximity:**

[www.doximity.com/profiles/5507005f-28a2-4b3b-bcec-3a2ec0f2759c](http://www.doximity.com/profiles/5507005f-28a2-4b3b-bcec-3a2ec0f2759c)

**Instagram/Twitter:** Bollinger\_MD



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