

Isabella Rosa Nanini

Mr. Speice

Independent Study and Mentorship- 3A

16 October 2016

Interview Assessment 1

Name of Professional: Dr. Leena Sharan

Profession: Cardiologist

Date of Interview: 10 October 2016 at 3:30pm

Assessment:

This was my first professional interview, which really excited me since I have had trouble scheduling interviews. Coming into this interview I wanted to learn more about the cardiology field and what it is like to work with the human heart. I started out by asking Dr. Sharan what made her go into the cardiology field, which she said was the dynamic atmosphere, always having something to do and always being on your feet. This is also one of the reasons I am interested in the cardiology field, so I was able to connect with her on that aspect. I followed by asking her what were the biggest challenges of her career and how she copes with those challenges. She told me something I found very interesting and that is that time is muscle. She explained how once heart muscle dies it cannot be regained so you only have a small amount of time to save a patient's heart. She explained how this is coped through practice and experience. This excited me because challenges like this I find to be a moments like these really push you to perform your best and save many lives. I asked her what advice she would give to a high school student, and Dr. Sharan said it was to follow your dream and to never give up. She asked me

what my topic of study was and told me about her experience with congenital heart disease, which is what I am most interested in the pediatric cardiac surgery field. I also asked Dr. Sharan how is it like to be a woman in a male dominated field. She said that if you act strong and like a man it really makes no difference. She explained that things are changing and if you show that you belong there and that you deserve to be there the male doctors will not treat you any differently. I also asked her how she balances family life with her career, she explained that it is hard but you have to be able to have good time management. I also told her I have a big interest in working in less developed countries and trying to make a difference in the world. She said she hopes to work with doctors without borders but that at the moment she cannot do that do to her family; however, that she sometimes offers care to patients who cannot pay for treatment. She followed to explain her love for travel, something we connected with because of my international living experience and my love for culture.

All of the information gathered in this interview helped me better understand what is like to work in the cardiology field. I learned the importance of being quick and staying strong. I saw how it is possible to balance family life with your career, and I was encouraged to keep my interested. This is relevant in my Independent Study and Mentorship because I now know the basics of the cardiology field, I was also able to gain experience in speaking with a professional. With my previous knowledge of cardiology I was able to better understand the dynamic atmosphere of cardiology and how I would fit into that atmosphere. I can see myself working in this dynamic atmosphere This interview also makes me more curious to interview a surgeon to learn about an even more dynamic cardiovascular career.

Interview notes:

- 1) What made you want to go into this field?

The dynamic atmosphere, being able to constantly be on my feet and working to my highest potential.

- 2) What are the biggest challenges that come with your career and how do you cope with those challenges?

Time is muscle, you have to be quick to save a life.

- 3) What advice would you give to a high school student?

Follow your dreams

- 4) What is something that surprised you about this career?

That I settled.