



## Education at URMIC – Student Perspectives

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**Name:** Christen Behzadi

**Hometown:** West Bloomfield , Michigan & Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

**Undergraduate Degree:** B.S. in Biopsychology & Cognitive Sciences from University of Michigan- Ann Arbor

**Graduate Degree:** M.D. from University of Oklahoma College of Medicine

**Areas of Interest:** Obstructive Sleep Apnea in Pediatric Patients, Vinyasa Yoga.

### Background Information

I was born in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma while my father was attending medical school. I have 4 sisters; Courtney, Cathryn, Catelyn and Carey. I am married to Pedram Behzadi who I met in medical school. His parents are from Kazerun, Iran & Abadan, Iran. My family transplanted to West Bloomfield, Michigan when I was in high school where I attended West Bloomfield High School. I was involved in Symphony Orchestera (flute) , power tumbling and Cheerleading. I went on to the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor where I was also a cheerleader my first semester until I decided to focus my attentions on my pre-medical studies. It was in Ann Arbor that I discovered the joys of hot Yoga, journaling and leisure reading. My favorite books are ; A Course in Miracles, the Kite Runner, The Witch of Portabello, The Alchemist, The Laws of Thinking. I am also learning Farsi & have visited Iran, Kenya, France, Switzerland, Dubai, Germany & London soon.

## **Why did you choose The University of Rochester Medical Center?**

I couple matched with my husband Pedram Behzadi (Emergency Medicine). We needed a medical center that was strong overall. It had to be outstanding in both the Department of Anesthesiology & Emergency Medicine. This hospital certainly fit that bill. In Anesthesia we get the opportunity to take on challenging patients and cases from the start of our residency. 6 months into my residency I had already completed almost 100 peripheral nerve blocks and now 12 months into my residency I have had 8 weeks of OB Anesthesia; 8 weeks of Cardiac Anesthesia, two rounds of transplant; many days in ectopic sites doing cases and many other cases. The volume and variety of cases at this hospital is a resident's dream. We get plenty of exposure here to the entire depth of Anesthesia. The truth is, we both had a great feeling when we left our interviews. This hospital is very solid all around.

## **Tell us about your program**

We have large residency now which has recently expanded. There are around 20 residents in each class. We have a wide variety of cases we are exposed to. We do a lot of regional here thanks to a very active orthopedic service. We are fortunate that we are exposed to the entire breadth and depth of anesthesiology in-house at Strong Memorial Hospital.

## **What are your career aspirations?**

Its still pretty early. I'm considering fellowship. We will see; the all options are still open for me.

## **What are some of the things you have learned since you came to Rochester?**

Rochester, NY is a very unassuming city. The art and music scene here are incredible and I have really enjoyed seeing world class musicians here at the Eastman Theater downtown.

## **Any Advice for perspective students?**

Keep an open mind. Keep a good attitude.