

Mentor Assessment 8

Name of Mentor: Dr. John Mansour

Profession: Surgical Oncologist

Location: U.T.S.W. Harold C. Simmons Comprehensive Cancer Center

Date of Visit: March 20, 2018

Time: 9:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Assessment:

This was a mentor visit that was quite out of the ordinary, and that I hope will never happen again. On my way down to U.T. Southwestern to meet with my mentor, I was involved in a fairly bad accident. Although I was not able to meet with my mentor, I felt that it would be important for me to write an assessment over this situation because it taught me a lot. I had to handle the situation on my own, and it was honestly one of the most terrifying ordeals I have been through. I was in stop-and-go traffic, in the left lane on the Dallas North Tollway, when the woman behind me slammed into me, probably going close to 50 miles per hour. Whether it was due to phone usage or simply not paying attention, the impact pushed my car into the car in front of me, crumpling the hood and shocking me. I had to sit there for a bit to get my bearings, but when I finally realized what was going on I immediately called my mom, and then Coach Goff. After that, I called 911, and an ambulance and trooper were dispatched to the site. A kind man stopped to make sure we were both okay, as the car in front of me had left at this point. Although it was an extremely frightening situation to be in, it taught me a lot about handling things on my own. I was alone, without my parents, and for the first time as an adult I was forced to make decisions that could have seriously impacted my life. Thanks to Independent Study and Mentorship, and Coach Goff, I have spent the last two years in high pressure situations in clinic

and in the operating rooms, where I am forced to think on my feet. I have been forced out of my comfort zone, and I truly believe that a lot of what I learned in ISM helped me to stay level-headed and rational throughout the situation. I could have freaked out and gotten upset with the the woman who hit me, or been a wreck and not have been able to talk to the trooper, but instead I maintained a mostly clear head and was able to tell the trooper exactly what happened. That day also taught me a lot about the kindness of other people, something that I have seen echoed in clinic with Dr. Mansour's patients. These patients are genuinely nice, and they have a hope that I have not seen outside of the clinic walls. The man who stopped to make sure I was alright reminded me of that, and reminded me that the world is not always as cynical and cruel as it may seem. The man that day showed me both grace and empathy, which are qualities that I want to take into my own clinic and my own operating rooms. I believe that these qualities are some of the most important tools that a doctor can bring into his clinic to treat patients.