

Interning at Rutgers Cancer Institute of New Jersey

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Introduction

- Rutgers Cancer Institute of New Jersey is a cancer treatment and research institute. It was opened in 1991.
- At Rutgers CINJ, Dr. Manne and her team conduct several studies that aim to assist cancer patients and/or survivors
- Many of these studies help cancer patients with managing their health, during and after treatment.

Objective of Internship

I wanted to gain a better understanding about healthcare system. Further, I hoped that I would be able to prepare for career in healthcare field through experience and learning during the summer. I am interested in oncology and hoped to see and learn about a different side of helping cancer patients (compared to a clinical setting). I also wanted to see how behavioral research is conducted (the brainstorming process and how researchers bring them to actualization).

Work Profile

- Edited and created module content through literature searches, online research, and making graphic designs.
- Assisted with patient/physician data entry and sending gift cards for participation. I also ensured data was correct/updated.

Reflections

Figure 1. Team meeting (for one of our members' baby shower)



- I learned a lot about patient care through my work and involvement in the research studies conducted by Dr. Manne and her team. I especially learned a lot about post-treatment and survivorship experiences and difficulties.

- This internship also showed me the many different aspects of behavioral research as well as the complexities to consider while designing a study. I saw a variety of stages (designing/preparing studies, conducting them, etc) between the multiple studies I was involved in.
- I also worked with a great team and enjoyed working with them. Although I was new to this type of research, they guided me and helped me during the summer. I learned a lot from them and they were fun and great to talk with.

Figure 2. Working from home



- I am grateful that the internship was able to adapt and work out despite the sudden change to a remote environment. I was able to still help a lot, gain new skills and experience, and had a great time.

Looking Ahead

Working in behavioral research was a new experience for me and I definitely raised my awareness of a lot of problems and difficulties many cancer survivors face. I hope to use the experience and knowledge I've gained when assisting people and providing health care in the future.

Questions

One of the studies I was helping with was focused on helping cancer survivors who did not have access to proper survivorship resources. I am curious to see how different socioeconomic statuses affect the access to this new program that Dr. Manne's office spearheaded.

Conclusion

Although working in a virtual/remote internship setting had its difficulties, I still gained a lot of valuable knowledge and experience by being a part of this program. It was a fulfilling internship and I would recommend the program to others interested in health care, cancer, and/or behavioral research.

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