

Thomas Buchholz, MD tells a story Leadership Experience

Dr. Buchholz served as Executive Vice President and Physician in Chief from 2014-2017). Here he talks about his experience of transitioning out of leadership and back into a faculty position in Radiation Oncology.



Stepping Down from Executive Leadership

That's the experience that changes your perception of things, you know? ... I can see the world differently in each of the various leadership levels that I have, and not because you're drinking Kool-Aid or something. You have a different organizational landscape that you're a part of, and you start interacting with other people who do this. You start interacting with healthcare administrators. You start reading literature that I wasn't reading as a radiation oncologist. You meet other CEOs of healthcare systems, and academic healthcare, and you start to see that some of the things you're confronting, everybody in the world's confronting, and we have to be prepared for that.

... And for me, I guess my final chapter, then, as I was asked to step down as EVP, I went back to being a professor of radiation oncology. And it was great to go back, of course, because I was a division leader for a long time, and I was loved by the community, and welcomed back with open arms, and I loved being a doctor, and so it was fun to get back to patient care. But it was shocking how you went from being busy in meetings from 12 hours a day to not having a single meeting scheduled, and for the first time not having an institutional leadership in any form or capacity, even when I was a second-year faculty member.

About This Content

This interview clip was taken from an in-depth interview conducted for the Making Cancer History Voices Oral History Project. This ongoing project currently contains almost 500 interview hours with MD Anderson institution builders.

The transcript has been edited from the original.

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Interview link: <https://mdanderson.libguides.com/BuchholzT>

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