

8/13/2007

Erica Liverant, MD
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Lindsey Hollis
Re: MDS Mentorship Program

Dear Medical Dermatology Society and members,

Thank you so much for the opportunity to spend a month working with Dr. Victoria Werth at the University of Pennsylvania this spring. It was an incredible experience, in which I learned so much from. Not only did I learn about connective tissue diseases, but I also spent time in the cutaneous lymphoma clinics and psoriasis clinics.

From the moment that I first walked into Dr. Werth's clinic, I knew that I was in for a treat. It was amazing to see the broad range of patients that she saw on a daily basis. Autoimmune diseases that I have only read about, I got to see, and diagnose first hand. Every night, I would go back to my textbook and read about all the patients I had seen that day. Not only was I diagnosing these rare diseases, but I was also involved in the management of them as well. It was a great learning opportunity, as I rarely see these types of patients in my own clinics.

Not only did I learn dermatology from Dr. Werth, but I also got to know her on a personal level. She is quite an incredible lady, traveling throughout the country to give lectures, as well as raising several teenagers who will surely go onto great things. Dr. Werth showed me that it is possible to be successful in academics in addition to having a fulfilling personal life.

I also had the opportunity to spend time in the cutaneous lymphoma clinics with Dr. Alain Rook and Dr. Ellen Kim. The most amazing experience occurred to me while in this clinic. I had just met this unfortunately lady with Sezary syndrome, who had just been admitted to the Johns Hopkins Hospital for severe erythroderma. I briefly glanced at the notes, and realized that she had been seen by my very own dermatology residents. Several months later, I actually met her again, as she was unfortunately re-admitted to the hospital a few weeks ago for severe erosions and ulcerations. I could not believe that I had seen her as an outpatient at Penn in May, and then got to re-acquaint with her in August of this year. This patient is not likely going to survive this hospitalization, but the fact that I had seen her well, as an outpatient, and then again as an inpatient, helped to broaden my view of the inpatient dermatology consult service.