

Sarp Korcan Keskin, M.D.

Physician, Assistant Professor & Senior Clinical Fellow
Imperial College London
London, England



Never give up chasing your dreams

Sarp Korcan Keskin, M.D.'s life story has the makings of a motivational movie. The plot goes something like this...

Sarp grows up in Turkey in a family of doctors. His parents were both biochemical engineers in hospital laboratories. Through the years his interest in medicine was shaped by family discussions about medicine, science and research. Sarp does well in school and eventually completes medical school and as a good patriot, spends the first two years post medical school in mandatory government service as a urologist in rural areas of Turkey.

Sarp then moves to the United States, meets the girl of his dreams and completes the MD Anderson Postdoctoral Fellowship program in urology. Post program completion, Sarp returns to Turkey, marries his dream girl and they settle in as they prepare to raise a family. During that time, Sarp practiced at a center of excellence in Istanbul where he became a respected urological surgeon and a professor at Bahcesehir University in Istanbul.

Yet professionally he wanted more, particularly in research.

Making another career shift wasn't easy at the age of 36. Continuing to be inspired by his experience at M.D. Anderson, Sarp and his wife moved to London, England where currently he serves as a physician and a senior clinical fellow at Imperial College London. To prepare for the move to London, in under two years Sarp passed two medical equivalency exams and a language exam while working as a busy urological surgeon and a university professor. When his current contract expires, Sarp, now 39, will join the University of Oxford in Oxford, England as a Senior Clinical Fellow of Urology.

Before MD Anderson, Sarp only considered where he was in that moment of time. After MD Anderson, Sarp is perpetually looking forward, seeking the best knowledge, highest technology and continuously updating himself to keep his practitioner standards high. He can't imagine what his life would be like if he had not made all the shifts and turns he chose in his career. And this includes making the decision to pursue education at MD Anderson Cancer Center.

Sarp credits his association with MD Anderson for opening many career doors. He has worked in three countries, all of which have different healthcare and research infrastructures. Sarp sites his most significant achievement as his pursuit of advancing his career beyond an age that most consider as too late. Even though his dreams grew exponentially after his time at MD Anderson, he never gave up.

The movie take-aways? Never give up on chasing your dreams, despite the consequences. It is never too late. And doing your best in every situation is the best way to live life.

<i>MD Anderson School(s) from which I graduated</i>	MD Anderson Post-Doctoral Fellowship in Urology
<i>Graduation Year</i>	2016
<i>Current Employer</i>	Imperial College, Bahcesehir University
<i>Current City</i>	London, England
<i>Current Position</i>	Physician, Assistant Professor & Senior Clinical Fellow
<i>What is your career motivation?</i>	Both of my parents were biochemical engineers working in hospital laboratories. As a child I spent a lot of time with my parents in their healthcare environment which contributed to my belief as a teenager that helping the sick and vulnerable was the best way to go. As I matured it became crystal clear to me that pursuing a science-based career was for me. Beyond my family, technology, science and research have and continue to be my top interests, especially new research in medicine.
<i>Who are your mentors?</i>	<p>Dr. Christopher Wood, Dr. Nizar Tannir and Dr. Antonio Karam are people I met at MD Anderson who served as mentors to me.</p> <p>I became a doctor by following the work of Dr. Wood since my university days. It was always a dream of mine to work with him.</p> <p>Dr. Karam is not only an academic mentor but also I consider him family. He was our witness at my wedding and he is my daughter's name father. It is Turkish tradition that a family member choose the first name of your child. Dr. Karam chose the name of Florence for our now 8-month old daughter.</p> <p>Dr. Tannir is always positive and kind and helped me with many scientific projects. I remain in contact with all three of these men today, all of which have had a significant influence in my life and career.</p>

This is my story

	<p>Drs. Wood, Tannir and Karam are members of the MD Anderson Cancer Center faculty.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Christopher G. Wood, M.D., F.A.C.S., Department of Urology, Division of Surgery • Nizar M. Tannir, M.D., FACP, Department of Genitourinary Medical Oncology, Division of Cancer Medicine • Associate Professor Jose Antonio Karam, MD Anderson Department of Urology
<i>Works of Interest</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Renal Cell Carcinoma and Pathologic Nodal Disease: Implications for American Joint Committee on Cancer Staging • Intraoperative Conversion From Partial to Radical Nephrectomy: Incidence, Predictive Factors, and Outcomes • Outcomes of Patients with Renal Cell Carcinoma and Sarcomatoid Dedifferentiation Treated with Nephrectomy and Systemic Therapies Over Three Decades: Comparison Between the Cytokine (1987–2005) and the Targeted Therapy (2006–2015) Eras
<i>Graduate school from which I received a degree(s)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Goztepe Training and Research Hospital, 2011 Istanbul, Turkey Urology Specialist • MD Anderson Cancer Center Postdoctoral Fellowship in Urology 2015 – 2016
<i>Undergraduate school(s) from which I received a degree(s)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dokuz Eylul University School of Medicine, 2006 Medical Doctor Izmir, Turkey
<i>High school from which I received a degree</i>	<p>Antalya Anatolian High School, 1999 Antalya, Turkey</p>
<i>Family</i>	<p>Married with one child.</p>

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