

Summary of Fellowship Experience

Dr. Luke Herman
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While attempting to decide what to do after graduation from residency, I considered what I felt were my weaknesses and what I believed was not focused upon during my residency education. I found that they were primarily acute care issues and since that is what I am hoping to do as my future career, it was important that I find additional education. The urgent care fellowship has provided this.

Likely the greatest asset was the urgent care physicians themselves and working closely with them. Being a fellow meant that they expected I would have questions and were willing to help. I benefited from their experience and knowledge. In addition, I rotated through several specialties which were of varying usefulness. Orthopedics was particularly helpful as there was significant follow up to acute injuries. Emergency medicine was another rotation that was useful, especially in learning to recognize what complaints would need a more complete workup than could be done in an urgent care clinic setting. However, several specialties were not as helpful because they mainly took care of chronic disease. This was no fault of the attendings as this was just the composition of their practices. Ophthalmology and cardiology were among these. I wish there were a better way to get more experience with GI, since so many urgent care complaints tend to come from this system. The emergency medicine rotation probably was adequate for this which is why I did my elective in emergency medicine.

Individually, Dr. Buzzard was extremely helpful. I found time with him reviewing x-rays and consulting with him to be more fruitful than any of the rotations. He was always especially approachable. As for the rest of the fellowship support, there could definitely be better communication of how certain rotations will be run and what, if any, arrangements I needed to make myself. However, I understand that the fellowship itself is still quite young and that support staff just started this year. When I was able to anticipate questions or problems, I was confident that I would receive answers very promptly.

Following the fellowship I will be taking a position with Rockford Health Physicians working in their Convenient Care locations. I am certain that my training this past year will be of great help.