

Amy Zhang

December 14th, 2016

Independent Study and Mentorship

Interview Assessment #5

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Name of person interviewed: Dr. Khooshnood Ahmad

Profession: Pediatrician

Location and business name: Pediatric Urgent Care of North Texas, Frisco, Texas

Date of interview: December 13th, 2016

Time: 3:00 pm

Summary and Reflections:

My final research interview took place at the clinic that I had my first ISM interview at, a pediatric urgent care clinic in Frisco, Texas. This office opens at three o'clock pm on weekdays and I scheduled my interview with Dr. Ahmad at the opening time. This interview was definitely set up in a different format than my other interviews with pediatricians. With the pediatric urgent care center open for walk-ins and emergency patients, the doctors never knew if the day would be busy or not. I sat in the middle office area of the clinic as Dr. Ahmad cycled between seeing patients and answering some of my questions in between. The format of this interview was honestly an eye-opening change, because while I got to hear some of Dr. Ahmad's stories and experiences, I also

got to see a pediatric clinic in action, with the patients walking in and out, the front office staff answering calls, and the nurses preparing charts.

This interview consisted of five minute snippets of conversation in between ten to fifteen minute breaks where Dr. Ahmad went to see walk-in patients. While some might think that this interview experience would be unfulfilling and unsatisfactory, I honestly loved getting to spend time observing how a pediatric clinic runs and operates rather than just sitting and speaking with the pediatrician.

In fact, as I was waiting for Dr. Ahmad to finish an appointment with a patient, one of the nurses shared a story about a child that he had just examined. He said that after he had knelt down to become eye-level with the child, the little girl immediately spread open her arms and hugged him tightly. The nurse smiled as he told the story and casually remarked that little things like that made a career in pediatrics so fulfilling.

Some of the highlights of the conversation I had with Dr. Ahmad included his personal path to get to where he is today as the owner of his pediatric urgent care center. I was interested to hear that he originally had never thought of becoming a doctor, and he had entered college as an engineering major. He said that one experience walking through a hospital and seeing doctors at work really changed his mindset on what he wanted to do for the rest of his life. Within six months of college first starting, he had changed his major to biology and began the process of becoming a pediatrician. He said that since then, he has had no regrets about making the switch into medicine.

Ultimately, I really enjoyed this experience because it opened my eyes to a day-in-the-life of a pediatrician. Getting to see the office staff and Dr. Ahmad interact with the children in the clinic reinforced my desire to pursue a career where I know I will be able to help them every day.