

NATALIA DORF-BIDERMAN, MD

- Hospitalist in internal medicine at Methodist Hospital, St. Louis Park.
- MMA member since 2018.
- Born and raised in Montevideo, Uruguay. Went to undergraduate and medical school at Universidad de la Republica in Montevideo. Residency at University of Minnesota. Has worked at Methodist Hospital since finishing residency in 2010.
- Married to Joel Carter, MD, with daughter Anouk, 13, and son Alec, 20, plus Aussiedoodle MC Cooper.



Became a physician because ...

I have wanted to become a physician since I was about 3 years old. A letter from my preschool teacher that our family found when I was in medical school stated that I had started talking about being a doctor that semester. I was apparently caring for my 4-year-old classmates and making sure they were healthy; if I thought they were not, then I would “help” them. My father was an

internist and family doctor who would care for entire families and make house calls. I came along on many of those visits and not only did I receive a lot of candy and pinched cheeks, I saw what an incredible impact he had in people’s lives. I knew then I wanted to leave that kind of mark in the world.

Greatest challenge facing medicine today ...

Moving from a transactional model to a relational model of care delivery. Through my work in clinician documentation integrity, coding, billing, public reporting and quality metrics, as well as professional well-being, I see what an impact the patient-clinician relationship has on everything we do. The intersection of our people processes and the outcomes on our metrics is undeniable.

Favorite fictional physician ...

Marion Stone from the book *Cutting for Stone* by Abraham Verghese. He paints the perfect picture of what it is to find and follow your deep calling.

If I weren't a physician ...

I would be the lead singer in a band ... or one of the backup singers for Sting. Singing was my first passion.

LORA WICHSER, MD

- Deputy vice chair for education, Department of Psychiatry & Behavioral Sciences; program director of Psychiatry Residency; and director, Medical Student Psychiatry Clerkship, University of Minnesota Medical School. In-patient psychiatrist, Psychosis Unit, M Health Fairview Riverside.
- MMA member since 2013.
- Hometown is Minneapolis. Quadruple Gopher—college, medical school, residency and fellowships all at University of Minnesota. “Once I joined the University of Minnesota community, I never wanted to leave.”
- Newest family member is a one-eyed lap dog who sleeps the day away, as long as he’s on the lap of one of his humans.

Became a physician because ...

Being a doctor is the best job in the world. You get to help individual people feel better while being a teacher and scientist too! That’s why I chose psychiatry—to find the

people who needed the most help and use my (loud) voice to advocate for them. People experience terrible things in this world; the best thing we can do is be there for each other.

Greatest challenge facing medicine today ...

Our educational system is built on a framework of institutionalized racism, sexism and homo- and trans-phobia. We need to change how we choose and educate future physicians so we as a society can benefit from their voices.

Favorite fictional physician ...

Dr. Beverly Crusher (“Star Trek, The Next Generation”) was a huge inspiration to me as a child. She represented confidence, competence and the ability to have a tremendous impact on many lives. As a single parent, she did it all, but not magically—it was hard work and she struggled sometimes.

If I weren't a physician ...

I would probably be a paramedic. I love crisis-management in the medical field. Wherever there’s an emergency, that’s where I like to be.

