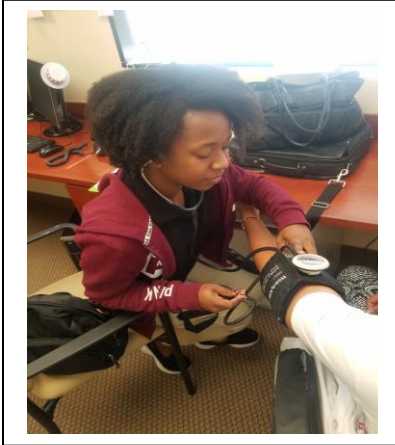


Tayana Rich

Aspiring Pathologist



As an AnnieRuth Foundation 2018 award recipient interested in the medical field, I had the opportunity to have three mentors: Dr. Barbel Johnson, Dr. Deborah Price, and Dr. Akilah Pope. My First two weeks were spent with Dr. Barbel Johnson and her research team at the family care branch. At this research facility I not only learned from Dr. Barbel Johnson, but also from all the other wonderful and intelligent women who work there. They taught me why researching drugs is so important and how they conduct research; which can sometimes carry on for up to 5 years! I helped with documenting information, storing drugs, and my personal favorite, preparing labs. The most important thing I

learned from being with this group of women is that I can do anything and to never let my fears stop me from achieving greatness.

My next two weeks were spent with Dr. Price, a Nephrologist who works at St. Vincents, Baptist, and Numerous dialysis centers around Jacksonville. Dr. Price taught me how high blood pressure, Diabetes, and Chronic Kidney Disease (CKD) are all intertwined. She also taught me the types of drugs that can help lower high blood pressure. I learned that there are signs of CKD including a high protein in urine, high Blood Urea Nitrogen, and a low Glomerular Filtration Rate that can help predict what stage the disease has progressed to. With Dr. Price I understood how the body systems interact with one another and that doctors need to be aware of those changes.

Finally, my last two weeks were spent with Dr. Pope, a Pediatrician for the Florida Department of Health in Duval County. Dr. Pope taught me that Pediatricians do much more than fill out physicals for sports; they are usually the first doctors we turn to and therefore the first line of care we receive. Dr. Pope also taught me about many different diseases, disorders, and viruses including Hypoplastic Left Heart Syndrome, Eczema and Asthma. I never knew that Pediatricians saw such a large array of patients with different needs and therefore need to have an in-depth understanding about all the body's systems.

As a result of being a 2018 award recipient, I have a higher confidence about my aspiration of becoming a Pathologist. I learned that I'd rather be in the back with the labs and microscopes as oppose to interacting with patients directly. I also learned that I like the wide variety of patients that Dr. Pope receives and becoming a pathologist will most definitely allow me to care for all types of diseases. I am thankful to the AnnieRuth Foundation for this experience; I feel comfortable with my decision to continue to pursue a career as a Pathologist. The mentors that I worked with this summer will follow me as I move on to the next phase in my life.