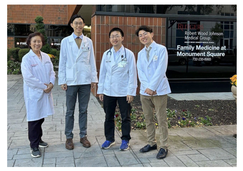
RUTGERS HEALTH
Robert Wood Johnson Medical School

Clinical Observations: A Taiwanese Student's US Medical Rotation

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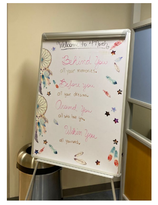


Week 1:
Family Medicine Clinic with Dr. Karen Lin

My journey began with Dr. Lin, who opened my eyes to the world of Family Medicine.
Shadowing Dr. Lin, I witnessed the dedication and time invested in each patient. It wasn't just about physical health; it was about understanding the whole person – their mental and social well-being too. This holistic approach is something I believe we can learn from in Taiwan.
I also observed how American medical education emphasizes practical application. At the Promise Clinic, I saw US medical students conducting thorough patient visits, demonstrating strong communication skills. This highlighted an area where we, in Taiwan, could improve. While our medical knowledge might be comparable, we could focus more on effective communication, asking the right questions, and ensuring patients truly understand.
The US healthcare system, with its emphasis on primary care, impressed me. PCPs coordinate comprehensive care, integrating specialists and social resources. This contrasts with Taiwan, where doctors often focus solely on their specialized services.
However, this patient-centered approach in the US can lead to long wait times and high costs, creating barriers for the uninsured. It was inspiring to see initiatives like the Promise Clinic and community outreach programs working to address these challenges.

Week 2:
Family Medicine Inpatient Care with Dr. Jamie Cherian





Week 2 was spent with the compassionate Dr. Cherian, caring for hospitalized patients with a wide range of conditions. From respiratory and gastro- intestinal issues to complex cases involving bone marrow transplants, every day was a learning experience.
Dr. Cherian's friendly demeanor and genuine concern for his patients were truly heart- warming.
I observed the collaborative nature of care, particularly for post-bone marrow transplant patients. The multidisciplinary team, including the hematologist-oncologist, resident, nurse practitioner, physician assistant, and of course the primary care physician, all worked together to provide holistic care. Even though my role was limited, I accompanied Dr.
Cherian and engaged with patients, who seemed to appreciate the interaction.
Beyond medical knowledge, Dr. Cherian taught me the importance of empathy and human connection in patient care. He embodies the qualities of a compassionate physician, a role model I aspire to be.

Week 3:
Pulmonary and Critical Care with Dr. Sabiha Hussain





The intensity of the ICU came alive in Week 3 with Dr. Hussain and Dr. Siddart. Their collaborative approac to patient care was remarkable. Witnessing thei clinical reasoning and communication skills in such a fast-paced environment was invaluable.
I was exposed to conditions rarely seen in Taiwan and
observed procedures like chest tube insertion and bronchoscopy-guided tracheostomy.
Dr. Hussain's genuine compassion shone through in her interactions with patients, especially those facing psychosocial difficulties or end-of-life care. Her dedication, often extending late into the night, was truly inspiring.

Week 4:
Neurology Clinic with Dr. Ashley Weng





My final week, spent with Dr. Weng in the neurology clinic, was a masterclass in meticulous patient care.
I observed her detailed history-taking, comprehensive neurological examinations, and expert execution of nerve conduction studies and electromyography.
Dr. Weng's attention to detail, patient communication, and commitment to identifying the root cause of symptoms were exemplary.







Conclusion

These four weeks have been a transformative experience. I've witnessed firsthand the dedication, compassion, and patient-centered approach that defines American healthcare.
While the systemic differences between our countries are vast, the lessons I've learned from these incredible physicians will stay with me throughout my medical career. I am immensely grateful for all of their mentorship and guidance.