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My Summer Internship in Reproductive Research was one of the best experiences which I have had during my undergraduate career. It not only confirmed that I would like to pursue a career in reproductive medicine, but it also taught me fundamental research techniques which will assist me in both medical school and in my career. During the eight weeks which I spent at the Clinic, I worked alongside researchers and doctors in the top of the field of reproductive medicine, witnessed cutting edge assisted reproduction techniques, and established contacts in the field that I can rely on for guidance and advice for years to come.

One of the best parts of the summer internship was that it incorporated both educational and research components to offer the interns a well-rounded experience. Each day, we would spend a few hours interacting with other researchers and clinicians from the Clinic. They prepared presentations for us about their specialties within the field of reproduction and they shared their experiences with us. The lectures were one of my favorite aspects of the internship because they taught me both about reproductive medicine in general and also about the various subspecialties within the field. It was also very inspiring and informative to speak with the doctors about their paths to reproductive medicine.

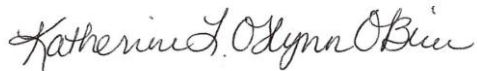
In addition to having the opportunity to interact directly with the prestigious researchers and clinicians at the Clinic, as an intern I also learned about the scientific research process. Each intern chose one or two specific research topics and learned how to complete a scientific manuscript from start to finish. Focusing on only one or two subjects allowed each of us to immerse ourselves in our specific areas of research. Additionally, the interns attended workshops about the official process of writing articles where we learned about searching scientific databases, writing an abstract, and preparing a bibliography. In particular, I collaborated on a manuscript about Polycystic Ovarian Syndrome and served as first author on a manuscript about the genetic causes of male infertility. Throughout the internship, I began researching and writing the articles and reviewed my progress each week with my research

mentor. I have continued to work on these papers throughout the past year and now they are both on their way to being published.

Another very valuable aspect of the summer internship was the opportunity to present our research. At two points during the internship, we presented our research topics to the other members of the research team and received feedback about our presentations. We also worked directly with a presentation coach who taught us effective techniques for giving presentations. I felt this was one of the most important activities which we performed at the Clinic because being able to present information in a concise and clear matter is essential for a successful medical doctor.

Overall, my experience at the Clinic was incredibly influential and rewarding. I was able to explore the world of reproductive medicine in depth and the internship has opened doors for me for the future. Not only did this experience help me to obtain a full time position working in reproductive research at the University of Pennsylvania, I am confident that my internship has also prepared me well for medical school.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Katherine J. O'Flynn O'Brien".

Katherine O'Flynn O'Brien
Class of 2009
University of Pennsylvania