Reflection
The department was a prime example of how practice, research, and teaching can support and enhance each other as a means of delivering care. During one particularly illuminating stretch of my internship, we evaluated a newborn in consultation to determine that he had Hirschsprung’s Disease. Several days later, I participated in his surgery, using a new technique that had been developed by the department. Over the following weeks, I helped to write and translate an article that reported the great success that the team had observed using their new surgical technique. I feel particularly lucky to have worked in a department that not only does meaningful research but also translates its findings into results for patients, particularly those in need of public assistance, including a significant number of refugees who would otherwise never have received adequate care. Working with a diverse group of doctors and patients provided a great perspective on universal standards of care.

Future Plans
I have always been interested in surgery, but this summer completely changed my mind about pediatrics, the field in which I now want to work!

Questions
• How does pursuing a pediatric specialty present both opportunities and challenges for doctors?
• Within the U.S. healthcare system, how can pediatric surgeons work to transition patients into adulthood?

Conclusion
Pediatric surgeons epitomize the science, art, and humanism of medicine: they must possess the knowledge, technical skill, and temperament to provide care (to child and parent) that will last a lifetime.

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