

Interview Assessment #1

Name of Professional: Ellie Huff

Profession/Title: Corporate Director of Cardiovascular Services

Business/Company name: Baylor Scott & White

Date of Interview: 27 September 2017

My first interview was conducted with Eleanor “Ellie” Huff, the corporate director of cardiovascular services at Baylor Scott & White in Dallas. Since this was my first interview, I was not sure what to expect. Going into the interview, I knew that Ms. Huff was not a surgeon but I hoped to gain some fundamental knowledge of the cardiovascular field and learn more about the hospital environment. Throughout the whole interview, I did not ask a single one of my prepared questions. Ms. Huff and Ms. Mallari (who I also spoke to) had everything prepared for me from pamphlets, informational booklets, and business cards, to tours of the hospital. Their preparation for the interview was greatly appreciated and proved to be a more educational experience than it would’ve been if I had asked my questions since their careers differ from those of cardiovascular surgeons.

From this interview, I learned about a whole new aspect of healthcare that I had not even thought to exist: Administration. I was introduced to what goes on behind the scenes at a hospital. Before this interview, I was only focused on surgery because I believed that was the best and “only” successful pathway I could embark on. Now, having been taught about the administrative aspect of healthcare, I have realized that there are more ways to help patients beyond the common doctor/patient interactions. The introduction of this possible career path has led me to question my desire to become a surgeon. One of the things I was told during my interview was that many surgeons and physicians come out of medical school with hundreds of thousands of dollars of debt and that this mass amount of debt leaves them feeling pressured to start paying it off immediately after graduating. I was aware of the vast amount of schooling I would have to go through to be a surgeon but the emotional toll of such financial stress never occurred to me. While this unfortunate information did not steer me away from wanting to go into healthcare, it did make me question if being a surgeon was the right career path for me.

Along with introducing me to health care administration, Ms. Huff provided me with advice about my future as a healthcare professional: In addition to the higher level classes and test scores that I am focusing on, I will need to get involved with volunteering in the healthcare field. She recommended volunteering at Baylor during the summer or even just at a local clinic to familiarize myself with the environment and be able to put that activity on my college application/resume.

This interview was a very enlightening experience and provided as a very good introduction into the informational interview process. After the first couple minutes of the interview, I felt more relaxed in the professional setting and began to make comments more frequently. I am very glad with the overall success of this interview and I hope to only improve and enhance my professional conduct from here on out.