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Mr. Speice

ISM I

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## The First Interview of my Life

### Assessment 6 - Interview

**Name of Professional:** Dr. Christine Chen

**Title:** Program Director, Integrated Interventional Radiology and Independent Interventional Radiology Residencies, Assistant Professor

**Company:** UT Southwestern

**Date of Interview:** 10/26/20

**Works Cited:**

Jung, Nathan, and Christine Chen. "Informational Interview." 26 Oct. 2020.

**Assessment:**

This was the first informational interview conducted by me this year. It was set up by email and Dr. Christine Chen of UT Southwestern was very responsive and helpful. This interview was extremely informative and overall a wonderful experience. I got lots of good information and experience out of it.

The main goals of this interview was to get a basic understanding of the daily life of a radiologist, since this field of knowledge was essentially empty up until this interview, to ask questions about the original work project idea, and to learn more about premed, medical school,

and residency. All of these goals were successfully completed. As for the first goal, which was to gain a basic understanding of the daily life of a radiologist, she was very open, detailed, and responsive in her responses to my questions on this topic. She gave me a day-by-day breakdown of specific procedures that she commonly conducts and how much time she spends conducting procedures, interacting with patients, and analyzing medical imaging. I also learned that although she does not spend much time dealing with interventional oncology in the tumor ward, other I.R.'s do, which was encouraging to hear since that is a topic that I am interested in working a lot with. For each simple question that I asked, she gave a lengthy and detailed response that was extremely informative. It provided information that I can use when conducting my original work project, conducting future research, or conducting interactions with other professionals. I was able to ask quality questions and get quality answers. This interview provided an incredible learning opportunity that was successfully taken advantage of through the use of good questions and receiving good answers with great notes. When I asked about my original work idea, she recommended that my 'placeholder arm' be placed on the operating table instead of fixed to the ground due to the fact that they move the table around a lot. This was extremely informative and helpful because I never would have known that and the original work project would not have maximized its potential in being useful in the field, which was the ultimate goal of the project. Additionally, she said that this idea could be used to help with really any procedure since the techniques that the radiologists use are pretty similar for each procedure. She did mention drain placement procedures as a possible procedure to hone in on when researching procedures to make this idea benefit. This information can be used to guide further research for the original work project. Furthermore, she gave lots of great tips for premed, medical school, and residency. She mentioned to maximize the range of experiences offered in undergrad in order to gain as

many non-science exposures as possible so that I can relate with my future patients better in the future, which apparently is critical for the interventional radiology field. She recommended a non-science major if it is interesting to me since it will achieve that goal in expanding horizons. That will help guide the future decision on a major and future research into different fields to study right now. Additionally, she mentioned to explore all possibilities for specialties before narrowing down to a specific one. This will help guide my future studies into different fields now that I know I should explore all of them. Therefore, this interview overall accomplished all of the preset goals for it.

Additionally, another goal for this assessment was to reflect on how this interview affected my perspective and emotions. Some highlights of the interview were when Dr. Chen went into a really long and informative answer to a question because I felt like I asked a good question then since she was providing such quality answers. Those responses provided an extremely large amount of information that was completely unexpected going into this interview. Overall, my nervousness came across a bit during the interview, but it was not overwhelming, which is a good sign of improvement. This interview increased the skills and instincts for future interviews and encounters with professionals. Additionally, when asked about starting an original practice group for interventional radiology, she said that for interventional radiologists specifically, starting a private practice is extremely difficult specifically due to the startup costs of buying all of the required equipment. That information was extremely unexpected, yet helpful since I now know that in order to start a practice, lots of money will need to be saved and that research into business and finances will be helpful. A lot of what she said about interventional radiology as an occupation was extremely exciting due to the variance of each day and the vast

amount of procedures that they get to do. This interview peaked my interest and excitement to be researching interventional radiology, which was a very good sign to see.

The information received will be used to guide future research in all aspects of interventional radiology and the original work project. Also, it provided great background information to keep in mind when conducting future research and when interacting with professionals. Dr. Chen's advice on the original work idea will certainly be applied and will be beneficial as well as her advice for the premed-to-practice process. Additionally, this information will guide future decisions from now until the end of the medical education process due to her informative, detailed, and insightful advice. Overall, this interview provided a mass amount of information that will be able to be applied in an extremely large amount of ways.

In conclusion, all of the goals were completed and this interview was extremely informative and useful. Dr. Chen answered all of the questions that I had about interventional radiology and I now feel more equipped to contact more professionals and to go deeper into this field.

**Interview Notes:**

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Mf7Kt0MdWxnVZ0PQhwOmNArRmwPKku-i/view?usp=sharing>