

Dominic Ricci

MDS Grant 2010

Nov. 28th-Dec. 23rd

I want to thank the Medical Dermatology Society for the extremely generous grant to allow me to spend time with Dr. Sethi at the University of Chicago for a month. Dr. Sethi and the entire division of dermatology at the University of Chicago were very gracious hosts and incredibly welcoming.

I spent time in Dr. Sethi's general dermatology clinics and her HIV/transplant clinic. Dr. Sethi is the quintessential academic dermatologist and such a great teacher. Every case provided an interesting teaching point that she was sure to tell us or "pimp" us about. One of the reasons I was so interested in spending time in her clinics was her interest in immunosuppressed patients. These patients provided even further teaching opportunities for Dr. Sethi who seems to truly enjoy teaching. I didn't just benefit, though, from learning about patients' conditions, it was also Dr. Sethi's approach to patient education that was also very beneficial. All patients walk out the door with a handout about skin care and usually one about their specific diagnosis, which is something I definitely plan to bring back to USC/LAC.

Dr. Sethi and I also spent time during or after a lot of her clinics talking about practicing dermatology in underserved countries and how to go about doing so. Her work abroad is such an inspiration to me and I want to incorporate it into my dermatology career. She spent time talking about her tropical dermatology training, how she was initially inspired to work in Malawi, and what her experience is like in Malawi. After she patiently answered all those questions, she would take every part of our down-time in clinic to go over a couple of questions of a list that I had prepared (see other attachment) to help me figure out the best way to go about bringing dermatology to an underserved region. Having a purely dermatology elective to the Global Health Department at USC was also a goal of mine and Dr. Sethi gave me her approval to work with USC's Office of Student Affairs to allow USC medical students who have an interest in dermatology to go with her to Malawi. I was also extended an invitation and plan on going the year or two after residency so I can see first-hand how that clinic operates.

During my visit at the University of Chicago, I was also able to attend the residents' dermatopathology teaching sessions and all their lecture series for resident education. When Dr. Sethi wasn't in clinic she graciously had talked with other attendings to ensure if it was okay for me to spend time with other residents in their clinics and so I got to spend time with Dr. Sotani and Dr. Iyengar during their Mohs cases and also with Dr. Shea in his general dermatology clinic.

Again, I want to thank everyone at the Medical Dermatology Society for giving me this amazing opportunity to spend time with Dr. Sethi and the rest of the dermatologists at University of Chicago. I hope to take what I have learned and bring it back to make my program even stronger and give medical students and residents the opportunity to bring dermatology underserved populations abroad.