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Independent Study and Mentorship- 3A

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### Childbearing Patterns

### Original Work Proposal

Research conducted through academic articles and interviews with professionals are essential to the learning process of ISM students. However, the original work allows students to synthesize their own research and take their learning to an elevated level. Therefore, I have found it essential in my study of Reproductive Endocrinology to create an original work that allows me to conduct my own research and combine that with pre-existing studies. This will allow me to analyze the information I have found and create a general consensus about women's health patients in developing countries.

The longstanding problem for couples who struggle with infertility is that they believe that their problem is rare and that they are alone. However, this is not the case whatsoever. Since reproductive issues are so personal, many females and couples do not openly share their hardships. The impacts of this are especially influential to those living in developing countries, such as Africa, India, and the Middle East. This pattern with infertility has inspired me to delve deeper into just how common female infertility is in my community and across the world. My goal with my original work is to extrapolate information from my own study that will allow me to make some general observations about patient trends. Furthermore, my main objective is compare the online research to my own survey in order to see if customs in those developing

countries carry over to those living in the United States and developed countries in general. I hope to further my research by delving into the reasons for my results, which can be studied through information about age, ethnicity, and religion. Overall, the essential question that I am aiming to answer with my multi-stepped research is whether or not cultural factors have an impact childbearing patterns of people living in all parts of the world. In the end, I will be able to compare all of the information that I have collected with further online research on different cultural backgrounds to garner an explanation for my survey results.

Unlike my original work from ISM 1, this year I will have to utilize higher level thinking by conducting a survey with many parts and then sitting down to analyze the meaning of each component. My original work will begin with me creating a physical survey with many columns. The titles will ask: “What is your age? What is your ethnicity? What is your religion? Is having a son important to you? Do you feel pressure from family or your culture to have a son?” Once this survey is complete, it will be up to me to travel throughout the Frisco area and talk to women of all ages and ethnicities. A possible problem with this survey may be that the questions are quite personal. However, in order to make my results as accurate as possible, I will warn the individuals I speak to beforehand and inform them on the personal nature of the questions and that no names will be written down. Once I have gathered my results, I will go back to analyze the information by each column and compare them back to pressure from culture and family. For example, I will start by looking at age and divide the results into those who feel pressure and those who do not. The majority I count in each category will serve as the basis for the online research I will conduct. The many parts to this survey are what require higher level thinking when it comes to making general statements about the results. In the end, my own research,

along with the information I find from trusted online sources, will be written about in a paper that I will turn in for my original work itself.

Through the time I have spent studying Reproductive Endocrinology thus far, I have come to realize that cultural factors have a large impact on infertility businesses. However, I have not yet seen much research into the reasons for these trends, which is why this original work idea appeals to me. Through this original work I hope to gain a better overall understanding of cultural impacts on childbearing and how factors, such as religion, can influence this. Another key aspect of this work is that it entails online research and me synthesizing my own research. Overall, my work will satisfy all of the original work requirements, for it requires extensive research; critical thinking skills to extrapolate a deeper meaning from the results; and a conclusion to be made from the analyzed research. Furthermore, the creative part of this work is that it requires me to put myself out into the community and speak to a multitude of individuals, which will create a large sample size for the survey. Lastly, the results will be especially beneficial to aspiring physicians who are looking to have the most successful practice possible, which may need a certain level of cultural understanding.