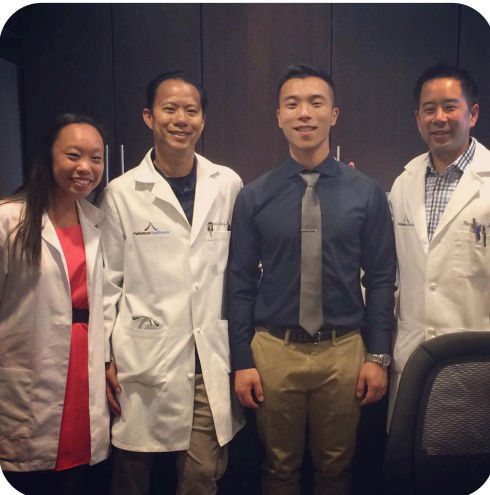


Preceptorship 2015

“Heal the sick who are there and tell them, ‘the Kingdom of God is near you’” - Luke 10:9

Training

Each day began with morning prayer and praise, followed by lectures covering aspects of spiritual care. We learned how to hold a spiritual conversation with a patient and how to ethically share the gospel using bible verses or tracts. We practiced these skills during weekly visits to Loma Linda University Medical Center, where we conducted spiritual interviews to learn about patients’ hopes, fears and sources of strength. Over time, we honed our skills in spiritual assessment by asking open-ended questions, listening well to patients’ stories, praying with them, sharing testimonies, and explaining the Gospel when applicable, all while respecting patient privacy and autonomy.



Shadowing

Shadowing Christian physicians each week showed us how healthcare professionals assess and address the spiritual needs of patients in their own private clinics. Often, patients had emotional and spiritual wounds extending beyond their physical ailments, leading the provider to pray with the patient, encourage them with scripture or occasionally share the Gospel. These doctors worked in a variety of specialties, including family practice, pediatrics, sports medicine, neurology, and internal medicine. This enabled us to envision how we could one day implement spiritual care into our own unique practices.

Community

Throughout the week, we had support from mentors and small groups. Mentors met with us one-on-one to check in and guide our spiritual walks. Small groups provided safe spaces for discussing life and fostering authentic relationships. These sources of community empowered us to go out each day and share our love of Christ with others through our practice of whole person care.



"The most important thing that this trip has taught me is to step out in faith, pray for patients and trust in God" – Hannah O.



"We visited one young man who had been in the hospital a week with an undiagnosed illness. He told us that he was seeking a deeper relationship with God, and we were able to share the "Knowing God Personally" tract with him. As we left, we got his permission to write Isaiah 41:10 on his whiteboard: 'Fear not, for I am with you; Be not dismayed, for I am your God.'" – Brandon H.

"While we were visiting a patient in bed A, the B bed patient kept saying, 'Excuse me, excuse me, I want to hear.' When I went over, she was in a lot of pain and said she was struggling in her faith because of it. I was able to encourage her with the fact that Jesus knows exactly how she feels. She asked for guidance in how to pray, and we were able to walk her through that using Romans 8:26: 'For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.'" - Kathryn L.



"The patient we visited was very upset and was questioning how anyone could relate to her struggles. I was able to share my own personal story and the patient was able to connect and relate with what I was saying. We ended up praying together and she was so thankful that we were willing to spend the time to talk to her." – Brandon H.



"It is such a joy to be surrounded by like-minded believers and guided by such spiritually strong adult leaders that are in healthcare fields and in Cru." – Katie M.



"My patient interactions have made me realize how greatly people need and desire hope while in the hospital; I have hope to offer patients, not just as a fellow woman or nurse, but as the hands and feet of Jesus Christ." - KC.S