

Michael Schneider, AB 1985  
Chief Medical Officer, Cervel Neurotech Inc.

### Career arc

Dr. Schneider applied to medical school while he was an undergraduate majoring in Anthropology. He trained as a psychiatrist at UCLA and did an honors thesis in anatomy lab during medical school. Later on, he patented medical devices that he developed.

While Dr. Schneider was an undergraduate, professors in the department were a major help to him. Many faculty members worked with him, giving him the freedom to explore his options and determine what he was good at doing. Dr. Schneider sees this support as being instrumental in his later ability to succeed.

### The relevance of anthropology

Anthropology was Dr. Schneider's first experience with human bones. In physical anthropology, anatomy, and primate anatomy courses, he learned about the human skeletal system. He feels that this experience put him ahead of other students once he entered medical school.

In general, anthropology gave Dr. Schneider a good background in applied science, and he credits anthropology in his development as a scientist. Importantly, he also had his first experience with scientific writing while he was an undergraduate in the department.

Anthropology continues to be relevant in Dr. Schneider's career. He recently used anthropological methods of taking cranial metric measurements in a project regarding head shape in the treatment of brain injuries.

### Advice to undergrads, new grads

Dr. Schneider stresses that individuals must figure out for themselves what they find really interesting, and then do it to the maximum of their ability. Once you find what you love to do, the hard work doesn't seem so taxing, and instead, it is fun.