

Masci Scholar Personal Testimony



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Medical Officer III, Resident-In-Training

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I believe that the benefit of rotating in an international institution is more than just about seeing how having greater access to resources benefits patient care, but rather how experiencing the best practices of others can be applied to local systems. From my rotation, I noted how elective research can be when done with an interdisciplinary team and how research outputs ought to be translational to patient care. These research practices of utilizing inputs of multiple specialties, promoting a culture of presenting research results and actively involving the participants in the research are all things that can be of use in the Philippines, regardless of the extent of our resources. Other aspects, such as extensive inter-hospital networking to better deliver specialty care, promoting regular early cancer screening, and investing in outpatient care also things I believe can be of use in my regular practice.

While I was definitely expecting that the National Cancer Center will have more advanced equipment, I was still surprised with the extent of government and pharmaceutical funding patients have access to. Cancer care is such an expensive endeavor and it was surprising to see how participation in trials also helped partially cover for the diagnostics and not just treatments of the patients.

Aside from the equipment though, I think I was also surprised with the number of international doctors in the hospital. There were rotators from Brazil, Taiwan, Vietnam, and others also from the Philippines whom I encountered.

This made me realize the benefit of having multicultural perspectives in healthcare can also promote medical advancements, which is why I was truly grateful for this opportunity.

From a personal perspective, I've already been applying what I learned in my own practice and training. I've been more prudent in screening patients for cancer. With inpatient care, I've been more discerning as to the use of specific chemotherapies and the adverse effects these may have. And, with palliative care, I've also become more empathetic to patients, recognizing that extending their life even for a few more months can have far-reaching impacts for their families.



Mentorship session with Dr. Yonemori Kan, Head of the Department of Medical Oncology.

I believe the experience has made me a better doctor.

In terms of what my learnings can contribute to others, I think that this has allowed me to review our hospital systems and how they can be modified to promote better efficiency and improved patient care.

For example, given how PGH is similar to NCC in that we are one of the few specialty centers in the country, I think expanding inter-hospital communications can help us triage patients so that we can communicate to smaller local hospitals what preliminary workups or therapeutics can be done there rather than always having patients immediately referred to specialty centers.

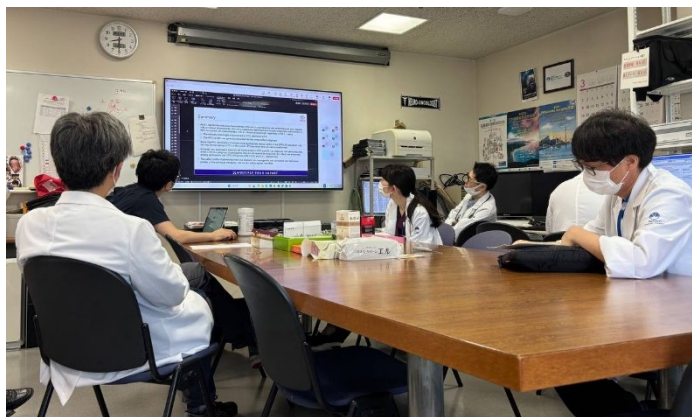
Moreover, I believe that promoting translational research may also benefit our practices.

So far, I have reported my learnings to the Department in writing, as well as sharing my learnings to my co-residents. These experiences have been well-received, but how these can translate into changes will be another step for me to work on. With the other residents who have also rotated at NCC, we will look into practices that can be applied, particularly for how we can improve the Cancer Institute of PGH.

Currently, I am looking into possible further fellowship training once my residency is completed. Given my experiences abroad, I will look into options for international study, as well as local opportunities. I would like to sincerely thank AIHA and the Masci family for the generosity they have extended to me and my colleagues. This opportunity has been truly fruitful and I hope it can also be extended to future physicians in our community.



Mentorship session with Dr. Kazuki Sudo, Head of the International Translational Research Section.



Weekly Research Hour with Residents, Fellows, and Consultants.



End-of-Rotation Presentation to the Department of Medical Oncology.