



Dr Fatimah Lateef

is a consultant at the Department of Emergency Medicine, Singapore General Hospital. In her free time, she enjoys mountain-climbing, running in marathons and spending time with her parents. She has been involved in many global humanitarian missions eg: Afghanistan (2001), China (2002, 2003), Indonesia (2003, 2004, 2005), Iran (2003), Pakistan (2005), Cambodia (2004) among others.

Dr Fatimah has also planned, written and executed a course on good communications for Emergency department staff as she champions good and effective communications. To date she has published over 80 papers in peer-reviewed journals and is active in teaching and research. She has also delivered many keynote and plenary addresses in many international conferences. Indeed, she believes that stimulating and motivating young minds is important as it is a step in the process of nation building.

When I was a child, I wanted to be a ...
... Teacher.

My best medical school memory is ...
... Graduating.

My role model is ...
... Mahatma Gandhi, who said, "Be the change you want to see change the world."

The most memorable, touching or amusing experiences I have had as a doctor are ...
... Far too many to count – I may end up writing a book instead of just giving one example!

The best thing a patient ever said to me was ...
... "Doctor, I would like to invite you home to tea with me. You look like a very nice person to get to know!" This came from a 50-year-old lady who speaks English.

I spend my Sunday mornings ...
... Sleeping in – when I can. It is a luxury I cannot afford now.

A bad habit I would like to kick is ...
... Being too meticulous sometimes.

My greatest extravagance is ...
... My vacations.

The book I am currently reading is ...
... A political science book, and Stephen Covey's latest book *The Eighth Habit*. I usually read a few books at the same time.

My favourite singers are ...
... The Bee Gees, Joshua Kadeson and Michael W Smith.

The last movie I watched was ...
... Well, I have not been to a movie theatre for a very long time.

My biggest food weakness is ...
... Chocolate.

I would like to be remembered as ...
... The one who brought about the good change.

Singaporean patients should ...
... Look after their own health and focus on prevention. They should respect their family doctors and not "doctor-hop".

Singapore's healthcare system would ...
... Benefit from the input of those who have gone through the whole system. ■