

Shiou Udagawa

Shiou Udagawa has been a licensed Registered Nurse in both Japan and California for over 20 years. She was born and raised in Japan and started her nursing career as a new graduate at an Emergency Department (ED) in Tokyo. Little did she know, emergency nursing would become her calling. (Though lately she has considered not picking up the phone so often)

But we're ahead of ourselves here. Growing up with an increasing admiration for the freedoms the USA represented, particularly for a young woman, Shiou simply wanted to learn English at first. So, she left Japan and moved to the U.S. Just move to America without speaking a word of English. That's what you do, right?

After a humbling few years (it felt like 14, you know what I mean?) working at the LAC+USC County General Hospital, Shiou accepted a position at the Ronald Reagan UCLA medical center.

During the pandemic, as the ED swelled far beyond capacity (Lasix, STAT!), she reflected upon her life (as we all did, didn't we?). A crucial question popped into her head: "How could I prevent people from ending up in the ED?"

After two decades of clinical experience in direct patient care, fixing what's wrong rather than addressing what could be prevented, Shiou would now like to build on this by learning more about wellness-centered health practices, and social determinants of health, for the purpose of providing culturally competent preventive care to underserved communities. (Yes, this last paragraph was cut and pasted from my application, sorry).

Besides being an ED nurse, in her spare time Shiou also enjoys being a certified medical interpreter as well as a licensed cosmetologist. (But not while she's in this graduate program).