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### Margolis Center Reflection Blog

This summer I had the incredible opportunity to work in the Margolis Center for Health Policy as an intern. My research involved conducting and transcribing interviews with child maltreatment experts and emergency department physicians about how electronic medical record (EMR) based strategies could be used to identify child maltreatment. This research hopes to address the problem of missed child abuse cases in medical settings. At the beginning of the summer, it was exciting to explore a research topic of which I had no prior knowledge. Reading the literature about medical interventions to identify child maltreatment and analyzing information from some of the first interviews we conducted provided me with insight that helped to foster an interest in a new subject. It was this passion that provided the base for an incredible summer experience.

One of the few concerns I had entering this summer was that my first experience with research in college was going to take place remotely. I worried that it would be challenging to communicate with the other individuals on the research team and that it would be difficult to complete the work. However, these concerns quickly disappeared as I began to interact with my mentors: Dr. Beth Gifford and Dr. Megan Golonka. Throughout the process, they were extremely supportive and created an atmosphere in which it was easy for everyone on the team to engage virtually with the research. Frequent Zoom meetings helped to bridge the gap created by virtual workspaces. Working with my mentors was an incredible experience; one of the things I will take away from working with them was their attitude towards collaboration. They always asked for and listened to advice given by

undergraduates on the team which is something I appreciated. The virtual aspect of research this summer did not impede my ability to connect with others and successfully work on research.

The research I conducted this summer helped me to solidify my decision to continue on the pre-med track during my time at Duke. For this research project, the majority of the individuals we interviewed were physicians, so during these interviews I was able to listen and learn about the different medical settings these physicians work in and how they are working to improve care in their hospitals as it relates to the identification of child maltreatment. It was fascinating to hear the passion they have for their profession and the effort they put forth to make a positive impact. Most importantly, it was amazing to hear how some of these physicians are physician-scientists who are able to combine their love for research and a desire to interact with patients in a harmonious way. Their careers and passion give me tremendous hope about my future career path and research I could potentially conduct as a physician.

One of the reasons I was interested in an experience involved with the Margolis Center was because I wanted to learn more about health policy. Recently, I have had the desire to learn more about the healthcare system in the United States and discover more about health policy and the effects it has on our society. Even though the research I conducted did not directly correlate with health policy, I still had the opportunity to delve deeper into health policy by attending Journal Club. Journal Club was one of the most rewarding aspects of this internship experience because of how much knowledge I was able to acquire about a breadth of subjects related to healthcare. Being able to read and later discuss some of the

most influential articles related to health policy on a weekly basis helped me grasp some of the major topics of health policy. My own group's presentation in Journal Club helped me to gain a deeper understanding of issues I did not know much about like the importance of community health workers and how evidence-based care could help to improve and standardize care for patients. Additionally, Journal Club helped me develop the necessary skills to interpret scientific articles. Journal Club showed me the importance of health policy, and it helped me gain a personal appreciation and interest in this subject.

Interning at the Margolis Center was unlike any learning experience I have had in my educational career thus far. My first year at Duke was mainly filled with introductory courses in a variety of subjects that provided general knowledge, so it was refreshing to dive into engaging and interesting research this summer. This experience was the epitome of hands-on learning, and it challenged me to learn quickly and think in different ways. Attending Margolis Seminars, I became hyper-aware of the extremely important and relevant work that is being conducted at the Margolis Center specifically as it pertains to Covid-19. As an intern at the Margolis Center this summer, not only was I able to conduct research that I was passionate about, but also I was able to have a deeper understanding of my own potential career path, develop new interests, and learn more about health policy.