

January 28, 2011

Dr. Ashok Agarwal  
Professor, Lerner College of Medicine  
Director, Andrology Laboratory  
Director, Center for Reproductive Medicine  
Cleveland Clinic, Desk A19.1  
9500 Euclid Avenue  
Cleveland, OH 44195

Re: 2010 Summer Internship Letter of Experience

My time at the Center for Reproductive Medicine summer internship was one of the most significant learning experiences of my undergraduate career. The various opportunities provided as a part of the internship gave me the chance to both use the knowledge I had accumulated through my coursework and expand upon it. I was able to develop my scientific writing skills, improve my ability to extract key information from journal articles and refine my laboratory research techniques. At the completion of the internship, I had a clearer sense of my scientific abilities and more confidence in my performance.

The daily lectures that were part of the of the internship curriculum were both educational and interesting. I was exposed to topics that I had been previously unfamiliar with and would not have had the opportunity to learn about otherwise. I learned about reproductive medicine through a variety of perspectives from experts that are highly regarded in their fields. The physicians and scientists were open to questions and discussion, making the learning process much more engaging than a traditional classroom format.

The writing projects were a useful learning tool that required me to become extremely knowledgeable in very specific fields of study. I found the difficulty of these tasks rewarding and was pleased that I could apply information I had learned through my coursework to non-class-related projects. My scientific writing skills improved as I read more journal articles and prepared manuscripts of my own. Similarly, I was able to refine my public speaking abilities through the preparation and delivery of my final presentation on one of my writing topics. I learned the art of constructing an informative and attention-drawing presentation, as well as gained confidence in my ability to speak to a large audience.

The laboratory research component of this internship provided a practical application of some of the topics I was learning about. I was instructed in new laboratory techniques, in addition to improving upon my previously acquired skills. I appreciated that my work had direct clinical applications and strove to meet patient needs. I grew to feel very comfortable in the laboratory environment and enjoyed the precision required by each task.

Finally, the opportunity to observe surgeries was highly unique to this internship. The surgeons were extremely welcoming, and strove to make the experience understandable and worthwhile. As a student seeking to become a physician, I was excited to engage in an

experience so directly applicable to my future career. Surgery provided a means by which I could apply my textbook knowledge of anatomy and physiology in a clinically-relevant manner.

The Center for Reproductive Medicine summer internship incorporated a variety of components that made it a unique and meaningful learning opportunity. Its rigor made the experience infinitely rewarding and the high expectations of the mentors encouraged me to perform at my best. Ultimately, this internship helped me grow as a student, researcher and future physician.

Sincerely,



Kelsey Avery  
The University of Arizona  
Class of 2011  
3111 E. 4<sup>th</sup> Street, #235  
Tucson, AZ 85716