

Description of RWJ Program with Universidad CES to Medellin, Colombia for the Summer of 2008

I love, love to travel so during my last free summer I want to do nothing more than that. I was looking into a lot of great travel programs and of those the one that I finally choose was the Robert Wood Johnson Program to Medellin, Colombia with Universidad CES . The reasons why I choose the Colombia Program were multiple; however, the main one was that I was born in Colombia so the opportunity to go visit my own country and see it from a perspective that I had not had before was one that I could not pass up. During our one month there, we rotated through Internal Medicine, Family Medicine, Pediatrics, OBGYN, and Pre-hospital care. All of which were amazing and informative in their own right. However, the two that I enjoyed the best were pediatrics and OBGYN. Pediatrics because I am leaning towards that for my future career and so it was great to learn from brilliant doctors about problems like malnutrition that are plaguing my own country and also just be able to play with the kids. OBGYN was a great experience because I got the opportunity to attend a birth, which was my most memorable experience in Colombia. It was a very humbling moment holding baby, Sarah, in my hand and knowing that I was the first person to greet her into this world. This experience made me consider going into OB/GYN something that before had not crossed my mind.

On top of all this, I was also able to submerge myself in the culture of Colombia that although I consider being mine I knew very little about because I left when I was nine. We were placed within homes of students and the school made sure to incorporate into the program trips to important landmarks of Medellin. Also the students were so great that they also took us on trips to show us the country they are so very proud of and which has sadly has gotten a very bad reputation, which is extremely over exaggerated and one which will only change by people getting the chance to go and experience this great country by themselves.

I feel that a moment that summarizes my experience in Colombia was having had the opportunity to deliver a baby because the whole experience for me was life changing, intense and humbling. I hope to continue traveling and acquiring life-learning experiences that will carry on to my personal life and career especially since I hope to one day be able to practice in countries like Colombia.



