Stage: Research/Mentorship

OBSERVING A PROCEDURE IN THE OPERATING ROOM

This past week, I had the privilege of going into the Baylor Scott and White Plano hospital imaging operating room to observe my mentor, Dr. David Kim, and the staff perform a pulmonary AVM embolization. It was an incredible experience. I had never watched a procedure or done anything of that nature before. I have never even been inside of an operating room before and I was basically in awe the entire time. I got to wear the lead coverings and a hospital head covering that all of the professionals were wearing. I also got to see how a medical procedure worked with the operating room alive with the collaboration of the different professionals. It was an extremely enriching experience and it was really helpful for allowing me to visualize how my final product mechanism could help in the procedure by watching one in real life.

The procedure was done on a patient who had experienced multiple previous strokes as a result of deoxygenated blood flowing through her arteries instead of her veins. This procedure was to fix that issue and to prevent the patient from experiencing strokes. Dr. Kim explained this information to me before the procedure. I was able to visualize how my final product mechanism would be able to fit into the procedure and help the scrub tech with organization of the wires and catheters. I saw the work/organization area on the operating table that Dr. Kim referenced in one of our meetings and saw how the mechanism could fit into there and help organize the wires. This experience was really helpful for my final product progress and design.

It felt great to go in and have that experience. It felt like my hard work this year led to that moment where I could be rewarded by experiencing something amazing and something that most people do not get to experience until medical school, which is still about 6 years away for me.

The goal for this upcoming week is to finish the final product design and to incorporate the knowledge that I gained from the observation experience. I am extremely grateful for the experience that I went through this past week and hope to make the most of it.

