

I was born and raised in rural central Vietnam. My parents escaped Vietnam following the Vietnam War as boat refugees when I was one. I later reunited with my family in California when I was 10 years old. Growing up in a modest immigrant family of nine taught me the value of hard work, humility, and community. I double majored in Molecular Cell Biology (emphasis in Immunology) and Integrative Biology (emphasis in Anatomy and Physiology) at UC Berkeley before matriculating at UC San Francisco for medical school. After medical school, I completed orthopaedic residency at the Harvard Combined Orthopaedic Residency Program (HCORP). I had amazing mentors at the Brigham and Women's Hospital (BWH) and Massachusetts General Hospital (MGH). There were many reasons that inspired me to pursue an academic career in spine surgery, the most important of which was because I had great mentors who helped pave my career path, specifically Drs. James Kang, Mitchel Harris, and Christopher Bono. I am grateful for their guidance and support and am always reminded that 'you're only as great as your teachers'. After my spine fellowship at UC Davis in 2020, I was fortunate to remain on faculty at UC Davis, where I now specialize in complex adult and pediatric spine surgery.