Zunair Khokhar

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Growing up, I had a family doctor who was with me from my birth up until high school. Starting at a young age, I would pepper him with questions about his work. When I was in ninth grade, he let me shadow as he saw patients, walking me through his thinking – how he would identify, analyze, and understand the information that allowed him to help his patients. He taught me the science behind his decision-making, which really excited me and got me interested in medicine.

I later enrolled in a MD/PhD program and was in a general surgery rotation, when the very doctor who had mentored me came into the hospital having a heart attack. I tended to him while we paged a cardiologist. Taking care of someone who had helped me from birth, was both shocking and inspiring for me.

My family doctor had gone out of his way to nourish the interests, and future dreams of my younger self. His example stands before me as a reminder of the chances we all have to cultivate young minds - for their benefits, and for ours.