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A Mentorship with Dr. Martin Weinstock

Working at the Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Providence, Rhode Island has been an unforgettable experience as I solidified my interest in dermatoepidemiology through working with an expert in Dr. Martin Weinstock. I am grateful the Medical Dermatology Society has offered such an opportune elective while assisting with my quest to becoming the academic clinician I strive to become upon completion of my residency program. Through my short few weeks at the VA, I had the opportunity to design my own epidemiological project while formulating my own hypotheses regarding secondary primary melanomas and undertaking my own statistical analyses. Through our efforts, the manuscript was in preparation as I returned home to western Canada.

Despite Dr. Weinstock's busy schedule, he was always approachable and made the effort to meet with me several times a week to ensure I did not run into any issues with regards to my project. His attention to detail was admirable as he would not only accept the results that were presented, but he would analyze it carefully, point by point, number by number, to ensure the results were intuitive and not just based on chance or any confounding factors. With his explanations, it taught me how to be a more effective appraiser of the scientific literature. This will not only help me become a better scientist, but a better clinician as I would provide my patients with the most beneficial management strategies based on the most reliable clinical research studies.

Not only was Dr. Weinstock a great mentor, but his unintimidating and personable demeanor made the elective experience even more enjoyable. He not only wanted to teach me the ins and outs of dermatoepidemiology research, but he wanted to ensure I enjoyed my stay in Providence by taking his time to show me where the best restaurants were and what the best attractions were. I will never forget

the experience of the Waterfire, the delicious Italian restaurants along Atwell's Street or a stroll along the canal.

Though my time at Rhode Island was brief, the experience I encountered and the knowledge I have gained was invaluable. It was a pleasure to be able to finally meet and to work with a seasoned dermatoeidemiologist who I have quoted in several of my research studies. It is an honor to be able to co-author a manuscript with Dr. Weinstock and I look forward to his mentorship beyond my time in Providence.

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