

MEDICAL STRATEGIC NETWORK WHOLE PERSON CARE PRECEPTORSHIP

CONNECTING WITH PATIENTS

Throughout the preceptorship, students learned how to take a patient's spiritual history in order to better care for emotional, mental, and spiritual needs. Haley Hagopian (Medical Student, Northwestern University) and Andrew Lew (Medical Student, William Carey University) were practicing this in a conversation with a patient. The patient started off by saying she was on a spiritual journey, but didn't identify with a specific religion. They got to know the patient more and asked, "What resources would be helpful for you on this journey?" To their surprise, the patient responded, "a Bible." Haley happened to have her personal Bible in her pocket. She gifted it to the patient, pointing out the Gospel of John. The patient expressed how she was lonely and did not have much support, so Haley asked the patient if it would be helpful to hear about her faith. Upon the patient's consent, Haley and Andrew took the time to share how Jesus had worked in their lives. This experience was highly impactful to the patient, Andrew, and Haley.



"THE SUMMER
THAT LASTS A
LIFETIME."

THE POWER OF A TESTIMONY

During my time at the hospital, I learned that as a physician, my own spiritual journey can be used to minister to my patients. After asking if it would be helpful to share a story of loss from my life, I saw a patient come to recognize how God meets us where we are and that a relationship with Him is the only sure thing in this world. After sharing my story, the patient opened up and shared his struggle with viewing his cancer as punishment from God. This revealed the true lament of his soul and his need for spiritual care during that visit. Through my testimony and truth from scripture, I was able to encourage the patient with the reminder that God is faithful to forgive when we repent and confess and that God will always be with us, because He loved first (1 John 4:10).

-Stephanie, Medical Student, Northwestern University





PERSONAL GROWTH WITH GOD

From small group meetings to testimony workshops and prayer/worship sessions, there were many opportunities for personal growth during the preceptorship. Andrew Lew (medical student, William Carey University) found that spending time in this community of Christian students and leaders helped him feel loved and accepted despite some unique aspects of his personal background and faith journey. He now feels encouraged to find a more regular Christian fellowship to be a part of during the school year. He is starting to learn how to apply the principles of spiritual care to his own life. Jordan Whittles (medical student, Loma Linda University) did not think that he would end up at the preceptorship this summer, expecting to use the time for research instead. However, he believes this is where God really wanted him to be in the end, and he saw God open his heart to a time of community building, rest from school, and forming a better understanding of his relationships with God and his future patients.

GETTING TO KNOW ANA RUIZ

WHERE DO YOU ATTEND SCHOOL?

Bayamon Central University in Bayamon, Puerto Rico

WHAT DO YOU HOPE TO DO AFTER SCHOOL?

After I graduate, I hope to find a job in nursing where I can incorporate spiritual care into my practice. I also want to continue ministering at my church and work as a translator of American Sign Language. God is leading me to serve Him through working in the children's ministry and global mission.

HOW WILL THIS PRECEPTORSHIP IMPACT HOW YOU CARE FOR PATIENTS?

Before I came to the WPCP, I was worried about the ethics of spiritual care. I have learned that spiritual care is both legal and essential to providing whole person care. Throughout the preceptorship, I have had the opportunity to participate in practicums and spend time on the wards. These experiences have taught me how to effectively provide spiritual care, and I have grown in confidence and skill. I have learned that spiritual care comes from God and is led by the Holy Spirit. One day, I hope to incorporate spiritual care into my practice.

