

▶ J. Brady Scott

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1. When did you first learn about respiratory therapy, and what led you to enter the profession?

Scott: In my early teens I spent two summers as a “junior” volunteer at a local hospital. It was there that I was introduced to several different health care professions, and honestly, I thought the title of “respiratory therapist” sounded pretty important. A few years later my dad completed a respiratory therapy technician program while he recovered from a work-related injury. Although he never actually entered the profession, he and I discussed respiratory therapy often, and I found out the simple act of breathing was actually very interesting. I originally entered college as a nursing major, but while completing my pre-requisite coursework, I found myself looking for something that was a better match for my interests. I researched other health care professions and realized the focus of respiratory therapy suited me best.

2. Where did you go to respiratory therapy school, and how did your experiences there affect your career?

Scott: I attended the respiratory care program at Lexington Community College (now Bluegrass Community and Technical College) in Lexington, KY. The classroom and clinical training I received there really prepared me to begin my career as a respiratory therapist. The great faculty and clinical instructors truly took an interest in student development. One of the faculty members, Ron Wasielewski, MSEd, RRT, often spoke of his time as a respiratory therapy intern at Duke University Medical Center in Durham, NC. Duke seemed like a place I’d like to work; so as graduation approached and I began evaluating my options, I decided to give them a call.

3. Did you have a special mentor in school or after you graduated who helped you in your career? If so, who was your mentor and how did this person make a difference in your life?

Scott: I have been very fortunate to have so many people positively influence my career. Several have taken a lot of their own time to teach me what they know about respiratory therapy at the patient bedside. Others have taught me how to design, conduct, and present a research project that started with a simple clinical question. I’ve also found that people are willing to be mentors if you are willing to be mentored. Houston R. Anderson, RRT, FAARC, who founded our department, but whom I unfortunately never had the opportunity to meet, left behind the legacy of mentoring at Duke. I was lucky enough to start my career here, where mentors abound.

4. What do you believe are your top two accomplishments in the profession so far?

Scott: I received the 2007 Adult Acute Care Specialty Practitioner of the Year award. In my opinion, just being nominated and listed with the others who have previously received that award is a huge accomplishment. I was also promoted to clinical supervisor around the same time. Being trusted to help lead and further advance a department full of fantastic respiratory therapists and staff was quite an honor.

5. Where do you see yourself in the profession within the next five years, and how do you plan to get there?

Scott: I plan to continue my formal education, develop mentoring skills, and continue growing as a respiratory therapist. I would like to hone my skills as a presenter and continue to ask questions that lead to research. I hope to advance my career, my department, and my profession as a whole. My plan to get there is through hard work and persistence — and a little bit of luck. ■

Sneakers or flip flops? Flip flops

Favorite breakfast cereal? Honeycombs

Lab coat or scrubs? Scrubs

Last movie you saw? “No Country for Old Men”

Last book you read? “All About Wine,” by Jonathan Ray

Where would you go on your dream vacation? Anywhere that’s not experiencing a hurricane (it’s a long story).

If you could invite anyone in the world to dinner, who would it be and why? My wife, of course. She’s been a source of encouragement throughout this journey... and we both enjoy spicy food!