

January 2009

Dear Medical Dermatology Society Mentorship Program,

I would like to thank the Medical Dermatology Society Mentorship Program for the opportunity to have spent one month with Dr. Abrar Qureshi at Harvard's Brigham and Women's Hospital (BWH). Dr. Qureshi is a model academician in his many roles as clinician, scientist, educator and most notably, mentor. He truly re-defines mentorship and devotes a tremendous amount of time working to support and develop the academic careers of the many students, residents, fellows and young faculty with whom he surrounds himself. His clinical focus is largely in the Dermatology-Rheumatology arena, with a broad approach to investigation including clinical outcomes approaches, basic science approaches and related translational approaches in molecular epidemiology to investigate psoriasis/psoriatic-arthritis as well as other connective tissue disorders and skin malignancies.

During my time at the BWH, I was also fortunate to spend time with several other model Medical-Dermatologists, namely Dr. Arturo Saavedra-Lauzon and Dr. Ruth Ann Vleugels as well Rheumatology faculty, Dr. Elinor Mody, with whom Dr. Qureshi co-directs the Center for Skin and Related Musculoskeletal Diseases. My Rheumatology exposure was expanded upon with weekly rotations in the Rheumatology Division's Lupus clinic with leaders in the field, including Dr. Peter Schur and Dr. Karen Costenbader.

The excellence in research, teaching and clinical care to which I was exposed at the Harvard Department of Dermatology is a credit to all of the dedicated faculty, staff and residents who make it a unique environment for training - I feel very fortunate to have been able to learn from so many individuals in the Department and to share my own proud traditions from the NYU Department of Dermatology.

My four weeks served as an invaluable time to solidify my commitment to academic medical dermatology and to define with my mentor, Dr. Qureshi, the next logical steps for my career development. I will be completing Internal Medicine residency and Rheumatology fellowship training at the Brigham and Women's Hospital beginning this July upon completion of my residency at NYU. I am inspired to become an academic leader in this area of the field and I look forward to working closely with my mentor, friend and soon colleague, Dr. Qureshi. Thank you again for making this possible.

Sincerely,

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