

## Sirivarsha Martha



My career aspiration is to become a doctor; my essay centered around my interest in becoming an endocrinologist. During my first rotation, I shadowed Dr. Deborah Price at ARA Arlington Dialysis (a private practice). I continued my internship experience at UF Health. At UF Health, I gained exposure to the real-life environment. Throughout my experience, I had a wonderful time. In both locations that I engaged in, the doctors were kind, caring, and welcomed students who are interested in their specialty.

At UF Health, I was assigned to the respiratory/pulmonology department. A few projects that I completed included the need to thoroughly ensure the ventilators were cleaned and provided to the correct rooms. I would also go to floors six through eight and determine which patients received a ventilator. Then, I would write down the room numbers and the point of contact for each room that was listed in a different packet that contained the details. With the assistance of the technician in the department, I would type the charges on the computer for each patient at the hospital. This strengthened my social skills when it was necessary for me to discuss any concerns or receive validation from others. Additionally, I would collect the Pulse Oximeters from the rooms and bring them to the respiratory department. Occasionally, I would also witness several bronchoscopies in the operating room and learn about the procedures required to take at the hospital.

The AnnieRuth Foundation's summer internship program was significant for understanding the point of view from an actual doctor, thus providing me the hands-on medical experience I needed to prepare me for the future. It gave me the confidence to know that I was meant to be in the medical field and can achieve the career I aspire to be through hard work and determination. Along with that life lesson, there were countless seminars with medical professionals presenting advice for us. Therefore, I'm thankful for this opportunity I received and relieved that other high schoolers can be a step closer to fulfilling their dreams in the same way I was able to.