Career Guide
THORACIC SURGERY
SAN DIEGO, CA
January 2019
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OwensboroHealth.org/Opportunities
San Diego offers sun, surf & more for the whole family. Explore what sparks your interest.

Read about Networking Strategies to help you get ahead.

Find out more about Preparing For a Career Break.
When you think of California’s beaches and warm climate, the Pacific Coast city of San Diego comes to mind. This eighth-largest US city has been called “the birthplace of California” and is fast becoming a healthcare development and biotechnology research center, thanks in part to the presence of the University of California, San Diego Medical Center.

Visitors, for their part, adore San Diego’s mild year-round climate, world-famous attractions and friendly, easy-going down-town vibe. The following top five attractions will make your visit to San Diego feel like you’ve officially spent time in California.

La Jolla Shores & Sea Caves
La Jolla shores is a mile-long beach with soft sand, clean water and gentle waves, making it ideal for sun bathers and nascent surfers. It is consistently ranked one of the best family-friendly beaches in the United States with its grassy picnic areas, a cheerful playground and the nearby Kellogg Park. La Jolla shores also boasts fire pits and volleyball courts and offers a limited number of beach wheelchairs. Dogs are permitted before 9am and after 6pm (4pm winter months) daily.

La Jolla Sea Caves is an underwater marine preserve consisting of 7 sister caves formed from a 75-million-year-old sandstone cliff. This seaside cavern is replete with sightings of seals, sea lions, dolphins, pelicans, (gentle) leopard sharks and other wildlife. The caves are situated in one of the most beautiful settings, with picturesque Torrey Pines State Park’s cliffs and La Jolla as its backdrops. Kayaking tours for cave exploration are available year-round for all skill levels, given optimal ocean conditions. La Jolla Coast Walk trail offers hiking from La Jolla Shores beach to La Jolla Cove.

As if the abundant outdoor activities weren’t enough, La Jolla also has a beautiful seaside village with opportunities for shopping and dining for every budget. You can easily make a day of the “Jewel City” and experience everything it has to offer.

lajollabythesea.com

Balboa Park
Named for the Spanish maritime explorer Vasco Nuñez de Balboa, Balboa Park is a 1,200-acre urban cultural park managed and maintained by the Parks and Recreation Department of San Diego. In addition to open space areas, gardens, walking paths and natural vegetation, there is also the world-famous San Diego Zoo. The Park also offers multiple attractions like art studios, carousel ride and a mini railroad. It is home to fifteen major museums such as Marston House, Centro Cultural de la Raza and Fleet Science Center. The Botanical Garden, California Native Plant Garden and Alcazar Garden are a few of the cultural attractions among Balboa Park’s lush gardens. Performing Arts in the Park offer family fun with Marie Hitchcock Puppet Theater and dancing at Bon Temps Social Club.

balboapark.org

Mission Beach/Coronado Beach
The classic boardwalk beach with almost two miles of oceanfront boardwalk, Mission Beach offers rental shops, miniature golf, bumper cars, rock climbing and an arcade. Belmont Park, an amusement park on the boardwalk featuring the Giant Dipper Roller Coaster is a main attraction for the millennial crowd with plenty of bars and a hot nightlife scene. Walking, jogging and biking are permitted on the boardwalk. Surfing boogie boarding and kite-boarding are also popular activities.
For a more romantic or family-friendly beach setting, Coronado's long sandy beaches are just the ticket. Consistently voted one of America's finest beaches, the sand literally sparkles thanks to mineral mica. Take a stroll along Orange Avenue's shops and restaurants with a backdrop of homes and mansions and the Hotel del Coronado (featured in Marilyn Monroe's 1958 film "Some Like It Hot"). Drive across the 200-foot tall Coronado Bridge and treat yourself to one of the best views in San Diego. Enjoy the tranquil waters of the San Diego Bay while enjoying views of San Diego.

sandiego.org/explore/things-to-do/beaches-bays.aspx

Gaslamp Quarter
The Gaslamp Quarter is a historic 16½ block district in Downtown San Diego near the Convention Center. The Gaslamps became a symbol of the district during its redevelopment in the 1980s despite their not being the main source of lighting. Formerly known as New Town, it is the site of numerous entertainment and nightlife venues, festivals and other events, including Mardi Gras, Taste of Gaslamp and Street Scene Music Festival. Much of the architecture of the district date back to the Victorian Era and are still used today by tenants who operate restaurants, shops and nightclubs.

In the heart of Gaslamp is Michael J. Wolfe Fine Arts. It has been the premiere location for original works and fine arts exhibits from international, national and up-and-coming local artists for almost 20 years. Gaslamp District also has theatres offering entertainment from movies to musical acts and dining at restaurants ranging from hip to high end.

gaslamp.org

Torrey Pines State Reserve
Hiking trails, plants and animals abound in this geological wonder located in La Jolla. This Natural Preserve is 2,000 acres of the wildest land on the California Coast, with 1,500 acres remaining as it was before San Diego was even developed! It gives you an idea of how the Kumeyaay people, California’s original inhabitants, lived on the unspoiled lands and how it must have looked to early settlers. Visitors the world over go to Torrey Pines to enjoy the breathtaking overlooks, to walk the trail or to generally be at one with nature.

Because Torrey Pines is a natural reserve, there are restrictions in place to protect the beaches, the lands, the plants and the animals that inhabit them. No food or drinks are permitted (no trash cans are provided to drive home this rule). No pets are allowed anywhere in the reserve. Groups of 25 or more visitors must obtain a permit to be on the land.

Visit the website for details on free public walking tours.
torreypine.org
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**The Department of Surgery and the Transplant Program at the University Health Network is conducting a search for an academic surgeon to join the faculty of the Division of Cardiac Surgery. The effective date of this appointment is flexible, but tentatively April 1, 2019. The successful applicant would be required to participate in donor heart procurement with expertise in donation after circulatory death. Experience in adult heart transplantation and mechanical circulatory support is a requirement.**

The successful candidate should have an established record of scholarly achievement with excellence in teaching and research and be eligible for an appointment at the rank of Assistant or Associate Professor in the Faculty of Medicine at the University of Toronto. The successful candidate should also be eligible for certification with the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada and licensure with the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario. Salary is commensurate with qualifications and experience.

The University Health Network is comprised of the Toronto General and Western Hospitals, Princess Margaret Cancer Centre, Toronto Rehabilitation Institute and the Michener Institute and is one of Canada’s largest and leading academic hospitals. The Division of Cardiovascular Surgery within the Peter Munk Cardiac Program currently has 9 full time active clinical surgeons and 2 full time scientists who actively collaborate in patient care, teaching and research. The clinical programs at the Peter Munk Cardiac Center include a large volume of adult cardiac surgery, transcatheter valve therapies, transplantation and mechanical circulatory support. The Centre also has an active educational role in the teaching of residents, clinical and research fellows.

Interested applicants should submit a letter of interest, an updated curriculum vitae and the names of three referees by March 1st, 2019 to: Dr. Vivek Rao, Chief of Cardiovascular Surgery and Munk Professor of Advanced Cardiac Therapeutics, 4N-457, Toronto General Hospital, 200 Elizabeth Street, Toronto, Ontario, Canada, M5G 2C4.

The University Health Network and the University of Toronto are strongly committed to diversity within their community and especially welcomes applications from visible minorities, women, aboriginal peoples, persons with disabilities, members of sexual minority groups and others who may contribute to further diversification of ideas. All qualified candidates are encouraged to apply; however, priority will be given to Canadians and permanent residents of Canada.

For more information about the Faculty of Medicine/Department of Surgery, please visit http://surgery.utoronto.ca.
In the business world, networking is an important skill. As a physician, the benefits of growing a network of colleagues are likely to be far reaching and long lasting. Because there are so many jobs available for physicians, networking may not seem necessary. However, if you have your eye on a leadership role or if you are interested in searching for a non-traditional job in the medical field, then networking is a good way to locate those opportunities at any stage in your career.

Maintaining a professional network of associates and co-workers can also help to keep your own skills and knowledge current and relevant. It will enable you to stay informed about the latest challenges, trends and best practices. By staying in touch with a variety of medical practitioners in different work environments, you can stay up-to-date with emerging areas of medicine, new specialty fields and job opportunities.

Also, by interacting with other physicians, you will be in a better position to develop a big picture view of healthcare. The perspective and insight gleaned from professional networks can help you to identify new ways to address old, familiar problems. A broader, informed perspective can also facilitate serving in leadership roles that may help shape medical research priorities or determine healthcare standards and practices in need of revision.

By and large, the majority of job opportunities for physicians are not widely advertised. Finding these types of opportunities requires creative problem-solving. Often, doctors who hold leadership roles or who have non-clinical jobs explain that they were asked or invited to assume such positions. This can only happen if those who are hiring for such positions know who you are and have a strong sense of what you can bring to the table which often requires networking. In fact, statistics from the U.S Bureau of Labor Statistics show that 70 percent of all jobs are found through networking.

The first step in creating a strong network is to determine your professional goal and what you intend to achieve. Networking requires a give and take and will only pay dividends if you are genuine about wanting to get to know and help others. This might sound counter intuitive, but only if you are sincere about helping others will they want to help you in return. Heidi Moawad, MD, in an article in MD Magazine advises that it is important to enter into any networking opportunity without a ‘me first’ attitude in order to maximize the benefit for everyone - including yourself.

Now, let’s take a look at seven networking strategies that you can use to expand your network:

1. Identify people who are likely to have the connections and knowledge to help you reach your goals. Start from your list of co-workers and associates. Begin with those you know and expand outward from there.

2. Expand your physician job opportunities by staying in close touch with your recruitment specialist. Prepare a high-level pitch. Keep practicing until you can convey who you are and your professional goals by speaking calmly, naturally and without hesitation.

3. Join professional groups and associations and take advantage of their physician networking opportunities by regularly attending meetings and conferences. Merritt Hawkins has this suggestion: When meeting a new, professional contact, get to know the person a little and start by asking for information—
not a job. By talking to contacts, you can find out more about
the person. Once you have made a new professional contact,
make sure you have each other’s information by exchanging
business cards and follow up. Nothing beats sending a text,
e-mail, or even a handwritten note to demonstrate your
appreciation and interest.

In an interview with ENT Today, Dr. Lisa Ishii, chief quality officer
at Johns Hopkins School of Medicine in Baltimore says it’s
important to take advantage of as many growth and development
opportunities as possible. Advancing your medical career “does
require someone to stretch beyond their comfort zone.” In fact,
staying within your immediate circle means you will end up
with a limited point of view. She adds, “It’s really just a matter of
stretching yourself to do it. If you stretch yourself to seek other
ideas, thoughts, and innovative ways to address problems, then
you’ll come up with a more comprehensive [network].”

Dr. Ishii goes on to say that when you are at social events, you
should limit your drinking. Getting intoxicated at social events
with other physicians is unwise - your contacts could be scared off
from your behavior and that could cost you valuable referrals.

4. Participate in online discussions and forums in order to make
new contacts who you can meet later at conferences and/or
networking events.

5. Connect via social media. The proliferation of social media
sites such as LinkedIn is a game-changer for relationship
building. While the traditional method of networking is
attending local, regional, or national events, Dr Ishii says social
media is “enabling people to stay connected in a way that they
were never able to do.” Now, with just a few clicks, you can read
about what someone was doing.

She adds, “With Twitter, Instagram, Facebook, and Snapchat, we
have instant access with people all of the time. If anything, one
has to be careful to limit oneself to not spending hours a day
just browsing around, seeing what people are up to. But, with
discipline, obviously, it’s a great tool to stay connected with people.”

When using social media to network, pay extra attention to
what you post and how you represent yourself online. Based
on the American Medical Association’s policy statements, the
American College of Physicians and the Federation of State
Medical Boards have social media guidelines.

6. Stay in contact with former colleagues and employers. Allow
5-10 minutes each day for a call; slow and steady relationship
building is the foundation of good professional networking.

7. If and when you leave a facility or practice for another, resist
the temptation to bad-mouth your ex-employer. According
to Merritt Hawkins, it is important not to burn bridges with
the people you are leaving behind. The medical community
is small. If you leave a practice, fire an employee, divorce
another doctor or experience any other touchy circumstance,
don’t aggravate people too much in the process because you
will pay the price when they try to sabotage your practice.
Other disgruntled doctors can just as easily become your new
practice’s whistleblower to the medical board, initiate a hospital
peer review, or go on a negative online smear campaign.

By all accounts, there are many reasons why cultivating a
professional network is important for physicians. At the end of
the day, expanding the depth and variety of your professional
relationships helps you become better at what you do, and can
translate into an abundance of new—and often unexpected—professional opportunities.

Sources:

How Physicians Can Build a Network to Boost Their Career, Richard Quinn (January 7, 2018) - ENT Today
How Doctors Can Improve Their Networking Skills, Heidi Moawad, MD, (June 26, 2017) - MD Magazine
How to Build a Professional Network and Why You Should Start Now, (January 17, 2018) - Merritt Hawkins
New Survey Reveals 85% of All Jobs are Filled Via Networking, Lou Adler, (February 29, 2016) - LinkedIn

A complete professional profile makes that possible and will also help physician recruiters identify you for open positions.

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Preparing For a Career Break

CONTRIBUTOR: MELANIE GRANO

For physicians, planning ahead for a career break can help make a return to work easier. If you are thinking of taking personal or professional time off, there are some factors you will need to consider.

There are a number of things physicians can do prior to taking a career break that will make the transition back to work less stressful, in addition to running more smoothly.

1. Identify potential problems
2. Plan ahead
3. Give plenty of notice
4. Keep good records
5. Retain your license, if possible
6. Continue professional memberships
7. Keep up with Continued Medical Education (CME)
8. Continue to practice - with a reduced schedule or volunteer
9. Stay up to date with changing professional standards and re-entry requirements
10. Be prepared to adjust your plans and expectations

Keep in mind that each state has its own re-entry requirements and definitions of what constitutes a break.

1. Potential Problems

If you are expecting to return to the medical profession, you will need to start thinking about how to leave and how you wish to return as early as possible before even beginning the formal process. While there are differences from state to state, they share one common characteristic: the difficulty of re-entering the profession after a prolonged period away, especially if you have allowed your license to expire while on leave.

Of course, state medical boards have a duty to protect the public, so they require that returning physicians demonstrate clinical competency through CME, and board interviews.

2. Have a Plan

Investigate the specifics of your own state and specialty; research the state regulations and your medical specialty requirements carefully, but don’t rely on this information alone. Speak directly with your state board to discuss its policies with particular consideration given to your own individual specificities, and identify any potential hurdles you might encounter.

Once you understand what is required to reinstate your medical profession after taking a break, you can begin to plan based upon your own goals and specialty. You’ll need to consider whether it makes financial sense to retain your license, how you will continue with CME and how you will demonstrate continued competency to the relevant boards prior to your return. If possible, begin with your expected return to work date and plan backwards from there. Keep in mind that, depending upon your state, you may need to share your re-entry plan with your state licensure board.
3. Giving Notice

We’ve already noted the importance of planning ahead to give yourself plenty of time to prepare for your break and your re-entry to the profession. It is also important to extend this time to prepare the other people involved.

If you are employed and plan on returning to the same facility, you will need to liaise closely with your Human Resources department and medical staff leadership in order to understand the processes for leaving and returning. There may be specific rules around timely notification for a leave of absence and you will need to understand the possibilities and processes for maintaining or restoring hospital credentials.

Even if you aren’t planning to return to the same facility, communicate with Human Resources and the medical leadership teams as early as you can. Early notice doesn’t just make it easier for your employer to find a suitable replacement for you, it can help you ease your return to the field. You don’t want to burn bridges with people who can help you stay up-to-date with current practices and upon whom you will rely to provide references for you when you do return.

For physicians with their own practice, the issues are different, but still benefit from early action. You may need to seek legal counsel, depending upon the practice structure and legal arrangements. Make arrangements for the notification and transfer of your patients and their medical records to other physicians in the practice. Securing malpractice insurance tail coverage may be essential to cover you in case of malpractice claims being brought after a claims-made insurance policy is terminated.

4. Paperwork

Keeping good records of your professional activities before and during your leave of absence should help to smooth re-entry. Before you leave, secure written references from senior colleagues, medical associates and practice or hospital managers. Continue to keep records of CME and any clinical practice undertaken during the period of your career break.

5. Licensing

Maintaining your license is the best way to ease your return to work. It can be significantly harder to regain a license once it has been allowed to expire. However, the financial implications of maintaining your license do need to be considered.

The financial impact of taking a break from the profession is significant enough. It can become a real burden if you need to add that to the cost of maintaining your license with the state licensure, board certification, credentialing, memberships of professional organizations and — potentially — insurance (either malpractice tail insurance, or for continuing your regular malpractice insurance if you plan to work part-time or on a voluntary basis). If you are able to cover these costs, however, your ability to return to work will be considerably enhanced; it is a worthwhile investment if you can afford it.

6. Professional Memberships

National, state and local professional organizations can provide a good way of keeping up-to-date with the medical profession,
current clinical and procedural practice, and your colleagues. The potential for networking and CME that your membership in these organizations affords you is often a good reason for maintaining your membership.

Some organizations offer reduced membership rates for clinically inactive members – ask your professional organizations what support they can offer you.

7. Continuing Medical Education
Keep detailed records of all reading, online learning, training, volunteering and clinical practice you undertake during your leave of absence. Collecting references from colleagues whom you have worked alongside is a vital part of demonstrating your continued competence.

Reach out to your local medical school as it may be able to help you meet some of your CME requirements as well as providing networking and paid work opportunities.

Stay in touch with the profession by keeping your seat on any boards or committees, or finding a professional who is happy to mentor you during your time off.

8. Work Part-Time
Working part-time or on a locum or voluntary basis is the best way to keep up your skills. Continuing to work, even with a minimum schedule, will help you to demonstrate continuing competence when you are ready to return to full-time work.

In addition, the compensation may help to cover some of the costs of maintaining your license. Try to establish a good relationship with a good local locum tenens agency and ensure that you work with an agent who understands your priorities.

If you put in these hours out of state, or in a different country, make sure you keep records, get references, and seriously consider maintaining your state license in your home state as well. Of course, any clinical practice will be helpful but, if you can, aim to cover each aspect of the clinical practice to which you plan to return.

Nevertheless, however interested you are to secure continued clinical practice hours, don’t leave yourself exposed. Ensure that for every venture, you meet your obligations in terms of license, certification, malpractice insurance and any necessary permissions or credentialing.

9. Physician Re-entry
As previously mentioned, it will be much easier for you to return to the profession if you keep your license current. While this may require considerable effort and expense, it is likely worth it (if you are in a position to do so).

Maintaining competency and connections will also help with your peace of mind and help sustain the confidence you will need to manage the return to work.

10. Adjust Your Plans
The need to plan ahead is fundamental to minimizing the hurdles you will face. However, it is likely that your plan will need to evolve over the course of your career break. As the American Medical Association (AMA) and Federation of State Medical Boards (FSMB) continue to press for a more cohesive and standardized approach to physician re-entry, it is likely that state requirements and policies will change. You will need to stay ahead of these changing expectations and adjust your return-to-work plan accordingly.

Sources:
State Requirements - Federation of State Medical Boards fsmb.org
Report 6 of the Council on Medical Education: Physician Re-entry, American Medical Association ama-assn.org
Resources for Physicians Returning to Clinical Practice, American Medical Association ama-assn.org

ABOUT THE AUTHOR
Melanie Grano is a freelance business writer and 20-year Journalism veteran who regularly contributes to career-based publications, including ThirdCertainty and Computer Times.
The University of Washington School of Medicine and Seattle Children's Hospital is accepting applications for a one-year training position in Extracorporeal Life Support (ECLS). Children's Hospital is a comprehensive regional medical center that cares for more than 40 ECLS patients each year. Our patient population includes neonates, pediatric patients, and young adults with cardiac and non-cardiac cardiopulmonary failure. The ECLS Fellow will learn to perform ECLS-related procedures, including open and percutaneous ECLS cannulation, decannulation, and vascular reconstruction. The fellow will participate in the daily clinical management of ECLS patients and gain additional exposure to the fields of pediatric general surgery, pediatric critical care medicine, and congenital cardiac surgery. Additionally, the fellow will have the opportunity to participate in several ECLS-related research activities, including outcomes-based research, ECLS quality improvement, and studies in our ECLS animal laboratory. This educational program is designed to provide fellows with comprehensive clinical training in ECLS and to prepare individuals for developing or directing an ECLS program or entering a future career in congenital cardiac surgery. This program is also excellent clinical and research training for general surgery residents considering a career in general pediatric surgery.

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ECLS Fellowship Program Coordinator, Susan Nelson, BS susan.nelson@seattlechildrens.org

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D. Michael McMullan, MD, FACS
Associate Professor | Congenital Cardiac Surgery
University of Washington School of Medicine
Director of Mechanical Cardiac Support and ECLS
Surgical Director, Heart Transplantation
Program Director, ECLS Fellowship
Seattle Children's Hospital

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