

Amy Zhang

October 14, 2016

Independent Study and Mentorship

Interview Assessment #3

## Interview Assessment #3

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Name of person interviewed: Dr. Iresh Kumar

Profession: Pediatrician

Location and business name: Lone Star Pediatrics, Frisco, TX

Date of interview: October 11th, 2016

Time: 12:00 pm

Summary and Reflections:

For my third research interview, I went in feeling more confident and prepared than I had been before because I had gotten into a steady routine for conducting interviews with professionals. I had arrived at his office at about 11:30 because the interview was scheduled for 11:45 am, and Dr. Kumar was busy finishing up with his patients until about 12:00 pm.

When I walked into his office, Dr. Kumar was sitting at his desk with a laptop and paperwork lying in front of him. After exchanging introductions, I asked him if he had ever heard about the Independent Study and Mentorship program. I was surprised to learn that he was one of the professionals who volunteered at the event just one week ago.

Regretfully, he had attended the afternoon session and I was at the morning session, so I was not able to meet with him there. Dr. Kumar mentioned that his experience was great and that he was very impressed with the professionalism of the high school students in Frisco.

I began the interview by asking him about his daily duties as a pediatrician. It was interesting to learn that Dr. Kumar, like Dr. Knapp, the pediatrician I had interviewed the day before, started his mornings by going to the hospital and checking on newborns. After making his morning rounds through the hospital, he would then head over to his office and start seeing patients.

When I asked him about the most frequent ages of his regular patients, Dr. Kumar said that the most common age range he sees in his office is from infancy to five years old. This made sense, as I remembered that in my thirty short minutes sitting in the waiting room of his clinic, I saw two small babies, no older than six months old, being carried out by their doting parents after having gone through their routine check-ups with Dr. Kumar.

The next topic we discussed was the educational background that pediatricians must undergo. Dr. Kumar's most challenging class was biochemistry because he remembered that he was never interested in the topic. However, he reflected on his courses in medical school by saying that interest in a specific topic made the tough exams and long hours of studying worth it because the information learned was interesting. Dr. Kumar's remarks that he didn't like his biochemistry course in medical school served as a relief in a way to me, as his experience almost uncovered the myth that not all healthcare professionals were wholly passionate about every aspect of biochemistry, biology, and organic chemistry. He advised me that the difficult courses and

exams in medical school were just tasks that needed to be completed before achieving the final goal of being a practicing professional.

An interesting conversation that we had was about how Dr. Kumar balanced his personal and professional life. He stated that to ensure that his work didn't interfere with his life at home, he maintained set times at night to work on paperwork and tasks that he wasn't able to finish at his office. This way, he could be productive but still have a successful work-life balance.

Ultimately, I learned a lot from my research interview with Dr. Kumar. It was interesting to learn about his honest remarks about the difficulties he encountered in the pursuit of his career as a pediatrician, such as his struggles in his biochemistry course. He related a lot of advice from his experiences in obtaining his undergraduate degree and medical degree, which I will remember as I go on to finish my senior year of high school and move on to the next phase of my educational journey. I had a great experience speaking with Dr. Kumar, and I have taken away many pieces of insight that he had shared with me and I will apply them to my experiences as I move on to college and beyond.