

Doc Talk

New!



Stephen Glenn Miller,
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Family Med, CCFP, ABFP
Capital Health District
and Stadacona Hospital

Based in:

Halifax, Nova Scotia

Special interests:

Emergency Medicine

Interesting facts:

Prior to my current medical practice, my wife Lisa and I spent three years in New Glasgow, NS, doing family practice and emergency medicine. We then relocated to Nashua, New Hampshire for five years, where we did hospital-based family practice and urgent care. We relocated to the Halifax area two years ago, with our two children, Brandon age 12 and Lauren age 9. Lisa does part time family practice in Fall River, NS.

Get to know your peers in Doc Talk, CME's new interview department! Join us every month as we talk to GPs across Canada about their careers, their lives and... their quirks.

1. If you weren't a doctor, what other profession would you choose?

I have always been interested in weather and climate and environmental changes. So, if medicine had not panned out, I would have enjoyed being a meteorologic journalist—a CNN weather chaser! The weather's influence on our behaviour, as well as our current attention to global change affects us all in our daily lives. Certainly, with the extreme weather events of the past few years, it is an area of great importance in our current times. If that did not pan out, I would have tried for a career in music.

2. What is the least enjoyable job you have ever had?

When I was younger, I spent many summers working for the Nova Scotia Department of Transportation and I was always eager to return to school in the Fall. While it did pay well and it did allow me to be debt free until my third year of medical school; marking passing lanes on roads, surveys and culvert location, was not up my alley.

3. Who is your most memorable patient?

I did part of an Internal Medicine residency prior to switching to family medicine. There was a lady by the name of Mrs. GooGoo, who had scleroderma and CREST syndrome. She was very ill with multiple organ system involvement. I spent a lot of time following her around from rotation to rotation over the course of a year or two. From dermatology, to respirology, to cardiology, to nephrology, I was by her side all around the hospital. She was a lovely woman and she taught me more about living with a serious illness than any textbook ever could.

4. What book are you currently reading?

The most recent book I completed was *Angels and Demons*, by Dan Brown, this past summer. It was a very interesting, and fast read... it was far from the daily life of medicine. I am currently reading Tintanelli's Emergency Medicine Text, as I am preparing to challenge the EM exam in September, 2006. Easy bedtime reading!

5. If you could spend the day with anyone (dead or alive), who would you choose and why?

My grandmother, with whom I was very close, was killed by a drunk driver 12 years ago. She died one month to the day before my first child Brandon was born. She was a healthy and vibrant lady, who expected our best. She encouraged all her children and grandchildren to do their best. I would like to spend the day with her so I could introduce her to her great grandchildren. I would tell her that we love her and I would let her know that I continue to try to do my best work for others. It may not sound very



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Stay Tuned...

Join us next month
as we *Doc Talk* to
Dr. Katherine Abel

who is a clinical
lecturer at the
University of Alberta,
Calgary, Alberta.

awe-inspiring, but there is really nothing more important than family. Some times we need to learn tough lessons to realize this.

6. Who inspires you?

My wife. She is an excellent mother, partner and physician. She does a great job with our kids, she is fun to be with and she always gives her best. She makes me want to be the best person that I can be as a father, a son, a physician, a friend and as a mentor.

7. What song would you chose choose as your personal theme song?

We are Here for a Good Time, Not a Long Time, by Trooper, I believe. It is one of those '70s songs that truly says it all. Its message is timeless. Live for the moment, take advantage of what you can. Spend time with family and friends. Be spiritual. Life can be fleeting and it is definitely to be lived without regret. *Carpe Diem!*

8. What is your lifelong dream and have you accomplished it yet?

While success can be measured in many different ways, I would have to say that I am very pleased with the many directions life has taken me in. I have a great family and great friends. I have had excellent educational opportunities and travel experiences that many people only dream of. We live in a great neighbourhood and experience a high quality of life. My work is varied and ever changing and most of all, my family and myself all enjoy good health and well being. As all of us docs know without our health, does any of the rest really matter? I think the answer is a resounding, No!

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Wanna be interviewed?

If you'd like to talk to our readers or would like to nominate a colleague, feel free to contact us at cme@sta.ca.

You could be the next to *Doc Talk!*