

## My Dreams after the dream land

As Martin Luther King's famous "I have a dream" printed in every English textbook during my high school years, United States of America was not only a geographic name but a symbol of pursuing dreams and freedom. After years of chasing, I finally got a chance to take a glance of this dream country as a visiting student in Johns Hopkins Hospital. Gratefully, I saw the beauty of passion during my journey --- in terms of profession, teaching, and researching.

*"Choose what you love and love what you choose"* is my most vivid impression in Johns Hopkins. 'Oh, this is the most exhausting day ever, seven new patients in clinic! But, thanks god, I really love Rheum. ,' said Laura, the 3<sup>rd</sup> year resident in our rheumatology team, with a tired but satisfied smile. "I want to do Pediatrics. I could not image doing other things. I just love kids," said one of medical students I met in cafeteria whose beautiful eyes were just as sparkling as my dear friend Vanessa's when she said to me : 'I love Dermatology. I am so excited to do one-year research in Derm. before I really get into matching.' From their shining faces, I could almost hear the sentence read out in the air. Thinking of our medical students and faculties in Taiwan, who feel lost for the future and tired for the present because many of them decide their future path on how to avoid grave working environment and the shaking medical insurance system, I am lucky to meet these passionate people. They inspired me to find what I really love and to go my path despite of heavy working load and uncertainty future.



**<< We are A  
team in  
Rheum!**

(L't to R't)  
Me,  
Vanesa, and  
Divya.

If *"respect our teachers as our parents"* is one of the core spirits handed down from the ancient Chinese philosopher --- Confucius, I would re-write it in

American way as “*respect our professor as our friends,*” which was really true from my experience in Johns Hopkins. I would always remember how my face tortured when Dr. Wigley, the director of scleroderma center, asked me ‘why do you always stand? Don’t you like to sit?’ My surprise, confusion, embarrassment, and finally the joy of realizing his meaning all compacted on my face in the moment. In Taiwan, we only sit “after” professors and residents. We take this as showing respect. However, professors here would rather students sitting beside them, shoulder to shoulder, discussing a case with them as chatting a interesting topic with friends. It was both a culture shock and an inspiration for me. I wish myself could one day become one of them who is not only wise and professional but also humble and friendly to students.

During the days in Johns Hopkins, I worked with many excellent professors and residents. I would like to give my special thanks to Dr. Wigley in Rheumatology who showed me how humble and humorous a wise man could be; Dr. Haque in



Rheumatology who inspired me how symptoms, physical examinations, and pathology could combined perfectly; Dr. Walsh in Urology who demonstrated excellent communication skills with patients; Dr. Bivalacqua in Urology who illustrated many amazing operations. I appreciated every opportunity to work with these excellent teachers and great role models.

>> After clinics, with Dr. Walsh.

In this global era, the most difficult and precious part of medicine is not to acquire an established medical knowledge or technique but to answer unknown questions. Researching is one of the key missions of a medical center and is no doubt a big weak point for many medical centers in Taiwan. As an outsider of labs, I would be too superficial to commend on our researching environment, but I just want to describe a major differences I observed between Taiwan and U.S. It's the balance between clinical and researching effort. In Johns Hopkins, there would be a period for professor or residents to do clinical practice and the other period for them to pour their effort and passion into researching without other concerns. However, in Taiwan, many medical centers expect our medical professionals to be ironmen who could do triathlon of patient care, lab experiments, and clinical teaching at the same time. How long would the overwhelming load take to kill the passion of our talented doctors? This question will always reminds me there are much more rooms for our system to grow.

In summary, I am deeply grateful for this precious opportunity to visit Johns Hopkins Hospital. It offered me a great chance to step out my comfortable zone, broaden my horizon, and illuminate my path by making me have a better look of where I stand. From this precious journey, I am encouraged by the facts of how great our medical level is and how excellent it could be. There are many dreams to achieve and many years to go. I am proud to born in Taiwan and stepping into the medical field through National Yang-Ming University with many talented and energetic companies. With them, I am looking forward for a better future in Taiwan, in terms of medical education, environment, and health insurance system.

**It's photo time!**  
**Yang-Ming medical**  
**students in Johns Hopkins**  
**>>>**





**>> THANK YOU ALL for this amazing journey. I would never forget it. <<**

Uei-Hsiang Hsu  
7<sup>th</sup> year Medical Student,  
School of Medicine,  
National Yang-Ming University,  
Taiwan R.O.C