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### Interview with Kenan Tarabishy D.D.S

I have always cherished a profession in health care, whether it is a Nurse, Doctor, or a Dentist. Ideally, It would make sense to interview someone I know that is a healthcare professional, more specifically a Dentist. Kenan Tarabishy D.D.S is a Dentist, specializing in Endodontics, in Tampa, Florida. Kenan Tarabishy is a Syrian-American, like myself, who received his high school education in Tampa, Florida and his Bachelor's degree in history from the University of South Florida. Dr. Tarabishy later received his dental degree from the University of Maryland Baltimore Dental school.

Growing up with doctors in his family, including his father, Kenan Tarabishy was always expected to pursue a career in medicine. However, from an early age, Kenan increasingly showed his disinterest in pursuing a career in medicine. Much like myself, Kenan is a calm and collected person, who prefers a "low-key job," as he described it, which most medical field jobs are not. As a result, Kenan found the perfect fit for his demands: a low-stress job that makes enough money to satisfy himself and, more importantly, his parents whilst having an interest in the field: Dentistry. Kenan told me that the moment he decided to pursue Dentistry was when an Orthodontist fixed his teeth. "I had vampire's teeth," Kenan told me, "and I needed them fixed." Kenan's Orthodontics experience made him very satisfied with better-looking teeth; his

experience and satisfaction was a stepping stone for his exploration of Dentistry, which later determined his love for the field. After receiving his Dental degree, Kenan pursued a specialization in Endodontics because “Endodontics is the most medical-like field in Dentistry.” Having a father who was a doctor, and a calm personality were the factors that determined his specialty in Endodontics. “Endodontics is a very chill job,” he told me. Moreover, Dr. Tarabishy emphasized the importance of good communication skills in his career. I learned that having premium communication skills is extraordinarily important so that Dentists can relay information to nurses, conciliating a worried patient, or even keep a patient busy and make the Dental procedures less awkward.

Dr. Tarabishy works in a Dental practice that has two owners and six associates. Kenan himself is an associate and works with eight other Endodontists, six of whom are associates like himself. A typical workday for Kenan is quite straightforward and the same every day. Kenan wakes up at eight in the morning, starts work at nine. Kenan typically treats an average of six patients a day, each treatment takes around an hour, thus, his typical workday is around six to nine hours, depending on the number of root canals and the severity of the patients’ problems. As simple as the job is, it is a career that requires patience, calmness, and good communication skills. Besides, the job yields a plethora of wealth. With that being said, Dentistry seems like a great job for me. Out of curiosity, I asked Dr. Tarabishy about what he loves and doesn’t like most about his job.

During the interview, Dr. Tarabishy had difficulty answering what he least likes about his job, the satisfaction he possesses with his career and it defines what type of

lifestyle endodontics yields. Although Dr. Tarabishy is satisfied with his career, he noted that one downside to Endodontics is that it demands the same procedure every day. In other words, the job is simple: wake up, perform root canals, and go home. In many aspects, the simplicity in Endodontics is an advantage, but it may get boring overtime. Although Endodontics has a monotonous nature to it, not every job yields perfection in all categories; deciding on a career is about outweighing the disadvantages with advantages and Endodontics has an abundance of advantages. On the contrary, Dr. Tarabishy listed many reasons he loves his job. However, one of his reasons stood out most to me: his passion for removing pain from patients. Throughout the interview, Kenan kept emphasizing that the aspect he loves most about his job, is reducing or removing pain from patients because it gives him a sense of accomplishment and purpose. As someone who has family members from medical backgrounds, Kenan had a sense of caregiving and kinship developed with his patients.

Dentistry is a very old practice but quite a new profession. People have been curing teeth pain for centuries, however, having an entire field of study specific to teeth is a modern concept. In terms of the future of Dentistry, Kenan mentioned that he believed dentistry, more specifically endodontics, has a bright future as a profession and as a field. As a profession, more jobs for Endodontics are predicted to be available over time. In terms of the field itself, Dentistry is advancing at an exponential rate. According to Kenan, Dental practices of the future will demand more group efforts of various professionals in a clinic or a medical institution. Group work will yield more efficient completion of highly complicated tasks and procedures. Also, technology is

exponentially advancing our world, and the field of dentistry is no exception. Dental technologies are predicted to immensely revolutionize the way dentists do their jobs. For example, more advanced robotics will allow greater maxillofacial surgical precision and less human efforts to perform complicated surgeries. Soon, Dentists will be required to know how to operate robotics and maybe even program surgical robots.

Dr. Tarabishy suggested that I should assist in dental offices and attend internships wherever I can. He noted that experiencing a day in the life of a Dentist will help a lot in my decisions. Also, Dr. Tarabishy noted that Medicine is the most similar field to dentistry, which is my alternative. As similar to Medicine Dentistry is, they have one fundamental difference: the typical lifestyles of the various careers in those fields. Dentistry yields a less-stressful lifestyle than Cardiology for example. With that in mind, there are specialties in medicine that yield a less stressful lifestyle than other specialties, whereas dentistry is generally low-stress across the entire profession. Deciding on what I will pursue all depends on “enjoying what I do,”(Kenan) and to understand the answer to this question, I need to actively do something and experience different things. Which is why I will be looking for internships.

Dr. Tarabishy's practice offers internships for those who show interest in pursuing Dentistry. I think shadowing Dr. Tarabishy will allow me to fully understand, in detail, how Endodontics perform root canals, and how they go about their jobs. Interviewing Dr. Tarabishy was great because I know him at a personal level and I was able to ask about his lifestyle and how his job affects it.

Because I have a personality quite similar to him, and have a father who is a doctor, just like him, pursuing dentistry like Kenan Tarabishy seems tactical. Kenan was once an undergraduate freshman, who had so many interests, and wondered what he will pursue as a career, just like me right now. Considering his extremely similar experiences, at the moment, the most promising career path to pursue is Dentistry, and this interview just immensely proved so. Having said that, I am going to follow up with Dr. Tarabishy about his job's internship opportunity. Determining my career path in healthcare all depends on the various experiences I will have through Internships, shadowing, and actively asking questions to various healthcare professionals.

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Dear Dr. Kenan Tarabishy

I just wanted to take the time and say thank you for your time and your full attendance of the Informational Interview. It was a pleasure to get to know you better and I look forward to meeting with you regarding the internship opportunity in-person in the near future. I make du'a for you and InshaAllah you will continuously have a wonderful and healthy life ahead.

شكرا عمو كنان

Sincerely,

**Mohammad Martini**