

THSNA Travel-To-A-Mentor Award Summary



Supported by the THSNA Travel-To-A-Mentor Award, I spent January 28, 2018-February 3, 2018 with Dr. Alok Khorana at the Cleveland Clinic in Cleveland, Ohio, where he serves as a Professor of Medicine, the Hardis Chair in Oncology Research, and the Vice-Chair for Clinical Services of the Taussig Cancer Institute.

When I learned about the availability of the Travel-To-A-Mentor Award, I had reached out to Dr. Khorana, who is internationally known for his clinical and translational research on cancer associated thrombosis, as this is a research focus that I share an interest in. Dr. Khorana was kind enough to support my application. After receiving the award, I reviewed my research with Dr. Khorana on several occasions by e-mail and phone. We were also able to meet in-person at the American Society of Hematology Annual Meeting in December of 2017. Through these meetings, we planned the one-week experience and he provided me with important feedback on my research related to cancer associated thrombosis.

During my week in Cleveland, Dr. Khorana and I met on several occasions. He reviewed my current research projects that I had refined with his prior input. We also had the opportunity to

develop my proposals that I plan to submit for future grants and awards. Furthermore, he provided me with excellent career advice and strategies for success in my research endeavors. He was able to help me overcome some of the challenges I had encountered in the design of my projects using large datasets, and we discussed the latest advances in cancer associated thrombosis.

Clinically, I spent time seeing patients in their cancer associated thrombosis clinic and outpatient hematology clinic. It was extremely helpful to see how their cancer associated thrombosis clinic functioned to offer timely, convenient, and evidence-based care to cancer patients with suspected venous thromboembolism. Additionally, I worked with the inpatient Vascular Medicine Service, where I was able to meet additional leaders in the field of thrombosis and learn from seeing how they delivered exceptional inpatient care for thrombotic or vascular disorders.

Throughout the week, I was exposed to the breadth of relevant clinical and basic science research activity at the Cleveland Clinic. Specifically, I spent a day in Dr. Keith McCrae's laboratory learning about ongoing research in the field of antiphospholipid syndrome, coagulation, and microparticles. I enjoyed joining his laboratory meeting and interacting with the investigators in his lab.

I am very grateful to have had this opportunity and hope to continue to work with Dr. Khorana on my future research on cancer associated thrombosis. The clinical rotations exposed me to other strategies to approaching complex patient care and new ideas on how to structure care delivery. Having the chance to get direct feedback on my research and learn from Dr. Khorana's expertise was particularly valuable; my future research and career will surely benefit from having had this experience.