

June 2010

Medical Dermatology Society  
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To the Medical Dermatology Society:

Thank you for awarding me the 2010 Mentorship award to work with Dr. Dirk Elston at Geisinger Medical Center in Danville, Pennsylvania.

Despite Danville being entrenched in several feet of snow during January, the Dermatology residents were extremely warm and hospitable. During my month I joined the residents in their education sessions including book review, "kodachromes", dermatopathology, etc. Attendings and clinic staff were generous with their time and welcomed me to join their clinics. During the afternoons, I participated in daily sign out with the Dermatopathology fellows, Dermatology residents and Dr. Elston. In addition to attending dermatopathology sign-out, I had the tremendous opportunity to review slides from an annotated collection of greater than 10,000 glass slides.

Unique aspects of my elective involved reviewing infectious disease-related cutaneous pathology and generating digital images (>1,000) to be compiled in a dermatopathology atlas of infectious diseases. I reviewed these images with Dr. Elston, and learned many invaluable diagnostic features of certain infectious diseases.

One of the goals of my rotation was to appreciate how a successful clinician balances family and academics, and now I just believe that Dr. Elston doesn't sleep. He is extremely dedicated to his patients, actively engaged in research, constantly writing and reviewing journal articles, but ensures that he spends time with his wife and children. Dr. Elston is extremely busy and for one week of my elective, he was attending a conference in Florida. During his absence, I worked with several of the other dermatopathologists including Drs. Tammie Ferringer and Nektarios Lountzis.

I highly recommend rotating with Dr. Dirk Elston at Geisinger Medical Center, particularly if a resident has a strong interest in Dermatopathology; however, I suggest picking a month not in the middle of winter...unless of course, cross country skiing is his or her favorite past-time.

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