

### Mentor Visit Assessment #3

**Topic:** First meeting with Dr. Aldo Rafael

**Date:** November 29, 2018

This past Thursday, I had the opportunity to meet with Dr. Aldo Rafael and my mentor, Ellie, to discuss the possibility of me assuming the role of project manager of the Peru medical mission trip that will be taking place in March. Going in to the meeting, I was not really sure what to expect since all of my interactions with Dr. Rafael beforehand had been over email and I had never been in an “interview” setting like this before. While the meeting was not a formal interview and I was not going to be asked typical interview questions, I knew that I was going to need to make a good first impression and, in essence, pitch myself to Dr. Rafael.

In preparation for the meeting, I wasn't told to bring anything but I printed out a copy of my resume along with the final summarizing presentation that I made of last year's trip just so that I could refresh his memory on what I have done in the past for the trip. After only a few seconds of sitting in Dr. Rafael's office with him, I knew that throughout the duration of this project, if granted the opportunity, would be absolutely life changing. He was very welcoming- despite me being a high school student with very little professional experience- and was absolutely on board with adding me to his team. Ellie had told ahead of time that he usually handles all of the logistics himself so my assistance will be a big help to him in any capacity.

Throughout the meeting, Ellie handled most of the talking after our introductions because she is much more well versed in the area of project planning and management than I am. She knew which questions to ask as well as how to keep the conversations geared towards what we came to talk about because a surgeon's time is precious. As Ellie and Dr. Rafael were talking back and forth, I was furiously taking notes and learning so much throughout every minute of the meeting.

By the end of our hour together, I got Dr. Rafael's blessing to go on the trip with them and I was given a long list of action items to get started on in regards to planning the trip. In addition to making a cohesive “trip booklet” for all the team members to have while in Peru, I will also be in charge of tracking donations, inventory, finances, deadlines, fundraisers, social media presence, and the exchange of the documents needed to facilitate the trip abroad. Along with getting lots of real-world experience in the field of healthcare administration and what it means to work alongside surgeons, I will also get to dive head first into the field of public health in third world areas. I will have the opportunity to interact with the Peruvian government, healthcare facilities, patients, and hospital employees to get a full feel for what it is actually like to deliver sophisticated healthcare to an area that deeply needs it.

I am extremely excited for this opportunity and I cannot wait to see how this project will change my life. While there are lots of things I am not sure about in regards to project planning and learning how to be on my own without Ellie by my side, this will be an amazing growing experience, both professionally and as a young adult. I welcome the challenges that will be thrown my way and I aim to succeed in exceeding my expectations as well as those of the professionals around me.