OUTLINE

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CHOOSING BUDAPEST

• Budapest came highly recommended from friends, family and previous students
• Well-respected medical school with English stream
• Universal health-care system, but significantly underfunded compared to Canada
• English commonly spoken among younger generations
• Opportunity to travel within Europe
• Affordable, compared to other European locations
ELECTIVE EXPERIENCE

Endocrinology Department

- 2nd Department of Internal Medicine
- Dr. Géza Nagy, Endocrinologist specialized in Diabetology
- Patients: diabetes, diabetes, diabetes, GIM, other endocrinology disorders, rare neuroendocrine tumors
- Duties
  - Morning vitals, rounds, charting
  - History (sometimes...) & lots of physical exams
  - Producing EKGs
  - Following up on labs/imaging/investigations
  - Discussing management plan with Géza & reading around cases
  - Observing (ICU, GI, cardiology, specialized endocrinology)
ELECTIVE EXPERIENCE

What I Learned

• How healthcare is run in a low-resource setting
  • Effects on staffing (e.g. nursing) to physical resources (e.g. transfusions)
• Able to see how medical education is run
• Learned how to be contributing part of medical team
• Developed bedside manner with huge language barrier
• Met lots of interesting docs/residents and gained a lot of valuable advice and mentorship

Challenges

• Language barrier
• Less structured → seek your own opportunities!
ELECTIVE EXPERIENCE

Cardiology Department

- 4-week elective at the Semmelweis University Heart and Vascular Centre
  - Modern facility responsible for treating the majority of MI patients in the country, with strong education and research program
  - 2nd largest transplant program in Europe
- Rotated through services in the Cardiology and Cardiovascular Surgery departments:
  - Coronary Angiography, CT, MRI, Echocardiography, Cardiac Electrophysiology, ICU, Emergency, Inpatient, Pacemaker Implantation, TAVI, Transplant
- Presented a case during the morning department meeting
ELECTIVE EXPERIENCE

Highlights
• Incredible staff and great learning experience to discuss cases, differential diagnoses, management plans
• Improved physical exam skills
• Lots of international students
• Supported by administration

Challenges
• Patients were generally older, did not speak English
• Needed to take initiative to participate, difficult when rotating every few days
SOCIAL EXPERIENCE
SOCIAL EXPERIENCE
RECOMMENDATIONS

• Contact preceptor early to set goals and clarify expectations
• Take control of your own learning opportunities
  • Read around cases and present to physician
  • Don’t be shy to speak to other docs / residents / med students / nurses
• Take advantage of your new friends and ask about local eats / activities
• E-mail Dresden and Derek for more personalized and in-depth advice
CONTACT INFORMATION

Dresden Glockler-Lauf: sglocklerlauf2021@meds.uwo.ca

Derek Wu: dwu243@uwo.ca