

Reaction to: Clinical Exposure

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PTA 1010
Introduction to Physical Therapy

October 31, 2011

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Introduction

My observation of a clinical setting in Physical Therapy was completed at Meier and Marsh Professional Therapies in West Valley City with Wade Meier, PT CHT. I was able to observe Wade in many situations and with a diverse clientele. The opportunity to watch, learn from and help Wade in his clinic was a gratifying and eye-opening experience.

Reaction

Having the opportunity to observe the Physical Therapist, Wade Meier, gave me great insight into the Physical Therapy field. Since deciding to become a Physical Therapist, I have desired to speak with, observe and interview a practicing Therapist. I thoroughly enjoyed watching as Wade interacted with the patients and helped them return back to optimal function. While at the clinical observation, I learned so many aspects of practicing Physical Therapy. I gained insights into the school classes, both the intricacies and the joys. I understand better some of the requirements that the Doctoral programs and how to prepare myself to apply for the program. As stated in my Clinical Exposure paper, "Wade's impressive ability to teach me and open new ideas to my view, made an impact in my decision to not only pursue a career as a Physical Therapist Assistant, but continue with my education and become a Physical Therapist. He gave me great insight into the difficulties of the journey ahead, but gave me hope that I will be able to do that which is required."

I learned the importance of being able to communicate well with those I interact with as a Physical Therapist or PT Assistant. I understood that he was constantly teaching people about human anatomy and physiology, along with helping them realize what was going on with their injury or illness. He was very good at listening, observing and sympathizing in an encouraging way. As I wrote in my paper, "I recognize that it is not only the education that is important but the integration of what I learn

into my life and how I interact and treat others.” As I continue in my schooling, I will value the things I learned from Wade and remember how he so professionally ran his clinic and practice.

Another concept that Wade emphasized was the importance of being engaged with the various professional organizations. He taught me that being involved helps him stay up with the latest research information, the issues that Physical Therapists face and also be able to network with other professionals to be aware of new concepts for treatment and opportunities for advancement. He also stressed the idea of finding a focus in Physical Therapy and using that focus to become more valuable to the clinic. I have begun to think about what I may want to specialize in.

Though, I first thought the amount of time (20 hours) was going to be difficult to balance with the rest of my activities, I am appreciative of the time I was able to spend with Wade in his clinic. The observation was helpful, insightful and helped me solidify my desire to pursue my schooling to become a Physical Therapist. I am grateful for this opportunity and will continue to remember the lessons I have learned while spending time at Wade Meier’s clinic.