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Ashok Agarwal, Ph.D., HCLD (ABB)
Director, Center for Reproductive Medicine
Glickman Urological and Kidney Institute
Cleveland Clinic
9500 Euclid Avenue, Desk A19.1
Cleveland, Ohio 44195 USA

Dear Dr. Agarwal,

Before beginning the Summer Internship Program at the Cleveland Clinic, I had no idea how incredible the experience awaiting me would be. The Cleveland Clinic has always been held with great respect in my mind, but the Center for Reproductive Medicine has the most intelligent, caring, and ambitious doctors, interns, and fellows I have ever encountered.

I was honored when I was accepted into this competitive summer program and did not hesitate to immediately determine what research topic I wanted to pursue. Within no time, I was in contact with my mentors both at the Cleveland Clinic and Stellenbosch University in South Africa. The guidance and support I experienced was unparalleled and helped an undergraduate student like me dive into the field of academic research and writing with which I had no previous experience.

At first I was skeptical about the amount of research I would be undertaking, not only due to my lack of any familiarity, but also I was honestly not sure how much I would enjoy research. Surprisingly, I found that for anyone who loves learning and applying their knowledge, the opportunity for exposure to any field of medicine abounds.

I attended daily lectures about topics pertinent to my personal research, the research of my fellow interns, and also information about reproductive medicine and medicine in general. The great knowledge I have gained from these daily lectures and the contacts I have made are incredible. Few students can say they have been lectured by and discussed their research with some of the top physicians and researchers in the world.

After I left the clinic I was ecstatic when my research continued past the summer program into my senior year at the University of Notre Dame. Ultimately, my vast research on the upcoming and very interesting topic of obesity and male infertility has allowed me the opportunity to publish two review articles and a book chapter. Being cited on PubMed, one of the largest databases for articles on life sciences and biomedical topics is incredible! There are few students out there who can say they have done that even before they matriculate into medical school! To this I owe great thanks to Dr. Du Plessis, Dr. Agarwal, Dr. Sharma, Dr. Gupta and all of the other doctors for their enthusiastic guidance and support.

There is no doubt in my mind that this summer internship program helped me gain acceptance into and make the decision to attend Case Western School of Medicine, a medical school in Cleveland that works closely with the Cleveland Clinic. The knowledge and experience gained is something I value so much, but the mentors with whom I worked and learned from are professionals I will never forget. I look forward to working with them not only during, but also after medical school. I can say with certainty that this program is unparalleled in not only the field of reproductive medicine, but among all undergraduate research opportunities. Anyone accepted should be ready to work hard, but especially to experience an unforgettable life-changing summer in Cleveland.

Sincerely,



Stephanie Cabler
Cleveland Clinic Center for Reproductive Medicine
Summer Intern 2009