

Illinois SEARCH Program

Student/Resident Experiences and Rotations in Community Health

Student Testimonials – 2010

“The statistics were eye-opening and I worked with a much different population than I was used to. I had never had much experience with the underserved, so it helped guide me in understanding my patients’ situations and what guides their health care.”

Carmela Cataldo—an osteopathy student at Kansas City University of Medicine and Biosciences, College of Osteopathic Medicine—completed her rotation at Lawndale Christian Health Center.

“The clinic staff explained the community in detail, but SEARCH expanded this. The patient interview was particularly educational and added to my understanding of the community. I was reassured that high quality care is routinely practiced in underserved areas, and I also really enjoyed the positive attitude of the physicians and patients at my clinic.”

Leah Abrass—a medical student at Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine—completed her rotation at PCC Salud Community Wellness Center.

“I had an opportunity to attend provider meetings and it was great to witness how they brainstormed to address community needs.”

Alecia Jefferson—a NP student from Pennsylvania State University School of Nursing—completed her rotation at Chicago Family Health Center.

“The cultural assessment curriculum enhanced my skills. My patient was a Jehovah’s witness and because of the time invested in getting to know her, I will be much more knowledgeable and sensitive to other Jehovah’s witnesses. I also really enjoyed interacting with family doctors who are passionate about what they do.”

Eli Horn—a medical student at Loyola University Stritch School of Medicine—completed his rotation at PCC Lake Community Wellness Center.

“Exposure to the patient population helped me to understand the needs and challenges health care providers face to deliver high quality care.”

Komal Koya—an osteopathy student at the Chicago College of Osteopathic Medicine at Northwestern University—completed her rotation at a Community Health Partnership of Illinois clinic in Aurora.

“The most positive aspect of my SEARCH rotation was exposure to the community and actively assessing patients’ medical and economic needs, as well as observing the role that health centers have in the community.”

Brenda Lee—a medical student at University of California Irvine School of Medicine—completed her rotation at Lawndale Christian Health Center.

“My experience during SEARCH was a great one. Dr. Castillo, as well as everyone at Erie have been really helpful. I will continue working with Erie through a special curriculum my school provides, with two other students on a longitudinal community-based project.”

Celeste Cruz—a medical student at University of Illinois at Chicago—completed her SEARCH rotation at Erie Family Health Center.

“I had an amazing experience at my rotation. Dr. Yemm is very enthusiastic about teaching, so it made my rotation more enjoyable because he was always willing to answer questions when I was having trouble with a procedure or just curious about something. The staff were extremely pleasant to work with and they all seem to enjoy their jobs.”

Logan Bell—a dental student at UIC College of Dentistry—completed his rotation at Whiteside County Health Department and Community Health Center.

“The teaching on what community health centers are and how they are run was very helpful. In addition, all my preceptors talked about the ways they measured quality of care and continuous quality improvement.”

Elizabeth Miller-Jackson—a PA student at Northwestern University College of Health Sciences—completed her rotation at Lawndale Christian Health Center.

“It was hands down my favorite rotation of medical school thus far, and reinforced my commitment to work in a similar environment for residency and beyond.”

Mark Stoltenberg—a medical student at Loyola Stritch School of Medicine—completed his rotation at PCC Lake Community Wellness Center.