

USF Observership Experience

1. When did you rotate with us and in what specialty?

I rotated at University of South Florida/Johns Hopkins All Children's Hospital, St. Petersburg in Pediatric Allergy/Immunology during October 2019.

2. Why did you choose USF?

When I was a medical student, I rotated at US hospitals for three months, which gave me a good understanding of the functioning of the healthcare system in the USA. After my graduation, I had begun preparing to apply for residency in the States, while simultaneously looking for observership opportunities to stay acquainted with clinical duties as well as the healthcare system here. I wanted to observe in a program that had an established International observership program so that the procedure would be organized and the physicians I was going to shadow under knew what to expect of me and what I was expecting to gain from the observership. USF seemed to have that experience as their program had been doing International observership programs for a while now. I contacted their Program Coordinator, who was very prompt and accommodating to my requests and queries. The icing on the cake was the location as I was getting to live in the beautiful Tampa Bay area for four weeks.

3. What was your favorite part of your observership?

My favorite part of the observership was the faculty who were not just brilliant physicians but also exceptional teachers. Every faculty member tried to get me on interesting and complex cases, which always led to me being in awe of their expertise in the field. They were also warm people who often kept checking on me if I was enjoying and learning from the observership. I was doing the observership during my interview season, and I am grateful that I was around them at that time. They were incredibly supportive and boosted my morale during that stressful period. The other favorite part was that I got to meet and work with people from different countries with whom I made some wonderful memories that I am going to cherish for my lifetime.

4. How do you think this experience will or has impacted your future?

Before this observership, I never considered the possibility of becoming a Pediatric Allergist/Immunologist. But, I learned the importance and virtues of this department during the observership, which opened a whole new possible career in front of me. I now have the chance to test my interest in this department during my residency and decide a career in it (there is a great possibility of that happening). Even if I prefer not to become an Allergist/Immunologist, I am sure that it is going to remain one of my favorite branches of Pediatrics.

5. What do you believe is the importance of international observership programs?

International observership programs are a great way for physicians from other countries to experience different healthcare systems and take the better aspects of their experience and implement it in their medical practice. It is an excellent opportunity to understand different perspectives in medicine and become more open to ideas and experimentation. It sheds light on global health issues and inspires physicians to work for the common objective of better global health. These programs also open up career possibilities that the physicians did not think were possible due to a lack of exposure or opportunities in the field in their native countries.

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