

## **Canan Ünalp, Turkey**

According to Guinness World of Records 2017, the song with the most covers in the world is the song called "Summertime", composed by American Jazz Master George Gershwin. When he wrote this enchanting melody with sweet and flying undertones, Gershwin was only 36 years old. Unfortunately, he never lived to see his success. Only after two years, he lost his life.

Headaches lasting for weeks, his bizarre behaviors (such as pushing the driver out of a moving car, applying the chocolate that was gifted to him like an ointment, smell of burnt rubber on his nose almost all the time), his increasing loss of coordination and faints during his concerts were associated to his "eccentric" personality, and was thought to be a part of living the "artist life".

After fainting during his concert for the last time, Gershwin went into a coma and lost his life to a glioblastoma growing in his right temporal lobe.

As someone who loves both jazz music and neurology with a high level of dedication, I had a strange feeling when I came across this story after I took a break from my study for a few minutes. It was almost like, neurons in a certain part of his brain were synthesizing the melodies that would earn him the title of master, while the other part was growing just to take it away from him, and these two forces were competing with each other.

Of course, neurology is not a subject that only focuses on famous musicians and their dramatic stories. From the taxi driver that told me the story of her epileptic daughter while driving at full speed to make it on time to my final exams, to my friend who put on a multi-colored bandana and crushed the gender norms because of his headaches, neurology was a part of my life at all times.

I asked the question: "Why neurology", to every professor, assistant, and resident when I first realized this interest in my heart. I received a wide spectrum of answers. From detecting the pathology inside someone's nervous system in a mathematical clarity thanks to physical examination, to the professional satisfaction and relief of conscience a doctor can get when they take the responsibility of a severely paralyzed patient.

I never remember whether or not I asked myself, "Why neurology?" during all these years. I feel like neurology was the reason why I started medical school.

Every new piece of information I learn about neurons manages to surprise and excite me. Consciousness and its loss, movement and its disorders, memory and its absence, pain and its dysregulation... It is impossible for a specialty that deals with thousands of questions like this and not to be exciting. I remember the first spark I felt for this subject in one of the first classes I had in medical school when our biophysics teacher explained the nature of neurons by comparing it to the huge Transatlantic telegraph cables running under the sea. And then, years later, witnessing the never-ending rush in the stroke care unit, remembering our textbook information and visualizing all

those pathways while examining a patient, soothing the patient and their relatives, watching our young doctors go to almost every department for consultation... Things like these truly make me realize how lively the neurology department is, and how it is in the middle of our lives. In a way, studying and practicing neurology makes me relive that strange, powerful emotion I felt when I first listened to Summertime, but over and over again.

All the prejudices about neurology (dealing with diseases without a cure, mainly the old population being our main focus, not being rich and famous despite our heavy efforts) are incomparably small and unfounded when we realize neurology creates a deep curiosity inside our hearts and incredible changes happen day after day thanks to advances made by each one of us. All these doubts attributed to this field prove how pure and distinct this field actually is.

I have no doubts regarding neurology and becoming a neurologist. I can see myself dedicating at least 50 years of my life to this job, until one day, my neurons themselves also require help.

Like Gershwin once said: "Jazz is one of the best things that you can find in your life, it can always be your friend.", I also feel confident to say "Neurology is one of the best things that you can find in your life, it can always be your friend."