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—Francisco González Jinesta

I am a physician and I began working in administration in the health sector soon after finishing my degree more than fifteen years ago. The more I became involved in administrative activities, the more I understood that I needed professional education for the difficult arts of financing and accounting. I needed to interpret the strange language of the administrators that worked with me back then. I decided to enter a master of business administration (MBA) program hoping to achieve this.

Getting an MBA opened many doors. I belonged, as I saw it, to that select group of men and women who spoke of strange things such as break even, cash flow, and cost centers.

The more I “belonged” though, the more I distanced myself from my roots as a physician and from my interests as a doctor. I understood the role of the physician less as I made managerial decisions—and then their words and desires became strange. For the second time, I was faced by a group of professionals communicating in a strange language. Things like holistic patient management, medical evaluation committees, and new therapeutic approaches did not sound important for the managerial decisions I made.

Something wasn't right. The balance had been lost. I had to do something about it, so again I started looking for an executive program that would allow me to go back to my roots. I searched several North American universities and finally found Tulane University's master of medical management program. It offers an opportunity to understand once more the unequalled contribution that physicians offer health systems—both as physicians and as managers. I just recently began the program and, with each course, I am more certain I made the right decision.

(Francisco graduated from the MMM Program in May 2004)