

Niku Tabatabai

Mr. Speice

Independent Study and Mentorship- 3A

20 October 2017

Interview Assessment #2

Name of Professional: Dr. Marius Meintjes

Profession/ Title: Reproductive Endocrinologist

Business/ Company name: Frisco Institute for Reproductive Medicine

Date of Interview: 17 October 2017

Assessment:

My interview with Dr. Meintjes was definitely the most excited I have been in ISM for a while. His impressive background, schooling, and expertise in the field would most definitely make him an incredible mentor. I was anxious walking into the interview, for I was hoping to make a great first impression that would make such an established and successful individual want to mentor and guide me through the ISM 2 program.

Prior to my interview, I had learned that Dr. Meintjes had received his bachelor's, master's, medical, and doctorate degrees. Also, he is one of the top three in his field across the nation. Therefore, going into this interview I truly wanted to learn more about how he got to where he is. I quickly discovered that his passions have directed him in life, for he started as a veterinarian in South Africa and helped work to save endangered species. From there he gradually migrated to human patients when he moved to America and has served as the director of the ARTS program at Texas Health Presbyterian Hospital in Plano and Dallas. He now owns

his own laboratory and practice in Frisco. His passion for saving the wild and endangered species in Africa has translated into a magnificent career in helping humans as well. Now I more clearly understand why many physicians decide to subspecialize. Focusing in one one area you feel strongly about provides you with the opportunity to become the best in that field and constantly grow in that one area. This especially interests me, for I hope to live a life of meaning that allows me to use the knowledge I have garnered in order to help a family that needs it. Dr. Meintjes, however, also cautioned me to keep my eyes open in order to avoid getting tunnel vision when pursuing medicine. I strongly agree with this statement, for I spent my year in ISM 1 learning and researching about Obstetrics and Gynecology. I had always been certain that Obstetrics and Gynecology was the right field for me, but I soon discovered certain aspects that I did not like and found the resolutions in Reproductive Endocrinology. Therefore, my philosophy in life has now become: keep your eyes on the prize, but also do not forget to take a look around.

My original work and final product are much more of a priority for me this year in ISM 2 than they were in ISM 1. Therefore, when starting my interviews, it was important to me to find a Reproductive Endocrinologist that would be willing to guide me and who would potentially be able to provide me with some resources. Dr. Meintjes is quite experienced in the presentation realm, for he travels frequently to national and international conventions for speaking engagements. This experience could assist me in my presentations and possibly be a source of inspiration for my final product. Furthermore, Dr. Meintjes is the owner of his laboratory, which means I could potentially use it to conduct my own research or actually watch certain procedures being done. Overall, I knew what I wanted this year and I was not going to stop until I got it. At the end of my interview I decided to ask Dr. Meintjes if he would be interested in serving as my

mentor, which he quickly agreed to. In the end, the highlight of my entire interview was when he quickly agreed to serving as my mentor because of his belief in always remembering where you came from. This was quite inspiring because I hope to reach a level in my career one day where students would want to come and learn from me. Of course I could turn them down and allow my busy schedule get in the way, but there is something special about assisting another person in reaching their full potential. I have now discovered that this is another motivating factor for me to learn as much as I can at this point in my life, so I can continue to exceed in the career I choose to pursue.

My search for a mentor has come to a swift end, which is exciting because I can now direct my attention onto my original work and the interviews I will need in order to make my product into a reality. Initially, I had been quite certain on what survey I wanted to conduct for my original work. However, I would like to just take a step back and discuss this topic more with Dr. Meintjes in order to receive some new ideas and options. Also, I would just like to further discuss my current idea of conducting a survey that explores the changes in physician preferences with Dr. Meintjes. No matter what my original work and final product end up as, I know that I will be successful because I have a mentor that not only has the knowledge, but also is so incredibly passionate about students.