



Education at URMIC – Student Perspectives



Name: Brooke Miller, MD

Hometown: Freeport, Maine

Undergraduate Degree: B.A., Wesleyan University

Graduate Degree: M.D., University of Rochester School of Medicine and Dentistry

Areas of Interest: Ophthalmology

Background Information

Although I was born in Seattle, I grew up in Maine with my parents and younger brother. Maine was a great place to grow up. We had fun hiking, swimming, skiing, and being outside in all seasons. Between college and medical school I worked a variety of jobs, including everything from being a baker to a social worker for migrant workers. I am now married (my husband is a radiology resident), and we have two little boys who keep us busy when we are not at work.

Why did you choose The University of Rochester Medical Center?

From the first moment I walked into the University of Rochester Medical Center, it was clear that it was a unique and wonderful place. There are innumerable opportunities to pursue scientific interests in a supportive and friendly environment. Whether you want to pursue basic science research, volunteer in free medical clinics, or assist in liver transplant surgery, URMCM can make any or all of these a reality. Moreover, I was attracted to the affordable and scenic area of upstate New York.

Tell us about your program

The Flaum Eye Institute (FEI) is the ophthalmology department within the University of Rochester Medical Center. Despite the long hours required of a resident, it is a wonderful place to train. The learning opportunities are endless; we see a range of ocular diseases, including everything from diabetic retinopathy to orbital tumors and rare corneal dystrophies. The faculty is supportive—both in the operating rooms and in the eye clinic—and the staff are like family.

What are your career aspirations?

Although I have not yet chosen a subspecialty within ophthalmology, I love the field of ophthalmology and treating eye diseases. Most of all, I enjoy getting to know my patients and trying to help improve their sight. Being an ophthalmologist is very satisfying as we get to use our hands and our fund of knowledge to improve vision—and we have tangible results! There are always exciting developments in ophthalmology research which influences our clinical decision making.

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

While I have learned a lot about medical and surgical ophthalmology, I have also gained skills in research and professionalism. I have also found that patients can be our best teachers. Lastly, I have learned how grocery shopping at Wegmans can be a great form of recreation.

Any Advice for prospective students?

-Rochester is a great place for a medical education—you can train at a top notch medical center but also be at a coffee shop and concert downtown or hiking in beautiful trails within a ten minute drive.

-Do what you love

-Work hard

-No matter what you do, try and find a balance between work and life