

Blog Showcases Humorous Videos of Med School Life

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Like many other students making their way through med school, Colin Son is chronicling his progress online at his blog, [From Medskool](#). He mixes some political perspective and sports analysis with his near daily postings about studying, clinical exposure, and the challenges of medicine. What makes him unique is his degree in screenwriting, his ongoing script projects, and the videos that he's worked on as a student. This week I asked Colin about his creative outlets.

Dr. Genes: Your screenwriting background is pretty unusual for a medical student. Forgive me if this seems to disregard the artistry of your craft, but what do you think of the proliferation of med school videos on YouTube, like "[Diagnosis Wenckebach](#)" and [Medical School Matrix](#)?

Colin Son: I'm not sure I can claim much artistry in the craft of filmmaking. The videos I've worked on look just as amateurish as everyone else's (here is our skit called [Medical School Mario Kart](#)). I love looking at what other schools have put together on YouTube. I think the [Real Med Student of Genius](#) skits are really clever. And I love the [Medical School Matrix](#), even though it was before my time.

From Medskool hosts [Grand Rounds](#)

May 29, 2007

Dr. Genes: In addition to commentary on medical school and healthcare, you've written a lot about politics and sports. Who makes up your audience -- is it primarily medicine types, or do you have dedicated policy wonks or sports fans who tolerate the digressions into medicine?

Colin Son: Yeah, From Medskool touches on a whole range of really disparate topics. That certainly wasn't my idea early on. I got some early advice, and I think it is very true that diluting a blog by rambling on about a multitude of topics isn't a real great way to attract readers. You do a little of everything, but you don't provide content on any one topic enough to prompt readers interested in those topics to come back and read regularly.

But that's okay. Even though From Medskool is far from a journal-type blog, it really has become a kind of personal release. I like posting on whatever draws my attention, even if that dilutes the blog. That said, the majority of the content is and will continue to be on medically related current events and healthcare policy.

Dr. Genes: How has your blog evolved over the past 2 years? Has there been a change in your libertarian view of healthcare solutions?

Colin Son: The first incarnation of From Medskool was more on topic in regard to commenting almost exclusively on medically related current events and policy. I guess I kind of already touched on it, but the evolution of From Medskool has really involved it including posts on whatever grabs my (probably *Ritalin*-needing) attention. That is changing, though. I dumped a lot of the more "off-topic" content, including the sports stuff, onto a second blog.

I imagine that as third year roles around, posts will be less frequent and include more personal stories. Getting out of the classroom is bound to provide more fodder for "personal story" posts. And no doubt, in entering the clinic, the real world will continue to temper my libertarian ideas. Well, maybe we'll see on that one. I do think blogging has softened my political philosophy, though, in large part just because I now read so much around the medical blogosphere and get to consider others' positions.

Dr. Genes: Can you tell me about some of your selected posts and links on your sidebar?

Colin Son: Some of that sidebar stuff is me fooling around with AJAX JavaScript stuff beyond my capabilities. As for favorite posts, that is tough. I'll go back to 2 older ones: a short and sincere post on my [last day of anatomy lab](#), and a perhaps more opinionated look at the volume of [criticism of the current American healthcare system](#).

Dr. Genes: Do you think your screenwriting will factor into your post-med school career -- maybe be a consultant on a medical drama, or work for one of those TLC shows?

Colin Son: I think screenwriting will fill the same space for me that blogging does for so many healthcare professionals. The joy of being a writer, and having no desire to be on the production end of filmmaking, is that you can write from anywhere.

Dr. Genes: Colin Son and his interesting perspective on medicine take center stage this week, as [Grand Rounds is hosted at From Medskool](#). Check out the best in online medical writing, as compiled and presented by medical student, screenwriter, and blogger Colin Son.

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