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The AnnieRuth Foundation was a beautiful experience that opened my eyes to things in the medical field that, before now, were unimaginable. Having never been in a medical environment, the information that both Dr. Lee and Dr. McCloud shared allowed me to understand what it truly means to be a physician. Rotating with two family practitioners for two weeks (each) was far more than I expected. They provided guidance and shared knowledge about different aspects of family medicine. They also provided personal insights on how they run their practices and informed me of reasons as to why they are doing well in the medical industry. Most importantly, they encouraged me and gave me impactful nuggets; one being to never give up on my dreams regardless of what obstacles may arise. Being with them has boosted my confidence and has reassured me that pursuing a career in medicine is the right career path for me.

During the first week of my internship experience with Dr. Lee, I was given an assessment which revealed that I was anti-social. This was no surprise to me but was somewhat of a challenge because as a physician, interacting with others, especially patients, is a must. This experience can be summarized as very drama-filled and exciting. Every day, there was something different that needed to be done; attending to the needs of patients, reviewing a medical case, starting a new project; there was always something interesting that had to be done. Both doctors ensured that I was actively involved, and not just sitting idle. I was assigned various tasks such as: reviewing treatment plans, reviewing prescriptions, conducting research, updating whiteboards, and interviewing medical students.

Another highlight of my experience was participating in the Summer Institute, a virtual experience hosted by the First Coast Black Nurses Association. During this learning experience, I interacted with a variety of medical professionals including a physical therapist, an epidemiologist and a registered nurse anesthetist; all three professions are rarely talked about but are extremely important to the medical field.

Being a 2021 Award Recipient afforded me the opportunity to have an experience of a lifetime; the experience enabled me to grow in many ways. I am now comfortable with initiating conversations with patients, asking questions of my peers and striking conversations with strangers in an elevator. This experience has inspired me, even moreso, to move forward with fulfilling my dreams of becoming a neurosurgeon. Thank you AnnieRuth for everything you all have offered me throughout my journey.