

Why I like to be a medical geneticist? It adds colours to my life.... **A T G C**

- **A..** Attitude to take diagnostic challenges...challenges of clinical applications of the vast knowledge, may it be of genetic metabolic disorders or may it be dysmorphology diagnosis.....postnatal or prenatal.....Logical thinking, putting the facts in proper perspective and visual memory and recognition of faces and forms..... some failures make me humble to know that I know a very little  
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- **T..** Talking to patients and families, trying to understand their verbalised and un-verbalised concerns, reading their faces, trying to help them by communicating the solutions and the lack of solutions many a times... improving my communication skills in the process.. communicating with students, staff and the family... getting strengths from the coping strategies of patients and families with genetic disorders... and keep on learning to accept everyone as he / she is.. be non- directive, non-judgmental and humble.....
- **G...** Getting to become a medical geneticist provided me the opportunity to work in the laboratory and understand importance of lab work for diagnostics and research. Challenges of establishing tests, starting from getting G banded chromosomes in 90s to interpreting microarray and NGS in 21<sup>st</sup> century.... challenging oneself, struggle and sweet fruits of success that follows.....sometimes lab correcting my clinical diagnosis..... Reminds me to be humble .....
- **C..** Cure and care..... While working for it.. Last but not the least, I like to learn science, understand and enjoy the modern ways of understanding biology and pathology. Being medical geneticist provided me the opportunity to understand the latest developments in science and appreciate the beautiful minds innovating new strategies of treatment ....and to contribute to medical genetics in my small ways...Magnitude of scientific research and giants in the field remind me to be humble.....  
**AND.....**learning and unlearning body and mind and especially of oneself continues.....it makes my journey of life beautiful and enjoyable.  
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*Shubha Phadke*

