

# Dyslexia and an Epiphany

**BEN VIGLIANTI**, M.D., Ph.D., is in the final year of a radiology residency. He's long balanced dyslexia with a titanic work ethic and a drive to make it in academic medicine. In some ways, it was his diagnosis that propelled him here. Viglianti (right) writes a quote from his U-M residency application.

INTERVIEW BY WHITLEY HILL

PHOTO BY J. ADRIAN WYLIE

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**WHEN I WAS 22, I HAD JUST GOTTEN** into the biomedical engineering program at Duke, but I didn't know what to do with my life. I was playing catch with my dad around that time, and I had an epiphany. I thought: You know what? I'm not an idiot. I've got some gifts. Up until that point, the drive I had to succeed was to prove to my elementary school teachers that I would amount to something. Eventually, I decided I wanted to go to medical school and treat patients and bridge the gap between research and medicine.

I was very open about my dyslexia in my residency application to Michigan. I was told it was viewed as, 'Wow, this is someone who has overcome a lot; this is someone who has character.' And that's one of the biggest reasons I wanted to come here. ”

Personally I know what  
it means to need help



**M**  
University of Michigan  
Department of Radiation  
Oncology  
Benjamin L. Fogarty, M.D., Ph.D.

