

Dr. Anthony Rodigin

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Dr. Anthony Rodigin attended medical school at the University of California-Davis and then completed a residency in emergency medicine at UCSF Fresno. He's been at Sutter Delta Medical Center ever since.

Dr. Rodigin was born in Eastern Europe but has spent most of his life in the Bay Area, arriving when he was 14. He comes from a long line of physicians on both sides of his family; on one, he's a fourth-generation doctor. He feels the weight of family history when he's treating patients, knowing that he's lucky to practice medicine in such a high-tech environment and striving to live up to the standards set by his ancestors. "I honestly go to all of my shifts with a bunch of grandparents on my shoulder, so to speak," he says.

Perhaps because it's the family business, medicine has always fascinated Dr. Rodigin. Growing up, he would put red dye in water and play in a pretend lab, complete with a microscope, "specimen" slides and test tubes. He would find little pieces of paper, scribble on them and hand them out as prescriptions to his parents and relatives.

Though he originally wanted to be a generalist and considered family medicine, emergency department work appealed to Dr. Rodigin because it was such a broad specialty. He spent three summers in college as a volunteer in different emergency rooms in San Francisco and got a sense of the work. Later in medical school, everything clicked, and he decided to specialize in emergency medicine.

"It matches my versatile personality," Dr. Rodigin says. "I'm the kind of person who reads five books at the same time."

At home, where he lives with his spouse, two kids and a cat, Dr. Rodigin can often be found cooking Italian or Eastern European food. "If carbohydrates didn't exist, I would just eat Italian food every day," he jokes. He plays European flavored dance music on keyboards and listens to it as well, along with jazz and classical music. When there's time for a movie, he picks "brainy sci-fi."

Dr. Rodigin also enjoys camping, hiking and traveling to foreign countries. He participates in an American College of Emergency Physicians program that promotes emergency care and emergency medicine in other parts of the world. His focus is Eastern European and parts of Central Asia.

Part of what he loves about traveling is learning about the different lives, languages and practices of the local people and colleagues overseas. That goes for his patients here at home as well. "I like to find out about people's cultures and traditions," he says.