

PDQ Assignment 1

MRL 1971

MRL is originally from Columbia and has lived in the USA for 26 years. Her mother and 2 older brothers still live in Columbia. Her father has passed away. She left a very unstable Columbia at the time, to continue her education in the US. It was a very challenging move.

MRL qualified as a medical doctor in Columbia and came to the USA to specialise in Infectious Diseases. However, she was assisting with the management of a patient suffering from a tumour and psychosis, and witnessed the patient's recovery after the tumour was removed. It was this incident that changed her professional direction and she decided to specialise in psychiatry, working with cancer patients.

MRL shared that her experience of being a patient was very hard as physicians are really busy – while she was having chemo, there were so many students in the room who didn't care who she is as a person. She shared that spending time and being curious about who she is as a person could really help. Compassion is so important but is really lacking.