Alumni – Harrison Pathology

Audio	Video
[Silence]	Dark blue background with animated blocks. L S U Health Shreveport Foundation logo is at the bottom center of the screen. White text in center of screen: Pathology
[Dr. Harrison] My name is Ken Harrison, and I have practiced in this area in pathology at the Delta Pathology Group for about 40 years and retired about a year and a half ago. And it's you know, it's an interesting type of practice that we had because we started with the three of us and then through a series of mergers and acquisitions and so on we've grown now to the point that we are all over Louisiana and Mississippi and Texas, East Texas. So there's probably about 60 or more pathologists in our group now.	Older man with short, gray hair on the sides of his head, wearing a black jacket, blue checked shirt and maroon tie, seated in front of a dark blue washed background Text: Ken Harrison, MD Pathology (Retired) Member of the first medical school class at L S U H S
[Silence]	Dark blue background with animated blocks. L S U Health Shreveport Foundation logo is at the bottom center of the screen. White text above it reads: Why did you choose Pathology?
[Dr. Harrison] I have always been interested in solving problems. I've been interested in reading and learning new things. And that's that's what pathology is all about, really, is putting things together and coming up with a diagnosis and also pretty much lifelong learning, since it's really a field that there's a huge amount of information in.	Dr. Harrison on camera
[Silence]	Dark blue background with animated blocks. L S U Health Shreveport Foundation logo is at the bottom center of the screen. White text above it reads: Where did you complete your training?

Audio	Video
[Dr. Harrison] I actually I did an internship in Boston and that's when I decided to rethink and come back into pathology. I had actually experienced some exposure to pathology as a high School student. I worked at a small private hospital in town, the Gilmer Hospital, with Peachy Gilmer, who was a pathologist. And I didn't do any clinical lab work, but I did that research area project for about two years on immuno-electrophoresis. And we got beautiful patterns, but we didn't really know what they meant because there wasn't a lot of literature in 1961 about that. So anyway, I had some exposure to pathology then and then decided to go ahead and enter into it. And I came back here to do clinical pathology. So I thought that I was just interested in clinical pathology. And so, I came back here and actually Dr. Smith and Dr. Grafton at that time pretty much created a program for me. And it was very good actually, and I did that for a couple of years and then decided I wanted to go further into that. So I moved to Baltimore and was in a program at Johns Hopkins for additional time. And it once again, I went through several areas, but I focused on blood banking and transfusion medicine during that period. But then after that, I decided that if I was interested in private practice, I might want to go in and into anatomic pathology also. So at that point, through a connection in Baltimore, I met a doctor down in San Antonio who had trained in Baltimore as well, and he was head of the surgical Pathology and residency program at University of Texas, San Antonio. And so I moved down there for my anatomic training and then moved back here in 1979. I've been here ever since.	Dr. Harrison on camera
[Silence]	Dark blue background with animated blocks. L S U Health Shreveport Foundation logo is at the bottom center of the screen. White text above it reads: What do you enjoy most about Pathology?

Audio	Video
[Dr. Harrison] One of my favorite things, actually, I have a few, but one of them is to be part of a team that is a multidisciplinary team where there's pathology, radiology, Surgeons, Oncologist, radiation oncologists, and we meet sometimes to discuss really difficult problem cases. And try to formulate a plan and and discuss a diagnosis. But and then after that, formulate a plan. And I really enjoy contributing to that because pathology really contributes a lot to what is going to happen to the patient and the plan. I may not have these numbers right, but I think somewhere I saw that pathology and clinical laboratory only amount to about 5% of the cost of medicine. But they are responsible for over 80% of what actually happens to the patient. And so, it's a pretty significant role to play on this team. I also like being able to help primary care physicians who may not be familiar with some of the things we do in the lab and help them interpret lab tests and suggest others that we may do and so on.	Dr. Harrison on camera
[Silence]	Dark blue background with animated blocks. L S U Health Shreveport Foundation logo is at the bottom center of the screen. White text above it reads: What is the hardest thing about Pathology?
[Dr. Harrison] The hardest thing I think is really keeping up with the literature. There are so many changes. Pathology is a huge field, even if you subspecialties like our group does. It, it's so - there's just so much, you know, information. On the other hand, I like doing it. And I like reading and I like learning things. And so, once again, I think as I've said earlier, if you're going to go into pathology, you have to be committed to lifelong learning. But if you enjoy that, it's a place for you.	Dr. Harrison on camera
[Silence]	Dark blue background with animated blocks. L S U Health Shreveport Foundation logo is at the bottom center of the screen. White text above it reads: Are there certain personality traits that fit your specialty?

Audio	Video
[Dr. Harrison] Years and years ago, everyone thought of the pathologist as just someone locked down in the basement, in a laboratory. But the modern pathologist is really very involved clinically. And, you know, from all standpoints, in conferences. Also call to the floor, often. I've made rounds on patients with critical care physicians to see firsthand what their problem is. Going into surgery to look at exactly what the surgeons are seeing, so that I can keep that in mind when doing frozen sections. You're a lot more involved, and I guess it wasn't everybody to like that was like that perception years ago. In fact, I think one pathologist was even responsible for being essentially one of the first to start chemotherapy. And so pathologists can get involved clinically. And if you're interested in that it's certainly available.	Dr. Harrison on camera
[Silence]	Dark blue background with animated blocks. L S U Health Shreveport Foundation logo is at the bottom center of the screen. White text above it reads: How is your work-life balance?
[Dr. Harrison] Pathology is a specialty that lends itself very well to that, because if we're in a group, then it's not like being an Internist and having 20 patients in the hospital that somebody has to cover for you over a two week period or something. In pathology, you pretty much do the work that is there for that day or two. And then when you're off, you're off. Someone else is covering those services. And so it does, I think, it it lends itself very well. Very similar to radiology and some of those other specialties that are hospital based, mainly.	Dr. Harrison on camera
[Silence]	Dark blue background with animated blocks. L S U Health Shreveport Foundation logo is at the bottom center of the screen. White text above it reads: How do you handle work stress?

Audio	Video
[Dr. Harrison] Stress, well everybody handles stress differently, you know. But I think one thing is that in pathology, is good for this also, because as I mentioned, when you're off, you're off. So it's easier in pathology, I think, to separate family time and things and activities from your work. And I suggest whenever you have that opportunity, you know, take that weekend trips, vacations, things like that. I also think physical exercise is a great way to manage stress. Stress. And I personally kind of like the mountains. Hike up to high mountain spring creeks, and do a little fly fishing by myself. That's kind of nice.	Dr. Harrison on camera
[Silence]	Dark blue background with animated blocks. L S U Health Shreveport Foundation logo is at the bottom center of the screen. White text above it reads: What should medical students know before choosing Pathology?
[Dr. Harrison] It's actually - the pathologist is where everything stops. Because that's where the diagnosis is made. That diagnosis needs to be accurate, particularly on frozen sections. If the surgeon gives you some tissue and says, “Is this malignant or is this benign?” And it's going to make a huge difference in what they're going to do in surgery. Then, that's somewhat stressful, at least, you know, early on. Actually a lot of times it is whenever depends on the cases you’re doing, but we do some very interesting cases that are major - pancreato-biliary surgeries, things like that. Lots of breast surgeries. I mean a lot of things that require frozen sections perhaps. And that's, that’s where you have just a few minutes to get the tissue and look at it and make a decision. And so that can be stressful. Yeah.	Dr. Harrison on camera
[Silence]	Dark blue background with animated blocks. L S U Health Shreveport Foundation logo is at the bottom center of the screen. White text above it reads: What is the most important thing to know before choosing a specialty?

Audio	Video
[Dr. Harrison] I think they need to know all about the specialty. They need to know more than just their exposure in medical school. They need to visit with people in that specialty, physicians in that specialty. Maybe even follow them around and see what exactly what they do. Learn the different type practices that are available within that specialty. Because that's something that you don't really get in medical school. You don't get the opportunity to see. And of course, physicians here in the department, I'm sure, would be willing to do that. But it's also nice to see what private practice is like. And anyone in our group would. I mean, we always enjoy having students around to see what we do and to show them interesting things as well.	Dr. Harrison on camera
[Silence]	Dark blue background with animated blocks. L S U Health Shreveport Foundation logo is at the bottom center of the screen. White text above it reads: What do you know now that you wished you had known before choosing Pathology?
[Dr. Harrison] I wish I had done a little bit more of what I just said. Learn a little bit of that Pathology is not all autopsies and and things such as that. In fact, hat's that's very uncommon nowadays. I also I wish I had realized earlier on that anything you read in medicine, regardless of what the topic is or the specialty relation it is applies to pathology. There's nothing in Medicine that you can read that you're wasting your time. Because all of it is useful in Pathology.	Dr. Harrison on camera
[Silence]	Dark blue background with animated blocks. L S U Health Shreveport Foundation logo is at the top center of the screen. Text in gold and white font reads: Special thanks to Doctor Ken Harrison, Pathology, Retired, L S U Health Shreveport Class of 1973