2015 SUMMER MENTORSHIP PROGRAM

2015 Summer Intern Bios
My name is Mohamed Iesar Abdelaziz, and I'm a first year medical student enthusiastically pursing my MBBS degree at Al-Faisal University. I’ve been living in Saudi Arabia since I was born in August, 1996. My eventual career goals are to become a successful cardiovascular surgeon with an extremely strong foundation, in addition to participation in ground breaking research matters, especially which is related to newly found therapeutic causes. I intend on working very diligently throughout medical school to maximize my chances of securing a residency match in the US right after I finish my educational years. Although medicine is my main area of interest, I’m well versed in various types of sports, namely football, body building and political science. I’m a passionate and avid fan of medical series, with my favorite one being House, MD.
My name is Anas AbdelQader. I am Palestinian; however, I was born and raised in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. I am a second year medical student at Alfaisal University. I am planning to specialize in surgery. I used to be the leader of the notes committee in my batch, a committee which aims to write, edit and finalize study notes which covered high yield materials from medical reference books to students. Now I am a Tutor at Peer Assisted Learning Group, delivering hours of lectures to peers and juniors. I enjoy playing and watching soccer and volleyball.
My name is Muna Abuayyash, and I am a Jordanian national. I am currently finishing my second year as a medical student at the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland–Bahrain. Ever since I got into medical school, I’ve realized that there are a lot of questions that remain unanswered with regards to the human life and health. This made me further appreciate the value of medical research, as it is the gateway to answering pivotal questions that still remain unanswered in our health world today. I am extremely eager to be a part of unraveling the mysteries of the healthcare field, which is why this program has been my number one aim for a very long time. Throughout my high school and medical school education, I have volunteered at several sites such as the Jordanian-Syrian borders with Al Oun Organization, assisting medics help refugees in need.
ALGONAIM, Ali Suliman

Ali Suliman Al-Gonaim is from Riyadh, Saudi Arabia and graduated from Al-Imam Abdullah bin Saud high school. He is currently a 5th year medical student in Salman bin Abdulaziz University, Al-Kharj, Saudi Arabia. Since joining the medical school, he was the leader of his class. During his 5-years study in college of medicine he participated in many community services and awareness campaigns in his city. He is now working on publishing his new research under the topic "Prevalence, Attitude, And Magnitude of Energy Drinks Consumption among Health Science Students in Salman Bin Abdulaziz University, Al-Kharj, Saudi Arabia". This year he was nominated to be the Chief of the Student Council. During his free time, he likes to read about new technology, watch movies, and travel.
AL-HARBI, Abdullah Mussad M.

Abdullah Al-Harbi was born in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia and currently he is a 5th year medical student at Salman Bin Abdulaziz University, College of Medicine. He actively participates in several activities in his college. He is a good listener, an excellent learner and communicator. He developed various clinical skills during bedside teaching in the medical college. He always shows commitment in every field that he gets involved in. He is interested in public health awareness. Abdullah spends his free time volunteering in the geriatric care team and he has also attended some medical conferences. He was recently involved in a research which aimed to investigate the prevalence of knowledge and attitudes towards organ donation among the adult population in Alkharij, Saudi Arabia. He loves to swim, play football and video games. He plans to pursue a medical career in Cardiology as well as work on more research.
ALHAYAZA, Ghada M.

Ghada M. AlHayaza is a first year medical student at AlFaisal University in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. Coming from a family who has always been appreciative of scientific research, she was determined to carry out their legacy and continue on their path; research and medicine are part of who she is. She has been involved in research during her early stages in high school by participating in The Health and Nutrition Conference for High School Students and by contributing with a research paper about Breast Cancer. This experience made her realize that she has the competence to become a successful researcher because of her teamwork skills which she had professionally demonstrated. Furthermore, her commitment and desire to learn are the building stones that will allow her to reach her goals in both the medical and research fields. She believes that this internship will teach her so much for her to achieve such aims. As much as she is fond of research, reading and making videos are also what she is keen of. Moreover, volunteering is an important aspect of her life as she love to help others.
AL-JUHAIM, Saad Mohammed

Saad Al-Juhaim was born and raised in Al-Kharj, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. He graduated from Al-Forsan high-school in Al-Kharj and achieved the 1st place in the National Olympiad of Chemistry and Physics during that time. He is currently a fourth year medical student at Salman bin Abdulaziz University. He has been involved on a research to describe the importance of specific animal allergy in immunopathology of atopic diseases among husbandry personnel in Riyadh. He is extremely interested in the field of interventional medicine and admires neurology. During his free time, he likes to play soccer and he also loves music and philosophy.
AL KATTAN, Luay

My name is Luay Al Kattan. I was born in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, and I have lived in Canada for a few years of my life. I graduated from King Faisal School in Riyadh in 2014, and was awarded the Princess Iffat Prize for my performance in Biology and Chemistry. I am currently a first year medical student at Alfaisal University in Riyadh. I am also enrolled in a Research Orientation Series (ROS) course. I like to believe that I strive for accomplishment. I try to always be the best version of myself that I can be. I am friendly and always appreciate others' opinions and ideas; because in this world we all stand as one. We learn from each other's experiences. I think it is very healthy for a person to continue learning to grow both intellectually and as a person.
ALMASRY, Mazen Mohamed Maher

My name is Mazen Almasry. I am a first year medical student at Alfaisal University in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. I was born and raised in Riyadh. I graduated from Al Ghad Private Schools in 2013. Now, I am taking Research Oriented Series (ROS) course, which mainly helps the students in learning the basics of how to conduct a research. I am the head of the Exam Committee in my batch, a committee that tends to write mock exams for the batch as a review for the upcoming tests. Also, I am the head of the volunteers in Evening Lab Sessions (ELS). Finally, I enjoy playing football a lot.
Saad Rashed Al-Qasem was born and raised in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. He graduated from Al-Imam Abdullah bin Saud high school. Now he is a 5th year medical student in Salman Bin Abdulaziz University, Al-Kharj, Saudi Arabia. During his medical study, he participated in different activities such as joining many volunteer groups and organizer in many campaigns and conferences. He got multiple prizes in the field of health science research and community services at level of Salman Bin Abdulaziz University. He successfully published a research in PubMed titled "Prevalence of Wheat Allergy in Al-Kharj, Saudi Arabia". Saad is an active member in Dermatology Student Club – The Saudi Society of Dermatology & Dermatologic Surgery 2014. He enjoys watching documentary movies, Swimming and traveling. Saad plans to pursue a career in Dermatology and aspires to specialize in Dermatological immunology.
Rakan Alsaad is a 19 year old high school diploma graduate of Manarat AlRiyadh International’s class of 2013. He is now pursuing an MBBS in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, at Alfaisal University’s College of Medicine and is now in his 1st year of medical school. Rakan lived in Ireland for 4 years during his early childhood with his parents and later went back to live in Saudi Arabia with the rest of his family. During his free time, he enjoys reading books and watching series, especially Japanese comics and anime. He finds interest in learning about other cultures and backgrounds, their way of life and most certainly meeting people from these cultures. He enjoys traveling as well, as he has been to many places around the world. Enjoying the act of helping others, Rakan is the leader of his batch’s Notes Committee, in which he and the members with him, compile important lecture notes written down to be shared with all the batch members. He is also a participating volunteer in the peer-assisted-learning night lab dissection sessions. Rakan enjoys playing video games and card games with his friends during his free time and on weekends.
AL-TAMIMI, Ibrahim Mohammed

Ibrahim Al-Tamimi was born and raised in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. Currently he is a fifth year medical student (MBBS) at Salman Bin Abdulaziz University (SAU), Al-Kharj. He is a passionate student who is always extremely motivated towards career. He was involved in a research project aimed to evaluate diabetic patient’s knowledge, attitude and practice regarding diabetes and its self-management with particular emphasis on ocular complications. Ibrahim is the head of the Scientific Committee in Student Council at College of Medicine. He is a very active member in Dermatology Student Club at the Saudi Society of Dermatology and Dermatologic Surgery (SSDDS). In his free time, he volunteers in varieties of health promotion campaigns, in addition to drawing, and watching movies. After completion of his MBBS, Ibrahim plans to pursue a career in Internal Medicine.
ALZAAQI, Abdullah Abdulrahman S.

My name is Abdullah Alzaaqi. I was born and raised in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. I graduated from high school in 2013 from Riyadh schools. I am currently a first year medical student at Alfaisal University. I consider myself as an active person. I have participated in programs. I aspire to be a great Doctor and researcher in one day. I like team work. My favorite sports are football and table tennis.
BAMAJBUOR, Fares Saleh

My name is Fares Bamajbuor. I am originally from Yemen but I was born and raised in Saudi Arabia. I graduated from high school in 2013 from Alfaishalah Private Schools. I am currently a first year Medical Student at Al-Faisal University. I am a highly motivated and ambitious person. I am involved in two research projects at the moment. I am part of the lab dissection committee and a volunteer in the Medical Student Association. I aspire to be a great Pediatrician to help the children all over the world and researcher one day. I enjoy being a part of a team and like to contribute as well as gain from my fellow members. My favorite sport is basketball and I am a huge fan of Cleveland Cavaliers.
Amolak Singh Dhillon is from Vancouver, Canada and is an undergraduate student at the University of British Columbia (UBC) pursuing pre-medical studies. Along with his studies, Amolak shadows researchers in the neuroscience laboratories at the Brain Research Centre at UBC and has competed and won second place in neuroscience competitions. He has worked in an Internal Medicine clinic to gain exposure and insight to the practise of medicine at the community clinic level. He plans to pursue a degree in medicine while maintaining an active interest in research. Amolak is also passionate about public speaking and debate and is a former champion having won first place at the 2014 International Debate Championship held in Olomouc, Czech Republic. He is also active in service organizations and recently travelled to Ghana, Africa to volunteer at an orphanage. Amolak loves to play group sports such as soccer and basketball, travelling and tutoring in his spare time.
Christopher Douglas is a third year undergraduate at the University of North Texas, majoring in Biochemistry, and minoring in Biology. He has been recognized for maintaining a high level of academic achievement throughout his course work as the recipient of both the Dean's and President's List awards. Beginning in 2012, Christopher has volunteered in the Emergency Department at Denton Regional Medical Center. As a result of his experiences working with medical staff and patients in the ER, he has decided to take on the additional challenge of developing conversational fluency in Spanish. In fall 2014, he was invited to attend the Cullen Symposium for Translational Research hosted by the M.D. Anderson Cancer Center in Houston, Texas. This experience influenced his current research interests in disease treatment through the development of more efficient drug targeting strategies and improved drug delivery techniques. When not working or spending time with his family, he enjoys long distance running, and has competed in numerous half and full marathons. In the summer of 2013, Chris finished his first 31-mile ultra-marathon. Prior to his pursuits in the medical sciences, Christopher began his academic and professional career in the arts as a musician and music teacher. Although he continues to actively perform, his interests and passion for medical research and practice has become his primary focus.
My name is Ahmed Salem Elshaer. I was born in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, but I’m a Canadian citizen. I’m currently a first year medical student at Alfaisal University, which is located in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. Following the completion of my MBBS degree, I’m planning to specialize in Cardiology. I have a keen interest in research, given that research allows me to learn and discover a wide range of ideas. At Alfaisal University, I’m a member of the exam committee and the notes committee. I also volunteer in the dissection lab. I’m currently enrolled in Research Oriented Series (ROS), a research development skills program that is held by senior students, and that is aimed at teaching the basics of research to students. In my free time, I like to indulge in video games (e.g. FIFA) and play cards. I’m very passionate about football and a huge fan of FC Barcelona.
HABIB, Eiad Ahmed

My name is Eiad Habib and I am currently a first year medical student at Alfaisal University in Riyadh, KSA. I graduated from Saud International School. I love to involve myself in research and volunteering opportunities. I have recently joined the Research Oriented Series course, which aims to teach us the basics of research and how it is conducted. I am also a member of SMILE, a cancer support group which is very active in our area. I enjoy working in a team and like to contribute and gain from my fellow members. I am very excited to meet and work with people from different backgrounds. I have received the "Top in Riyadh" award in ICT. I am interested in studying cardiac surgery in the future. I find the physiology of the human body quite fascinating. I am a passionate football fan and I relish watching TV shows as well as reading.
HIJJI, Talal Modar Hamza

Talal Hijji is a first year medical student at Alfaisal University in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. At Alfaisal, he holds positions in the Medical Student Association and the Social and Development Committee which aim to organize various academic and non-academic events and campaigns for the students at the university. He is also the Vice representative of the first year students and has leadership roles with regards to that. Talal loves to get involved in various volunteering opportunities whether in the university or outside. During his free time, he likes to play Basketball and Table Tennis.
My name is Zeina Kayali, a 19 year-old first year medical student at Alfaisal University in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, aspiring to become a successful physician and researcher. During my junior year at Najd National School, I was selected to attend one of the most prestigious summer programs held by Lead America at Columbia University in which I chose the PreMed course. My experience in this program cemented my faith in pursuing a medical career, and ever since, I knew first hand that medicine was the only path that would lead me to success. My other driving force has been my incessant will to help people which I have already experienced throughout my abundant community work. Similarly, I am interested in medical research due to my belief that medicine and research intertwine to create revolutionary innovations in the medical field. The sustenance needed for myself to grow and evolve into the kind of doctor and researcher I desire to become is provided at the Cleveland Clinic. My virtues that accumulate towards myself becoming a physician, including leadership skills, commitment, and teamwork, all revolve around my eagerness to continually challenge myself in order to accomplish my ambitions. Those ambitions extend beyond my academic aims, as I strive to advance my extracurricular activities, which include swimming, tennis, painting and playing chess. Likewise, traveling is a passion of mine which is evident through the fact that I am trilingual and thoroughly appreciate and enjoy new cultures.
KUMAR, Deepak

Deepak Kumar is from Westlake, Ohio. This fall, he will be a second year undergraduate student at the University of Pittsburgh majoring in Biology and minoring in Chemistry. He has guaranteed admissions to medical school at the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine (BS/MD). He has completed two summers of clinical research at the Cleveland Clinic and currently is working in a biology research lab at the University of Pittsburgh studying the relationship of specific aquaporin channel mutations to symptoms of nephrogenic diabetes insipidus. He is part of Pitt Avaaz, an acapella group, Pitt Ping Pong Club, and Pitt HOSA, a new umbrella organization for various pre-health students on and near campus. In his free time, he enjoys singing classical Indian music, playing tennis, and reading. In the future, he plans to return to Cleveland and serve his community as a medical professional.
MARTINES, Carolina Minelli

Carolina Martines is from São Paulo, Brazil and is currently a third year medical student at University of São Paulo (USP). She participates in several activities at USP: she is on the board of the Plastic Surgery and the Preoperative Leagues and of the Student Union Osvaldo Cruz. Last year, she was also on the board of USP’s athletic association (Academic Athletic Association Osvaldo Cruz). Carolina enjoys scientific research, and her scientific initiation is about Breast Cancer. She plans to pursue a career in Surgery or Gynecology. Carolina is very interested in travelling, learning new languages and meeting people from all over the world, so she intends to live in many countries during her life. She spends most of her spare time playing sports, and her biggest passion is handball, which she plays at the university team.
My name is Mohammad Nouh. I am a first year medical student at Alfaisal University, Riyadh. I have lived most of my life in Saudi Arabia. I studied 8th grade in Kells Academy Montreal, Canada. I graduated from King Faisal School in Riyadh with an International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma. All my life I wanted to pursue a career in Medicine through hard work and commitment I was able to take the first step towards my goal. I am currently an active member of the Alfaisal Volunteer club. I recently volunteered in a Disability conference that was held in Ritz-Carlton in Riyadh. I am enrolled in Research Oriented Series (ROS) course which aims at teaching students the basics of research. I am very interested in the topic of Genetics I believe it has answers to many of the problems facing physicians. I enjoy discussing and arguing with friends and colleagues on medical and non-medical topics; I find it very educational.
Reva Peer is from Roseville, California. She is a rising sophomore at the University of Rochester in Rochester, NY. Reva is pursuing a degree in Neuroscience with a minor in Clinical Psychology. Reva is also a member of the Rochester Early Medical Scholars Program; an eight-year integrated BS/MD Program at the University of Rochester. Reva is active both on campus, as a member of GlobeMed and Rotaract; as well as off campus, volunteering in the Emergency Department at Strong Memorial Hospital. She also dedicates her time to advancing the work of a non-profit, Peer Global Health Initiatives Inc., which serves people with physical and intellectual disabilities. Reva’s past research experiences include compiling studies on cloning as part of the COSMOS program at the University of California, Davis and conducting research and wet lab work on cyanide concentrations of cassava at the Western Human Nutrition Research Center in Davis, California under the mentorship of Dr. Betty Burri. After graduation, she hopes to pursue a career both as a physician and researcher. In her spare time, Reva enjoys karate and reading.
REYES, Alvaro Ramos

My name is Alvaro Ramos and my hometown is Saltillo, Mexico. I am currently a third year medical student at Tecnológico de Monterrey School of Medicine. During my career I joined a research program that has given me the opportunity to be in two different laboratories. My first experience was in Monterrey with Dr. Victor Lara where I participated in a project about pharmacokinetics of caffeine in premature children that involved umbilical cord and placenta tissue processing. Also, last summer I went to the University of Texas at San Antonio in an exchange program to work with Dr. Kelly Suter. In her lab we used electrophysiological approaches in hypothalamic slices to study GnRH neurons, and the project consisted of studying the control of puberty onset. My dream and career goal is to do a residency in gynecology and obstetrics followed by a fellowship in reproductive endocrinology and infertility. That is the main reason why I decided to come to Cleveland Clinic. Since I was a little kid I have always been involved in sports, therefore I really enjoy practicing them to distract myself from daily routine. During elementary and middle school I played soccer, and when I went to high school I started swimming and was part of the school football team. In my free time I like to do sports and hang out with my friends and family.
Wassel Sannaa was born in Syria. He is a first year medical student at Alfaisal University, which is located in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. His career goals are to join residency in Internal Medicine and follow that up with a fellowship in either Gastroenterology or Cardiology. He is interested in medical research and this program gives him a great opportunity to pursue his interests. During his free time, he likes to play basketball and video games. He also like watching TV shows and his all-time favorite shows are House M.D. and Top Gear.
Yash Sarda is a 23 year old medical student born and brought up in Mumbai, India. He is pursuing his MBBS (Bachelor of Medicine, Bachelor of Surgery) from Bharati Vidyapeeth Deemed University Medical College and Hospital, Sangli and is currently in his Internship year. He has passed with high grades and achieved distinctions in many subjects throughout his undergraduate course. His interests are in health care education and in learning about the technological advances in medicine, and have attended workshops for the same. He plans to do a Residency in Internal Medicine and follow it up with a fellowship in Infectious Diseases or Oncology. In his free time he is involved in sports and outdoor activities. He has captained his college soccer team and participated in national level judo competitions among others.
My name is Nirvika Singh, a medical graduate (MBBS) from India and I want to become a good embryologist. I have also taken two trainings from India from renowned institutions. I have always had a philanthropic approach towards life. My inclination towards the medical field is probably because of my love for nature and science. My greatest pleasure is to challenge myself in a way that refines me day by day. I have worked in two IVF labs in India after my internship was over. Being a naturally compassionate person, I take great pleasure in serving my community. Apart from what I did in my clinical years, I had a fascination to go for Infertility research. So, this program will further enable me to gather the experience of learning, discussing and debating against the finest. It is my dream to become a good embryologist and serve my community after I finish with my Masters in Embryology.
SMITH, Cassidy

Cassidy Smith is a senior at Ferris High School and also a student at the Spokane Falls Community College. Cassidy plans to graduate high school and obtain her Associate Arts degree within the next year. Her next plan is to attend college and become involved with something in the science field, and be on the pre-medicine track. At her high school, she is a key member and secretary of her Environmental Club which organizes various activities such as starting a school garden, implementing compost and recycling programs, and many more things geared towards getting students outside and appreciating the outdoors. She is also a member of her school's National Honor Society. Cassidy has been involved in Project Lead the Way Biomedical Sciences classes for the past three years. It is a rigorous 4 year science program geared towards preparing students for advanced science study. Outside of school, she enjoys being outdoors and doing things such as hiking, backpacking, camping horse-back riding, or rock climbing.
SPEYER, CAROLINA

Carolina Speyer is on her fourth year of medicine graduation in School of Medicine of ABC. She is currently the president of Dermatology and Pelvic Gynecologic Oncology Academic Leagues, which are two major areas of her interest and researches. She is finishing a research about correlation between histopathological findings and severity score in chronic urticaria. She is also the director of Marketing and Sponsorship Department of COMUABC, the biggest university medical congress of Brazil. Apart from studies she loves travelling, practicing crossfit and photography.
My Tran graduated with honors in 2012 from the University of California, San Diego. She double majored in General Biology and Anthropology with a minor in Global Health. My has participated in multiple medical missions in Tijuana, Mexico. She plans to attend medical school where her main interests are Obstetrics/Gynecology and Reproductive Medicine. My enjoys cooking, trying new restaurants, and world travel.