

USF Observership Experience

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

I rotated at USF in Feb 2017 in the MICU

2. Why did you choose USF?

It is one of the few University Hospital Academic Programs which provides a structured observership program for International Medical Graduates. I feel this experience is important for IMGs to get exposure to the US healthcare system before becoming a part of it.

3. What was your favorite part of your observership?

Getting to interact with attendings, fellows, residents, and medical students as well as observers from different countries. The experience was very diverse. It was an important phase of growth in my career.

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

The experience certainly helped my application for residency stand out. USF is a respected name in Medicine, and I was asked about my experience here multiple times during my interviews for residency. I also encountered attending physicians at USF who were themselves International Medical Graduates who had made it that far and they were very encouraging and supportive.

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

Around 30% of US Doctors are International Medical Grads. They are an important part of the US healthcare system. Just as training medical students at US medical schools is important, having observership programs for International Grads is equally important so they can get on board with the US healthcare system early on. I feel that the transition to residency is smoother for IMGs who have been exposed to such observership programs. I also feel like observers can add value to the training experience for US medical students. I remember during my observership one of the med students did a tropical medicine rotation and gave a presentation on Dengue Fever. Coming from Pakistan where we had a Dengue epidemic at that time, I was able to give the students insight about my experience dealing with Dengue patients which they would not usually encounter in the US.

6. Are you currently providing care to coronavirus disease (COVID)-19 patients? What has been your experience?

Yes, I am currently an Internal Medicine Resident in New York City. NYC was the worst hit part of the world with COVID during the first wave. The experience was unlike anything I have ever witnessed in my life. I saw a lot of death and misery, I lost colleagues and mentors to COVID. I also saw valor and bravery beyond words from my fellow healthcare professionals. We have won the first battle, but the war is not over yet.

Dr. Moaz Zia, MD - Internal Medicine Physician

