

## "It's all going to be okay" An anxious girl's journey through school and training.

Caitlin EJ Sayyid, MD Trauma/ Surgical Critical Care Fellow UTHSC Dept of Surgery

# The point:



- Medical training is stressful with lots of variables/ uncertainty, and tends to attract high-achieving, anxiety prone/ controlling people
- Life almost never turns out how you think it will/ should and this is often better than our original plan
  - Don't tunnel on what you THINK should happen
  - It's okay to change your mind
- It may take time to see why things happen and you may never know why
- You can have everything but not everything at once.
  - Work for the future, but don't forget to value where you are
  - Don't forget what is actually important
- Everyone in this room was once a pre-med, a medical student, and a resident











### Career???

- Puppy dog trainer?
- Artist?
- Zookeeper?
- Vet?
- Conservation scientist?
- People doctor?
  - (just not a surgeon)

















#### OU College of Medicine: OU College of Medicine Interview Offer

September 26, 2013, 9:46 AM



Thank you for your interest in The University of Oklahoma College of Medicine. It is our pleasure to extend an invitation for an interview. Please sign in at <u>https://apply-</u> <u>medicine.ouhsc.edu</u> to schedule your interview. Once you have scheduled your interview and submitted all required information, you will receive a confirmation email. A map that indicates parking and the location of the Samis Education Center will be included.

It is a pleasure to be a part of this very important step in your educational career and we look forward to meeting you.



### < Inbox

From: OU Med 2013 >

Hide

To: Caitlin E. Jones >

### OU College of Medicine: OU College of Medicine Interview Decision February 11, 2014 at 3:05 PM

#### Dear Caitlin:

On behalf of the Admissions Board and the College of Medicine, I am very pleased to offer you a place in the Class of 2018! You will receive an official letter of acceptance your listed permanent address.

To accept this offer of acceptance, pl complete the following steps:











\*has no idea how much things will NOT go according to plan from here on out\*

# COLLEGE OF MEDICINE The UNIVERSITY of OKLAHOMA HEALTH SCIENCES













Things I said that did not age well:

- I want to be a pediatric heme/ onc doc
- I will do any specialty BUT general surgery







Care for yourself before you wreck yourself....





# Moore's tircless devotion to detail brings the man and his maverick career vividly, compellingly, and gruesomely to hite Medicine needs more John Hunters, and biography needs more Wendy Moores — — Nee York Time Book Review The nife N Pody SNA a BLOOD, BODY SNATCHING, AND THE BIRTH OF MODERN SURGERY

WENDY MOORE



#### From: NRMP >

To: Caitlin E Jones >



#### [EXTERNAL] Did I Match?

Today at 9:58 AM



#### Congratulations! You have matched!

Because you are matched, you are not eligible to participate in the Supplemental Offer and Acceptance Program<sup>®</sup> (SOAP<sup>®</sup>), and you will not have access to the *List of Unfilled Programs*. Information on where you matched will be available in the Registration, Ranking, and Results<sup>®</sup> (R3<sup>®</sup>) system and sent by email on Friday, March 16, at 1:00 PM Eastern Time.






































































"A force of nature personified. I would not have ever expected a 90 lb tiny kitten to actually be a fierce and dominating lion, but that is Caitlin - she is someone to be reckoned with"















































## Patrick Jones, CFO Trauma Surgeon Dad











#### The original plan:



What actually happened:



#### What's next?

## WHO KNOWS

# I've stopped trying to plan in detail

### **Closing remarks:**

- I wish I had not let my anxiety overpower me, incapacitate me
- I wish I had realized it was okay to get help sooner
- But NO STRESS is not the answer
  - It is often what motivates us but need to channel it appropriately
- Taking care of yourself is critical you will perform better, enjoy life more, better able to be in the present
- Remember what is ACTUALLY important
- Be open to changing your mind
- If social conventions are holding you back don't be afraid of pursuing your goals - it will ALL BE OKAY

## Thank you!

