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Dear Dr. Agarwal,

As I am packing the things and cleaning up my desk filled with research articles and documents that I have collected over the past 2 years, I wish to write this testimonial and thank my mentors and peers who I spent some of the most wonderful time of my life.

My association with the Center for Reproductive Medicine dates back to 2007 when I was here as an observer for two months. I was extremely happy the day I received an email after a year from Dr. Agarwal about the fellowship. My two months observership was exciting learning experience and I knew this will be a wonderful opportunity for my career as a stepping stone.

I still remember the day I landed in Cleveland. It was just after a snow storm, after a never ending bus ride, I reached the doors of the same clinic with several new buildings. Dr. Gupta welcomed me with a warm smile and I was asked to go home after my orientation since Dr. Agarwal was on a business trip. Least did I know that the two years that will follow is going to be no picnic!

I was waiting to meet Dr. Agarwal as he returned. It was a great feeling to meet him after one year and his warm smile can never go un-noticed. He made me feel at home and gave me a lot of much needed tips to survive in Cleveland.

What I have noticed in Dr. Agarwal, since the day I knew him was his determination and hard-working nature. He sure is a perfectionist and anyone who knows him will agree with me. Also, he is a person with great leadership qualities and brings out the best from his students. I still remember the days when I back at home completing the immigration paperwork, he would email me a list of things to do before arriving in Cleveland.

I came to the Clinic with an intention of receiving as much hands on bench research as possible and Dr. Agarwal was ready with couple of exciting projects in hand. The team was very supportive during my initial training period. Dr. Sharma has been an excellent mentor and his methodical training helped me gain a lot of technical

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expertise in a very short time. He made me realize the importance of organization and completing a task in a timely manner.

The program taught me the most important thing about research, keeping the paperwork and recording the data in a systematic way. Everyday, Dr. Agarwal would ask me to meet him after 5PM to over the research note book. It was a bit overwhelming initially, but I realized the importance of keeping record when I ran into problems during final data analysis. The challenges I came across and mistakes that I committed has made me learn several important aspects in research that will help me at every point of my career.

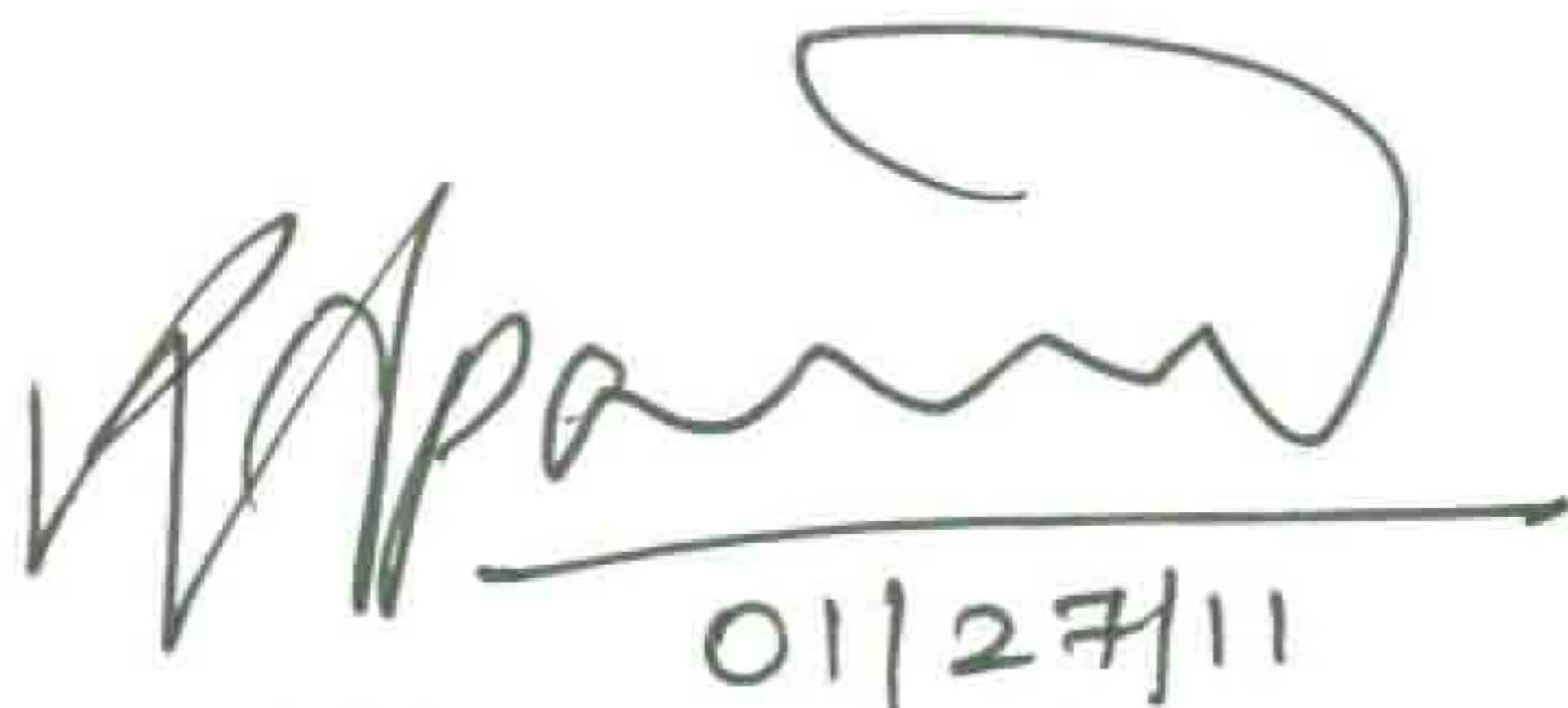
Apart from research, I was involved in various activities and one of my favorite that I look forward to every year is the Summer Internship program. I had the wonderful opportunity to meet and interact with 20 very smart students every year. I have seen the hard work and dedication that the CRM team put into the two month internship. Least did the students know that the team had to go through 5 months of preparation to make it as fruitful as possible. The dedication and teamwork has made this internship successful and one of its kind.

I also got the wonderful opportunity to train over 20 students with various ethnic backgrounds in ART. Teaching has always been my passion and Dr. Agarwal gave me the much needed opportunity to achieve it!

This testimonial will not be complete if I don't thank Dr. Ali Ahmady from University Hospitals. Apart from being a wonderful teacher, he is a great human being. I am extremely grateful to him for training me in several ART techniques and providing me with the much needed confidence to teach the students. Dr. Ahmady, you will still remain my favorite teacher!

Finally I would like to thank the entire team, my co-workers, research fellows and my peers at CRM for being a morale booster and willing to teach and answer questions when I am lost. The program has helped me emerge as a better researcher and a person. Your 'First Job' is like your 'First Love', there will be times that you might be faced with many difficulties and challenges, but at the end of the day, you know you are going to cherish it for a long long time!

Thank You CRM!



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