





Dr. Frank T. Materia (HN 2008) Fellow of the American Diabetes Association Children's Mercy Hospital, Kansas City, MO

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Tell us about your career path.

After graduating from Holy Name, I went on to spend 13 years completing my

degrees and training at Penn State University/Milton S. Hershey Medical Center. My current Fellowship brought me to Kansas City in late 2020. I have been building a line of medical research focused on understanding and developing innovative programs for preventing type 2 diabetes and cardiovascular disease in marginalized communities at high-risk for chronic illness.

How do you feel your education from Holy Name helped get you where you are today? Do you credit any teachers/peers/classes?

Besides preparing me well for advanced training in medical science, Holy Name also afforded me multiple leadership opportunities, like serving as Senior Class President and Kairos Rector. Everyday I take foundations from these experiences with me into my hospital. I give tons of credit and thanks to multiple dedicated teachers who always went above and beyond for me, specifically Mrs. Moult, Hannahoe, Burt, Charles, Murphy, and Hoffman; and, can't forget all the incredible support from Ms. Marm and Mr. Ditsky along the way!

What advice would you give to current Berks Catholic students?

As soon as you get to college, seek out a few professors whose work interests you and start building strong academic relationships. Don't just do well in their class, but spend some time joining their research lab, helping them with a side project, or becoming their teaching assistant. These individuals, who know you and your work ethic, will be mission-critical when it comes time for references/letters of recommendation for graduate school, internships, or your first big job.

Tell us a little bit about yourself and what you like to do in your spare time.

This past year my partner and I moved into our new home in Kansas City, MO, and I am still in awe of how much I love living in the Midwest. In my spare time I enjoy cooking and entertaining, hosting tailgates for sporting events, long phone calls with family and friends back in PA, but most importantly I enjoy spoiling my 11 year old American Bulldog.

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