

#GettingToKnowDOS—Dr. Sherene Shalhub



Dr. Sherene Shalhub

In the second installment of our new feature, Getting to Know DOS, we had the pleasure of interviewing **Sherene Shalhub**, Assistant Professor in the Division of Vascular Surgery. Dr. Shalhub specializes in the treatment of aortic and peripheral arterial aneurysms and dissections in patients with genetically triggered vascular diseases such as Familial Thoracic Aortic Aneurysms and Dissections,

Marfan syndrome, Loeys-Dietz syndrome, and vascular Ehlers-Danlos Syndrome. A significant portion of her time is also spent conducting research examining the genetic basis of aortic and arterial aneurysms and dissections, and elucidating the mechanism of rapid aneurysmal degeneration of the descending thoracic aorta post aortic dissection. Dr. Shalhub has been on faculty since 2013 and sees patients at the Surgical Specialties Clinic at UWMC and at Valley Medical Center.

Synopsis: What was the last book you read?

Shalhub: I just finished **The Strain Trilogy** by Guillermo del Toro. It's about a vampiric pandemic which is a new genre of books I have been exploring. My favorite genre though is mystery, which started with reading all of Agatha Christie book in my teens.

Synopsis: What is the next book you're planning to read?

Shalhub: The next book I'd love to read is **The Last Ship** by William Brinkley. It's another epidemiological thriller.

Synopsis: What is your favorite movie?

Shalhub: My all-time favorite movie is "The Godfather," it's the ultimate movie about separation of professional life from personal life. My recent favorite movie is the "Secret Life of Walter Mitty," the story about a man who finally acts out his dreams.

Synopsis: Are there any TV series you enjoy watching?

Shalhub: I am currently hooked on the "Walking Dead," this one is about a viral disease causing a zombie state. Again, I think this is where my love for epidemiology comes in. I also like "Grey's Anatomy" as it highlights a great deal of the emotional issues surgeons deal with.

Synopsis: What would you be if not a surgeon?

Shalhub: That's easy, a general contractor. I love remodeling old homes and have done quite a bit on my own house, which was built in 1928. I recently redid my kitchen and built a walk-in closet with the help of a general contractor I found who teaches you and then works alongside you. It was so fun!

Synopsis: What do you do in your leisure time?

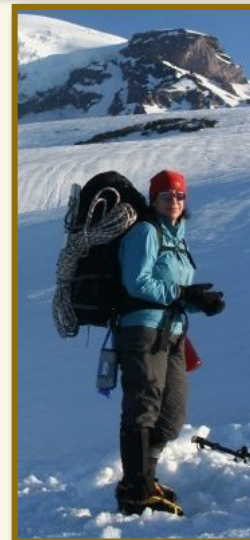
Shalhub: Mostly hiking and traveling. I have a passion for visiting remote areas in the U.S. or internationally as well as using the time to catch up with my family. We usually pick a country and meet there.

Synopsis: What is your most treasured memory?

Shalhub: There are many, too many really. Outside of work this year I would say crawling in the lava tubes in Suournes, or getting all bundled up in freezing weather to watch the solar eclipse in the day time then the aurora borealis at night in Vesturland, both in Iceland. Even more recently, walking up Lombard Street in San Francisco then watching the super moon lunar eclipse. Summitting Kilimanjaro was pretty special too.

Synopsis: What is an interesting fact about you that many people don't know?

Shalhub: I am fascinated by the fashion and costuming industry! My friends and I do a lot of themed costume parties which give us a chance to go all out and dress up in elaborate costumes that we put together! We've done three or four just in the last year. And Halloween is hands-down my favorite holiday.



Backpacking on snowy mountain tops



Lava tubes adventures in Iceland

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Sherene in costume for a murder mystery party
Photo credit: Aaron Meyers Photography

Synopsis: What is your next travel destination?

Shalhub: I've got two really great trips coming up: a hiking trip in Chile then spending New Year's Eve with family in Dubai. A couple of years ago I made a New Year's resolution to spend each New Year in a different city, last year I spent it in London with my sister and that was very special.

Synopsis: Who makes you laugh the most?

Shalhub: My youngest sister! She gives a great perspective on life and usually has me laughing pretty hard on the phone. The murder mystery parties with my friends are quite hilarious as well! And I'll tell you a colleague who makes me laugh a lot: **Ron Maier**. I especially loved working with him in residency, he never fails to make me laugh!

Synopsis: Do you have a personal goal for the coming year?

Shalhub: Three goals: Visiting three new countries, committing to a yoga practice, and learning to ride a bike. I grew up in Saudi Arabia and in that time that wasn't something girls generally did or do for that matter.

Synopsis: What is your personal motto?

Shalhub: Life is too short so live every day with intention. I have been actively working on being very present.

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