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October 10, 2016

Independent Study and Mentorship

Interview Assessment #2

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Name of person interviewed: Mee Yung Knapp, M.D.

Profession: Pediatrician

Location and business name: Best Nest Pediatrics, Frisco, Texas

Date of interview: October 10th, 2016

Time: 8:30 am

Summary and Reflections:

For my second research interview, I was able to sit down with a board-certified pediatrician named Dr. Mee Yung Knapp at her private practice, Best Nest Pediatrics, where she practices with three other pediatricians, is located conveniently in central Frisco. Walking into the building, the walls, painted a soothing shade of mint green, caught my eye immediately. I arrived fifteen minutes early, and promptly at 8:30 am, Dr. Knapp led me to her personal office, where I conducted my interview.

The first things I noticed as I entered her office were three black and gold plaques that read "Frisco ISD ISM Mentor" across the center. Seeing this piqued my interest, and I asked her which high schools the students that she had mentored previously had

attended. With her background in the ISM program, it made me slightly more nervous because I felt like she would be more familiar with the process of the research interviews and mentorships in comparison to the Pediatric Nurse Practitioner who I had interviewed prior. .

Like I had for my first research interview, I used the interview and career-specific questions that I had prepared beforehand to structure the conversation. One new detail that I learned concerning her daily job duties was that she visited Baylor Medical Center in the mornings to perform checks on newborn babies. This was something unique to a pediatric healthcare career that sounded exciting and interesting. After she visited the hospital in the morning, she would go to her office and have mostly well child appointments, with the occasional sick child visit in between. When I asked her how varied or similar her daily work days were, she explained that the majority of her days followed the same routine. Another interesting factor she mentioned was that she oftentimes had to finish some notes from her appointments that day at home once she had put her son to bed. Regarding her toddler-age son, she said that the work-life balance was a bit difficult, but that she and her husband are able to pick their son up from daycare every day and spend the rest of the day with him.

One impactful aspect of our conversation revolved around the most rewarding and problematic elements of a career in pediatrics. Dr. Knapp answered that the most rewarding part of her job was being able to see her patients grow from infancy to adolescence as they visited her for regular check-ups and when they needed treatment for any illnesses or injuries. I thought this point was important, and that being able to have a part in the process of a child's health as they grow is so gratifying and worthwhile. However, the most problematic element of being a pediatrician was not as positive. Dr.

Knapp said that the worst part of her job had to be giving tough diagnoses to ill children, whether it be a terminal illness or an injury that would leave permanent damage. This aspect of healthcare is unavoidable, and unfortunately it happens often. However, the fact that pediatricians are able to help so many children every day is an amazing feat and it is a humbling and rewarding career that I would love to pursue in the future.

This research interview was very informative and helpful to my understanding of the pediatric field. Dr. Knapp was both knowledgeable and kind and I'm so glad that I was able to speak with her for my second research interview.