**Teaching Philosophy**

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Few are given the privilege to the shape the lives of so many individuals and in turn influence the fabric of the entire society that we live in. Amongst others, those few include health care providers and educators. I am fortunate to have the ability to serve both as an educator and a health care provider. As a health care provider, I contribute to the betterment of individual lives. Whereas, as an educator, I take pride in shaping the lives of many individuals that go on to benefit the entire society.

Several tenets underline the core foundation of how I serve as an educator:

**→**“Teach unto others what has been taught to you”. This eternal selfless cycle of sharing the wealth of knowledge is unique. There is no other quantifiable item of worth that is so willingly shared. The moral high ground of education provides the platform to facilitate this important transfer of knowledge.

**→**“Every human is made different and so is every trainee”. The necessary role of an educator is to recognize this fact and tailor the teaching methods to suit each and every individual trainee. While large scale curricula are essential for organizational efficiency, each trainee should be viewed as a gift that can nurtured to their maximum potential through methods that suit them.

**→** “The only thing constant in life is change”. Ignorance of this tenet comes with perilous consequences. As the world evolves, fortunately, what is in vogue today is not tomorrow. Similarly, the educational tools of the past may not entirely be applicable to the future. At the same time, this does not imply that we ignore the past completely. As it is said, those who chose to forget the past are condemned to repeat it. The ideal educator is one that combines the best of the past with the most promising tools of the future to provide the brightest path to acquiring the highest quality education.

**→** “Imperfection is the rule and perfection is a mirage or at the best an exception”. We are all but products of imperfection to varying degrees of latitude. It is preposterous for an educator to expect perfection in students when that is very much lacking in themselves. This does not imply that we hold lax standards. The rigorous principles of education cannot be compromised but they should be held in the backdrop of the immensely varying learning capabilities. The educator should be realistic and tailor the methods to suit the capabilities of each trainee.

**→** “Education is not just restricted to the transfer of intellectual knowledge”. Education is not only about imparting knowledge but also training well-rounded individuals of character that go out into the society and hold and live by high standards. There is no other trait that is so easy to preach but so hard to teach, i.e. humility. We have to teach trainees how to remain humble even in the event of extraordinary accomplishments. We have to teach them how to be individuals and professionals of good character and to realize how in many situations to give is more gratifying than to receive. The society requires smart physicians but more than that it deserves humble and caring individuals. My philosophy is to train surgeons of technical competence, physicians of exceptional knowledge, but more importantly individuals of fine character.

In summary, the principles of my teaching include, taking trainees for what they are in all forms and shapes, providing them with educational tools that combine the best of the past with creatively innovative methods of the future, nurture them to their maximum potential which makes them individually better and translates collectively to a healthy and productive society.