

## AWAY ROTATION EVALUATION FORM

Specialty: \_\_\_\_\_Anatomic Pathology\_\_\_\_\_

Medical School / Hospital: \_\_\_\_\_University of Pittsburgh\_\_\_\_\_

Month/Year of Rotation: \_\_\_\_\_October 2006\_\_\_\_\_

How would you rate your overall experience? (check one)

Poor     Fair     Good     Very Good     Excellent

How many hours/week were you on duty? \_\_\_\_\_50\_\_\_\_\_

How many hours/week did you spend with interns? \_\_\_\_\_

Residents/Interns? \_\_\_\_\_45\_\_\_\_\_

Fellows? \_\_\_\_\_15\_\_\_\_\_

Attendings? \_\_\_\_\_15\_\_\_\_\_

Did you meet/work with the Residency Program Director? The Dept Chair?

If so, any tips? I managed to schedule my interview for the program while I was there, so I did meet the Residency Program Director, Dr. Trevor MacPherson. He seems a bit formal and serious at first, but he is very nice and quickly warms up.

What were your daily duties? During this rotation, you are basically an acting intern, and have responsibilities as such. Each morning, I attended sign-out at a multiheaded microscope with the one or two residents, a fellow, and the attending on whatever specialty surgical pathology bench I was assigned to that week. After sign-out, I'd dictate final diagnoses for any cases that were mine. In the afternoons, I was responsible for grossing in and dictating reports for at least one specimen by myself (but with ample help). After that, I'd dictate gross reports for each of these specimens, and then preview any slides that returned from my previous cases. Sometimes this included previewing consult cases with the fellow. I also attended resident conferences and frozen sections. I spent the last week on the cytology service where most time is spent looking at slides at a multi-headed scope with the fellow, attending, and resident. Cytology also included going along to see patients having FNAs.

Did this rotation (check one):

Create new interest in the specialty

Reinforce existing interest

Decrease interest

Have no effect

Any tips on how to get the most out of this rotation? Did this rotation help you get a letter of recommendation? Or an interview?

You have a lot of actual responsibility on this rotation. But, if you take advantage and rise to the occasion, they'll let you gross more specimens, cut and stain frozen sections, and

watch/help with autopsies. Just express interest! You get a lot of time in close contact with several different faculty, and they are all fantastic. Had I been there earlier in the year, I'm positive I could have gotten a letter of recommendation. I was also able to interview while I was there.

Any Warnings or Things Not To Do: The usual—be disrespectful, lazy, or don't show up.

Is housing provided for students? If not, where did you stay?

Is parking provided?

No, neither housing nor parking was provided. I think Pitt does offer some housing in the undergraduate dorms, per availability, if you do a rotation during the summer months. The Student Affairs office of the med school sent an email to all four classes of med students to see if any were subletting rooms or apartments. (They apparently email like this all the time, it's not special treatment.) I got several responses and ended up subletting a room in an apartment with another Pitt fourth year student whose roommate was also out of town doing an away elective.

Who did you contact to set up the rotation? There is information for North American and International Visiting Students on the UPMC Student Affairs website at <http://www.medschool.pitt.edu/studentaffairs/studentaffairs.html>. Of note-- check this out early—the office will only snail-mail you the application after you complete the online request form, and this takes at least a week.

Would you recommend this rotation for future JMC 4th years?

**ABSOLUTELY.** Unlike the Jefferson pathology rotations—this is NOT a joke observership.

Please add any other comments (strengths, weaknesses of the program):

You get assigned a desk in the residents' room during your time in the department, and there's lots of time to pick their brains about Pitt, the area, other programs, etc. Everybody is super nice, and will help you out. The only annoying part is that they do not arrange for you to have your own computer log-in, access to patient records, or dictation system log-in. But whatever resident you work with is more than happy to log you in and help you find whatever info you need. Though there are pretty set hours during the week, there are no weekend responsibilities.

**THANK YOU!**

(Optional)

Your Name:

Contact Info: