

Hanna-Mary Cook

Mr. Speice

Independent Study and Mentorship - 3A

28 September 2018

Assessment 4

Name of Professional: Dr. Wrenn Wooten

Profession/Title: Diagnostic Radiologist

Business/Company name: Medical City Plano (Texas Radiology Associates)

Date of Interview: September 20th, 2018

Assessment:

Prior to my first interview this year, I was much more nervous than I remember being before my first interview last year. I felt as if I was not yet knowledgeable enough about diagnostic radiology to carry on a conversation with a professional. Despite these concerns, the interview went very well.

After arriving at Medical City Plano, I was directed to the radiology department reading room, where Dr. Wooten spends most of his day interpreting images and writing reports. The interview began with me asking Dr. Wooten the interview questions that I had prepared. The first question was about the tasks that Dr. Wooten completes on a normal day. He said that he reads x ray, CT, ultrasound, and MRI images and completes several smaller interventional procedures each day. Examples of some of the procedures that he performs include contrast imaging, spinal taps, and fluid drains. He said that some

radiologists also complete catheterizations, but he prefers not to. The diagnostic side of Dr. Wooten's day sounds far more interesting to me than the interventional procedures that he performs and I would prefer to spend most of the day reading images myself. On the other hand, it does not sound very appealing to spend almost the entirety of the day in a dark room without many other doctors or people to interact with.

After discussing the typical layout of Dr. Wooten's day, he answered the question about his favorite part of being a radiologist. He quickly and confidently said that his favorite part of diagnostic radiology is the intellectual challenge. Interpreting images is difficult due to the provision of little information that helps the radiologist to recognize the diagnosis, and he enjoys seeing hundreds of images each day that are all unique. The intellectual challenge of radiology is likely why it takes years and years of training and practice before a doctor is allowed to read images on their own. Dr. Wooten also said that radiologists must have good concentration, be able to recognize spatial relations and see in 3D, and be good at problem solving. After listening to Dr. Wooten talk about the skills that are used the most by a diagnostic radiologist, I feel confident in my choice to study diagnostic radiology because I feel that I possess those skills and would enjoy putting them to use on a daily basis. Problem solving particularly fits my personality well.

One really interesting thing that Dr. Wooten shared with me about radiology was the somewhat recent switch from slides containing about 100 images per scan to video-like moving scans containing thousands of images. This shift shortened the amount of time that radiologists spend looking at each patient's scan, enabling them to look at more scans each day. It also likely made it more difficult to detect an abnormality in an image though since the images are moving quickly instead of standing still to be observed.

At the end of the interview, Dr. Wooten gave a tour of the radiology department at Medical City Plano and offered to pass along my contact information to his colleagues with Texas Radiology Associates. This should be very helpful in scheduling future interviews and establishing more contacts in radiology.

Overall, my first informational interview this year was a great way to learn more about diagnostic radiology and make connections with radiologists who can pass along my contact information to help schedule more interviews.