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# XiMED Board Member and Pulmonologist Dr. Scott McCaul Happy with Career as Independent Physician

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Posted: Tuesday, July 14, 2015 10:30 am

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Scott McCaul, MD

Scott McCaul, MD, breathes fresh air into the lives of his patients as he practices his pulmonary medical specialty while serving as a member of the XiMED medical board, a position he has held since 2013. In addition to his direct practice responsibilities, he has served on the XiMED hospitalist board since 2006, acted as medical director of the critical care units at Scripps Memorial Hospital since 1995, and is a member of the hospital's medical executive committee, an affiliation he established in 2006.

Upon completing a fellowship in pulmonary medicine at Tulane Medical Center Hospital in 1987, Dr. McCaul began to look for a job. Convincing his wife that "there were no job opportunities other than in San Diego," he sorted through several offers and quickly found himself working with a group of pulmonologists at Scripps Memorial. He has maintained his relationship with the group and since 2006 has acted as president of La Jolla Pulmonary and Critical Care Inc.

Asked how he became a doctor, Dr. McCaul says, "I evolved into it. There are no other physicians in my family. I was in my 20s before I decided to attempt to go to medical school." He was well equipped to study medicine, having completed an undergraduate degree in biochemistry at Tulane University graduating magna cum laude.

However, throughout his medical education he was undecided about whether to pursue a career in clinical medicine or academic research. Dr. McCaul liked the "problem-solving" aspects of medicine and saw a career as a physician as a "real opportunity to pursue diverse interests."

However, he was almost finished with his medical training before he made the final decision about his career. "It wasn't until I was in my fellowship that I decided to commit to clinical medicine," he says of his decision to pursue a career in private practice as an independent physician.

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