

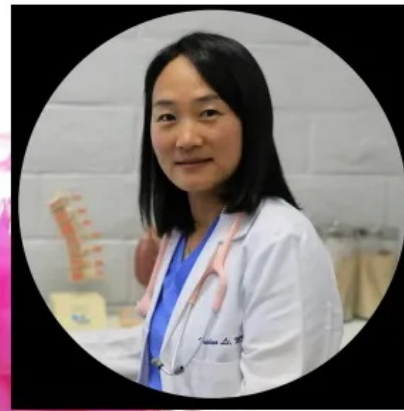
# ANACP Youth Columnist

INTERVIEW WITH MY MOTHER

YUEHUA LI MD PHD

BY SHANE WU

April 2024



## From kid to doctor

**Q: Starting off, I would like a brief summary of how you became a doctor.**

A: Growing up, I lived in a farmland in China. I knew working hard was important. So, when I got to the age, my uncle, an eye doctor, recommended that I apply for medical school.

Initially, I got into an Ophthalmology program, but I was facing challenges during my practice. Frequently, I saw people coming in the hospital with diabetic retinopathy. I think they could have done something before the disease progressed to that level.

I felt bad for them. When I had a chance to apply for residency in the US, I applied for Internal Medicine so that I can help those people. After I finished residency in New York, I moved back to California and worked as a hospitalist, later I started my own clinic. I am currently dealing with a wide variety of diseases.

## Inspirations and Challenges

**Q: What made you want to become a doctor in the US?**

A: I love helping people and will always figure out what is causing their health problems. I want to be there for people who have illnesses.

**Q: Have you ever felt that the profession is too hard, too challenging, or too demanding?**

A: Sometimes I do feel the pressure. But, I do have my own ways to handle it like running, socializing, or cooking.



## Inspirations and Challenges (Continued. . .)

**Q: On your journey to becoming a doctor, what was the most challenging obstacle that you had to face? How did you overcome it?**

A: When I came to the US for my fellowship, I realized many different things. I found out that the US Medical System was much different than in China. Another challenge was the culture. In China we, when facing severe illnesses, discuss the treatment plan to the family instead of the patient because they will feel pressure. But, in the US the patient's decision matters more.

## Teaching and simple things

**Q: As a doctor, what is the easiest part of the role?**

A: For me, there is no easy part of my job as there are many responsibilities.

**Q: Have you ever mentored anyone?**

A: I have not taught anyone yet, but I have had a couple of students shadowing my clinic.

## Stress and expectations

**Q: What was the most stressful thing you've ever experienced?**

A: Sometimes, you get challenging cases, and you don't have a way to help them. Medicine has only developed to this level, so we don't know how to cure, but to manage symptoms.

**Q: When you became a doctor, did you have any expectations for how well you thought you were going to do in the profession?**

A: No, but I knew that I would do my best and be responsible with my patients.

## About the Author - Shane Wu

I am 11 year old and lives in California, USA. I play a variety of sports such as, ice hockey, tennis, and swimming. I have 2 siblings, one being a sister in college, and another being a younger brother. I joined ANACP youth projects recently and have been Co-Hosting some meetings.

