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Mr. Speice

Independent Study and Mentorship- 3A

13 October 2017

Interview Assessment #1

Name of Professional: Dr. Lowell Ku

Profession/ Title: Reproductive Endocrinologist

Business/ Company name: Dallas IVF

Date of Interview: 11 October 2017

Assessment:

As I walked into my interview with Dr. Lowell Ku, I was excited to ask the complicated questions that are difficult to comprehend through a few online searches. The opportunity to receive personalized information and feedback from a professional is one to be taken quite seriously. Therefore, prior to my interview I looked over all of my questions and made notes on which ones I needed to prioritize.

The fellowship application process, subspecialization, and insurance coverage on fertility treatments are the main topics I wanted to receive more insight on from my interview. Luckily, Dr. Ku is an established physician who is more than qualified to explain all of these topics in great depth. I quickly discovered that even in the medical field, people are trying to make the most money with the smallest amount of effort possible. This is why Dermatology, for example, has become a highly sought after field, and why acceptance into a good residency program is becoming increasingly difficult. Similarly, a Reproductive Endocrinology fellowship is also

quite competitive, as the pay and lifestyle often exceed Obstetrics and Gynecology in income and quality, respectively. This part of my interview took me by a surprise because it made me realize that a lot of prospective physicians lack a true passion for medicine. However, I believe that I can use this fact as motivation, for I believe that I deserve to get accepted into a fellowship program more so than an individual with little to no passion. Although passion can take you far, it is not enough to meet all of your dreams. Therefore, I must put in the hard work in order to raise my qualifications up to the level of my passion for women's health. Prior to conducting my first interview, I was aware that a large issue within Reproductive Endocrinology was the lack of insurance coverage for fertility treatments. Insurance companies do not see children as a necessity, which is why fertility treatments are largely paid for out of pocket. However, Dr. Ku informed me that mandated coverage for some treatments is increasing, and many companies, such as Google and Facebook, are starting to cover these treatments as well. This was definitely a major highlight of my interview because it provided me with hope that more people can now begin to receive fertility assistance. It is heartbreaking to think of families that cannot grow due to the combination of infertility and financial issues.

A question that I had as I began my interview was "is subspecialization right for me?" Dr. Ku quickly answered this question by asking me whether or not I wanted to know a little bit about everything, or if I wanted to be more knowledgeable in one area. For me, I would easily choose the latter. Women's health captured my interest early on in life and has continued to do so over the years. Therefore, I know that true satisfaction with my career will come from the depth of knowledge I have in women's health. Furthermore, Dr. Ku offered many suggestions as to how I can expand my knowledge in women's health in the form of my original work and final

product. The idea that stood out to me the most was a survey and study of the physician preferences among patients. Many years ago, while he was still in medical school, Dr. Ku surveyed many women for the purposes of discovering whether or not they preferred a male doctor or a female doctor. The results showed that many women preferred female OB-GYNs, but would rather have a male fertility specialist. I found these results to be incredibly interesting, which is why I am now wondering if the results have changed or remained the same. As a result, I am now quite positive about pursuing this study for my original work, while saving the actual scientific research into why the results appeared as they did for my final product. I am hoping to write some sort of scientific article, similar to those found in highly acclaimed medical journals, for this final product as well.

My understanding of the field of Reproductive Endocrinology has greatly increased after my interview with Dr. Ku. Not only did I receive further confirmation that subspecialization is right for me, but I also grasped a better understanding of complicated topics that are not spelled out in academic journals in layman's terms. However, my biggest take away from my time with Dr. Ku was a clearer vision on where I am headed for my original work and final product. With my mind set on recreating a survey done over 20 years ago, I am now able to gear my research towards these past studies and different factors that could result in similar or different results. Now, as I continue my ISM journey and conduct more interviews, I am much more aware of what my end goals are and the questions I need to look into in order to get there.