<div align="center">**Research Assessment #10**</div>

Date: November 5, 2021

Subject: Research Interview

Assessment:

      As the Independent Study and Mentorship program has progressed, I have been able to conduct secondary research on basic dermatological knowledge such as skin diseases, subspecialties of Dermatology, technological innovations, etc. Though this information has been helpful in deepening my understanding regarding the occupation, conducting primary research allows an individual to create connections and gain a first-hand perspective of a professional. In the Independent Study and Mentorship program, students conduct primary research by interviewing individuals of their choice within their field to discuss a variety of topics and ultimately be offered advice/clarity.

      As of right now, I have conducted two interviews (one of these I will be discussing in this assessment). Recently, I had the opportunity to have an in-depth discussion with Patrice Simon. For context, Patrice Simon is a certified physician's assistant at Legacy Dermatology and Restoration Center in Frisco, Texas. In regard to her education, she received her Bachelor of Science at the University of Texas Southwestern Allied Health Science Center in 2003. After this, she attended Duke University and received her Master of Science in 2008. My primary objective during this interview was to gain an idea of what my Original Work/Final Work should target. In addition, I wanted to learn how the requirements of a physician's assistant differ from those of an actual board-certified dermatologist.

      Based on the details provided in the interview, PA Simon informed me that the majority of the patient population are those that have acne and are looking for a sufficient regiment to integrate into their daily routine (this is commonly seen in adolescents). She described this as the most common issue she typically sees in practice. Furthermore, she discussed how patients nowadays are looking for alternative

medicine instead of what professionals are actually prescribing. This is one of the difficulties she commonly experiences as patients do not want to follow treatment protocol at times and use products that are not backed by data. An example of this can be vitamins as they are more "natural" and "healthy."

As a physician's assistant, her typical routine is seeing patients and going through charts/test results from pathology. In regard to the difference between a PA's requirements compared to a Dermatologist, the primary physician dictates the PA with stuff in their comfort level. Skill wise, PA's have the same capabilities (it just depends on what their employer allows them to do in their practice). When asked what possible innovation she would like to create in the future, Simon describes wanting people of color to be more aware of dermatological issues. She states that people of color commonly make the assumption of skin cancer not being a possibility and only go in to a dermatologist if there is a major issue. To further this idea, Simon is looking to possibly create more sunscreens for these individuals as the current products are not compatible with their skin tone.

Patrice Simon started in Pediatrics after finishing PA school though she moved to Dermatology because she felt as if it was more interesting and it fulfilled her natural curiosity. She describes Dermatology as constantly evolving meaning that being creative is extremely important as treatment options are not consistent with all patients (the skin is one of the most unpredictable organs and it is interconnected with many other bodily functions). When asked if she would switch her profession if given the opportunity, she responded that she would go into the reading/writing route. She discusses how she dabbles in creative writing and has always been interested in it. Furthermore, she speaks on how she enjoys story-telling. In high school, she wrote for the school newspaper (however she was always encouraged to go into medicine based on her ability in math and science in her collective academic career).