

## Assessment 18

For the Independent Study and Mentorship course, I have been working on finding a mentor to aid in my Dermatology studies. Luckily, after conducting a lengthy amount of interviews I secured a professional to shadow. For some context, Beth Palazzetti is a PA-C at Southlake Dermatology. She is a graduate of Texas A&M where she received her Bachelor's degree in Biomedical Science. After this, she received a Bachelor of Science in Physician Assistant Studies from the University of Texas Medical Branch in Galveston. She placed in the top 3% of the nation on the Physician Assistant National Certifying Exam (PANCE), receiving special recognition in both primary care and surgery. Prior to becoming employed at Southlake Dermatology, Beth Palazzetti worked as a PA-C with a large dermatology group in Tyler, Texas.

After completing the Independent Study and Mentorship Background Check, I was finally able to set up a mentor visit. A mentor visit essentially is a time where a student is enabled to meet with their mentor during school hours (usually at their place of employment). Students typically follow what they do in a day-to-day setting. In a Dermatology context, this is typically consultations and small treatments since surgeries are scheduled in advance. For my first experience, I was a little nervous but excited to gain more insight on what it truly takes to be a PA-C and if I should follow through on the career path as a whole. I arrived at her office at about 10:00 and met all of the staff (this included the nurses and other PA-C's). The environment these professionals created for me was so welcoming and I was really thankful they were all willing to treat me as an adult. After this, I met with Mrs. Palazzetti and caught up with her a bit regarding my studies and progress on my Final Work. I went into depth regarding how I was planning on writing a proposal that addressed how dermatological products need to become more inclusive for darker skin complexions. She agreed with my assessment and also suggested that I discuss how racially diverse individuals need more representation in Dermatology because many are under the belief that they are immune to certain skin disorders (specifically skin cancer). I was also able to ask for input from other

PA-C's and they believed my idea was extremely well-thought and would make for an effective Final Work.

In addition to this, I was able to watch Mrs. Palazzetti consult with patients and prescribe them medication. The most interesting thing to watch was the extraction of a large cyst on a patient's groin. It was so impressive to watch Mrs. Palazzetti interact with her patients as she had an excellent bedside manner and was empathetic towards their issues. Between her scheduled appointments, she gave me her Dermatology textbooks to read. She wanted me to become more knowledgeable on basic terminology so I can avoid confusion. I left the office at about 12:30 and returned to school. I am really looking forward to my next visit and am hoping to view some surgeries.