

Oct. 7th, 2009

Center for Reproductive Medicine
The Cleveland Clinic
9500 Euclid Avenue, A.19.1
Cleveland, OH 44195
Re: Summer Internship Experience Letter

There is always something daunting about starting off anew somewhere; entering into something foreign is scary. People don't often like to do it, precisely because it forces them to step out of their comfort zones; we are creatures of habit who take comfort in the familiar and find security in the known. It's very easy to fall into a trap of complacency but that's exactly what it is- a trap that leaves you stuck and compels no change. That's something I discovered during my time interning at the Cleveland Clinic and something I am continuing to find out.

I was fresh out of my first year of college when I began my summer in Cleveland and at 18, I was very aware that I was an undergraduate without much experience entering into one of the finest clinics in the country. I remember being entirely intimidated by the other interns, the mentors, the atmosphere when I first started but looking back on my time spent there, I realize that by the end of my stay a lot of that changed. The most valuable aspect of my internship at the Cleveland Clinic was not only that I learned more in those 8 weeks about Polycystic Ovarian Syndrome than I thought possible, but that it forced me to grow in so many ways.

Interning at the Cleveland Clinic was my first exposure to the world of medicine as well as medical research and because of that, I gained invaluable experience during my 8 weeks there. Before coming to the clinic, I had very little knowledge of writing medical literature as well as only a shallow understanding of many issues in infertility. Not only did I learn to conduct literary searches and well as engage in medical writing but I also gained experience in public speaking through the presentations we gave throughout the internship. Furthermore, everything was so well set up for the interns; we had daily lectures by the doctors at the clinic on a wide range of fertility issues, access to the clinic's library, and most importantly, access to our mentors. Most of our time was spent researching, combing through articles on our respective topics and then working together, with other interns and mentors, to write journal articles on those subjects. I cannot stress enough how unique our experience was. As interns, we were surrounded by people who were leading figures in their fields; but to us, there were always readily accessible- something entirely rare to find at any other institution.

Working at the Cleveland Clinic, especially through this program, served to broaden my perspectives, which is more than I can ask of any internship. The skills I learned have helped me over the past 2 years and solidified my interest in the medical field.

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Class of 2011