

My time with Dr. Wanat was an amazing opportunity for career growth, and I am excited to have found a mentor with whom I hope to correspond for many years to come.

During the first part of our mentorship, she provided the guidance and mentorship needed to successfully complete a needs assessment and establish a relationship with a new teledermatology site in Bagamoyo, Tanzania. During my time in Tanzania, I learned about common logistical hurdles to establishing effective partnerships with new collaborators, and began to develop my own communication skills when navigating complex conversations and decisions that were entangled with differences in cultural expectations and communication styles. There was also an amazing clinical component as we were able to work with local clinicians to see 40+ patients a day with skin diseases and trouble shoot the challenges of making a diagnosis without histopathology and deciding on treatment strategies despite limited resources.



Overall it was an amazing three weeks and I learned so much about a clinical approach to skin disease in resource limited settings and was able to develop my skills of cultural humility, learning to listen carefully to determine whether there could be cultural and structural differences that were impairing communication.

The second part of my mentorship was spent at the Medical College of Wisconsin. Dr. Wanat was amazing and helped create a schedule that incorporated both travel medicine clinics and HIV clinics, since she knew I was in the process of applying to Infectious Disease Fellowship. We had many conversations about how I could approach next steps in my career, different funding avenues if my current research in the epidemiology of skin disease in refugees results in something that I can build my research career around.

One of the most impactful parts of our time together was that I was able to learn about her approach to mentorship both from the medical students who worked with her and also Dr. Wanat herself. I am very impressed by the structured and straightforward approach that Dr. Wanat takes to mentoring both residents and

medical students. By setting clear expectations, with graded levels of responsibility (starting with small tasks then increasing to larger tasks as they successfully complete smaller tasks) she creates an environment where motivated individuals can successfully complete projects while gaining both writing and research skills.



Understanding Dr. Wanat's approach will help me as both a mentor and mentee in the future. As a future mentor, it gives me an idea of how to delegate responsibilities while also setting clear expectations. As a mentee, it also helps me to understand how I can minimize duplicated work, the importance of quick responses and turn-around times on research projects and publications, and how to use small projects to slowly develop a relationship with a potential mentor.

I am very grateful to the medical dermatologic society for the opportunity to work with Dr. Wanat. This has been an invaluable experience and it will help me to develop my future career in global health dermatology and infectious disease.