**Surgery rotation in Woodhull**

The Surgery rotation in Woodhull was an exceptional experience for me because I got to participate in procedures and surgery that I might not be able to experience in the future as a PA in a specific field. I was able to see few exceptional surgeries such as: pericardial window, pacemaker placement, gastrectomy, exploratory laparotomy, cholecystectomy, appendectomy, hernia repair, saphenous vein ligation, lumpectomy, stereotactic breast biopsy, AV fistula creation, Shiley placement, thoracostomy, permacath placement, central line, Sclerotherapy, Hip replacement, total knee replacement, rotator cuff tear repair, and knee arthroplasty. The learning opportunity during this procedure was the best part about the rotation.

The surgical team was very approachable and always willing to answer questions and allow the students to get hands on experience. I was able to participate in multiple procedures: central line placement, wound vac replacement, colostomy bag replacement, EKG, biopsy sample collection, foley removal and placement, splinting, cast removal and many others. I love the fact the residence held a suture training day, where all the students were trained to properly suture and learn to hand tie. This training gave me the confidence to suture in the operating room, which was a valuable experience of the surgery rotation.

Additionally, every Tuesday, the students were allowed to join in the residence training program, where I was able to learn about different surgeries' drawbacks and benefits and patient management. Participating in the tumor board was also a great way to increase my knowledge on different aspects of cancer and managing patients who were recently diagnosed with cancer. All the residents were very helpful, but I wish there was PA on the general surgical floor because then I would be able to experience the clinical role of a PA in a surgical team. However, in the orthopedic surgery, I encountered the PA who was first hand assisting the surgeon and they had the opportunity to suture and assist in the surgery. I loved the autonomy the PA’s had in the orthopedic surgery and clinic and I really admire the respect.

For the morning and evening rounds, it is essential to review the labs, other provider notes from EMR and speak to the nurse. This process of following up with the patient was another opportunity for me to learn that taking care of a patient is a teamwork. Every Member in the team plays an essential role in taking care of the patient and it is very important to have effective communication between different members of the team. Another reinforced lesson that I learned about the importance of physical examination which could be more important than the diagnostic exams. I will try to perform a thorough physical exam as a practicing PA. I will continue to apply what I learned in this rotation in the future rotation and in the future workplace.

Presenting patient information in a coherent and logical order is still a challenge for me so it was a great place to continue to practice as I saw multiple patients and presented to them during the morning and evening rounds. My experience was broadened by all the staff members in the surgery rotation. I believe everyone around me appreciated my enthusiasm to learn, participate and become a provider for the patient.