



## Making Connections with the Community

In a school known for – and populated by – nontraditional students, Nikhil Jain would still be considered unique. He completed his medical studies, yet deferred his graduation date to pursue his Master of Business Administration in a joint MD/MBA program. As if this academic load was not challenging enough, Jain is also president emeritus of the College of Medicine Student Government Association (SGA). Yet for Jain, these three different ways of being engaged with the Drexel community – as medical student, business student, and president – are inherently related.

Most medical students do not even consider pursuing a second degree, particularly since the curriculum and residency are so grueling. Yet, despite this demanding schedule – plus his added responsibilities in the SGA – Jain felt strongly about attaining his MBA. Medicine is a business,” he says, “especially in this day and age the way industry is going. It’s important to be business savvy in that field for a number of reasons.”



*Nikhil Jain*

Jain initially became interested in pursuing his MBA while serving as president of the College of Medicine SGA. He says that being in an administrative role and “on the decision-making team” put him in a position to make a difference on campus. “I like to think I was able to do some good in that role,” he explains. In fact, Jain has been making a difference on campus for several years already, serving in various leadership positions since he matriculated in 2005.

Shay Myers, the Student Government Association adviser, says that Jain “was a great president...just a really good leader.” She particularly cites his involvement with Dr. Papadakis’s memorial service as an example of his strength representing the College of Medicine. Even though he is no longer president, Jain continues to be involved in the life of the College, including organizing the installation of a portrait of Dr. Papadakis in the new simulation center.

To that end, the MBA would similarly prepare Jain to take on more administrative roles while serving as a physician. “In addition to the contribution that I’d be able to make as a clinician...I would want to be able to contribute something more...For one, I enjoyed [serving as President]. Two, I think I could help in that capacity.” Jain attests that “a formal education in the science of management” would enable him “to help people...in the future.”

Indeed, Jain believes the skills necessary to attain his MBA will also serve him well in his chosen

specialty: radiology.

A native of Monmouth County, New Jersey, Jain attended Monmouth University as an undergrad. Monmouth offered a joint BS/MD program with Hahnemann University, to which Jain applied and was accepted. When he matriculated, Hahnemann was by then affiliated with Drexel University. Jain explains that he was “actually kind of excited” about this new affiliation, since, as a technophile, he knew of Drexel’s stellar technology and engineering reputation.

Jain was specializing in orthopedic surgery when he was introduced to radiology during the clinical rotations of his third year. The technological aspects of radiology appealed to him, especially since he had a strong background in computers and information technology. Correlating patient symptoms with a physical image further piqued his interest.

Jain explains that one of the most basic examples of this connection between symptom and image was still the most effective – examining someone with plural effusions, or water in the lungs. “You listen with a stethoscope to the lungs and hear a kind of crackling sound...but then you take a regular, plain, simple x-ray, and in the lung field you can actually see the level of the plural effusion. It sounds simple enough, but to me, it’s like a perfect correlation...to actually see that...was fascinating.”

Jain is one who sees connections, relationships, among things. He explains that radiology, as a specialty, interacts with many fields, including pediatrics, obstetrics, and surgery, to name a few. In this manner, “the radiologist is a jack of all trades and a true diagnostician.” These clinical relationships are complemented by Jain’s experience in student government, and are further enhanced by his MBA curriculum.

He explains, “Radiologists, like all medical professionals, must demonstrate skills in communication, teamwork, organization, leadership, critical analysis, problem solving, and resourcefulness. As a former president of the Student Government Association, and as a current MBA candidate, I am continually strengthening my organizational and leadership skills.”

Although Jain has not taken a traditional route through medical school, he is, in a way, a very traditional student of medicine. His ambitious curricular undertaking reflects a multifaceted approach to his discipline. He wants to do whatever it takes to become the best physician possible, to serve future patients with the best possible care and understanding. Uniting the clinical practice of radiology with the pragmatism of business – seeing those connections – Jain has applied himself to the science and art of medicine.