

STELLER TELLER



WEEK 4



Infusion Center and Cancer Overview

Suraj Zaveri

Ms. Karen Wynn started our Tuesday rotations with a delightful tour of the Infusion Center. There was an amazing view, and the STAR Students were able to witness the actual locations at which patients get treated with infusions. Furthermore, Dr. Matrana gave an informative presentation on cancer, explaining the basics of Hematology and Oncology, an upcoming field in need of physicians. We learned about the different types of therapy and got insight into the life of an Oncologist, always working with other doctors and keeping up with ever-changing therapies.

MAKO Knee Replacement

Suraj Zaveri

Following our previous encounter with Dr. Mark Meyer and the MAKO robot simulation, we watched him perform a live partial knee replacement! It was remarkable to see the robot applied in real life, and our favorite resident Mr. Mike explained the surgery in detail as it went along. Once again, all the STAR Students were in awe, especially at the brisk manner in which Dr. Meyer nimbly sutured up the skin to conclude the surgery.

Chamberlain University

Suraj Zaveri

Save a life, become a nurse! On Thursday, we took a shuttle to Chamberlain University, a brand new nursing school that efficiently trains nurses, preparing them for a successful career in the healthcare field in a minimal time period. Dean Bruce Smith and Dr. Couvillon allowed us to practice a typical simulation that nurses in training go through. The STAR students, in three groups, took their medical skills to the bedside, searching for possible safety hazards in a simulated room. The experience was invaluable, and it further opened our eyes to a career in nursing.



Rehab Services and Skilled Nursing

Suraj Zaveri

Tuesday was concluded with a tour of the beautiful rehab services facility and skilled nursing unit at Ochsner West Campus. We saw a glimpse of the physical and occupational therapy careers at work, dealing with patients needing to regain strength after surgery or specially disabled patients. The nurses seemed extremely happy with their jobs, and the hands-on/patient interactive appealed to many STAR Students, namely Heaven Cauble and Clydia Colston-Dean.

Ochsner Healthy Back

Macy Owens

They've got your back- literally! At Ochsner's Healthy Neck and Back Center, specialized physical therapists work closely with nutritionists, dieticians, and nurses to rehabilitate patients.



Complete with innovate machines and digitized treatment, healthcare providers are able to help patients regain and improve their coordination and strength after an injury, surgery, or illness. STAR Student Clydia Colston-Dean demonstrated her strength in a machine designed specifically to isolate lower back muscles. With an unparalleled success rate at helping patients recover from neck and back injuries, the center provided further insight into a career in physical therapy and rehab services.

Labor and Delivery

Macy Owens

With an average of 10 births a day, floor 6 of Ochsner Baptist is quite the busy place! The premier birthing center for New Orleans moms, Ochsner Baptist is equipped to handle all types of delivery cases and is intent on providing only the best care for their littlest patients. With a in-depth tour led by Registered Nurse Jeni Ducoing, STAR Students got a glimpse into the lives of Labor and Delivery Staff. From The Bunker, a spy movie-esque room complete with 28 screens that monitor laboring patients all over Greater New Orleans to the Labor and Delivery Emergency Room, STAR Students were exposed to every aspect of the labor process. STAR Students even got to meet two recently delivered infants! The tour piqued several students' interests in a potential career in obstetrics.





Blood Bank

Kaitlynn Williams

We got to tour the blood bank and see the process of blood donation from start to finish. We saw what happens after the blood comes out of the arm through the process of phlebotomy. First they separate the blood donation with a centrifuge. Through that action, the blood separates into three different entities: the blood itself, the platelets, and the plasma. This makes the donation available to be used for three different patients!

Next they test the blood for different things that could make the blood not useable. They also test for blood type. The blood center workers will eventually let you know your blood type and if you had anything wrong with your blood. It was super cool and Dr. Bobby Rodwig was very informative in explaining all the machines and processes they use on a daily basis.

Alternative Birthing Center

Macy Owens

Unlike any other hospital in the area, Ochsner Baptist offers a unique service to expectant moms known as the Alternative Birthing Center. Staffed entirely by midwives and nurses, the center includes two private delivery rooms that make even the nicest hotel rooms look scarce. A large bathtub, bed, kitchen area, and shower fit for delivery allow moms all of the amenities of a home birth, but with the security of highly trained medical staff on call. Nurse Mary Kay Ford led the tour of STAR Students and explained the process for admitting patients to the specialized center.

Operating Room

Macy Owens



It was our first opportunity getting “scrubbed up” and we were in the Ochsner Baptist Operating Room! OR Nurse Cacey Heine led students on an interactive tour through the OR. The tour included visiting vacant operating rooms, the sterilization room for medical equipment, and the storage room where every drug and tool imaginable was housed. Students then got to experience a mock operating room! Several STAR Students that are interested in surgery took the opportunity to learn all that they could about OR procedures, equipment, and careers.

Alumni Luncheon

Kaitlynn Williams

For lunch on Monday, the 2018 STAR Students got the honor of getting to speak and hang out with past STAR Alumni. We talked over delicious lunch from *La Madeleine*. They spoke to us about college experience and applying for college. We also spoke about the differences between our current program and their program. The Alumni warned us that the Culmination Ceremony may be sad but that we must keep in touch. It was very nice to speak to someone who has gone through what we will be going through next year.



Job Shadow

Nikole Alvarez

Job Shadow Day! The day most of us have been excitedly and impatiently waiting for. For three hours, the STAR students got to follow around physicians, nurses, and other Ochsner staff in the field of their choice. From Emergency Medicine to Neurosurgery, the STAR students got to see it all. The friendly staff made sure to fuel our curiosity with trick questions and new knowledge. Special thanks to the Ochsner staff who helped set up these job shadows and allowed us to bombard them with questions!



OBGYN

Macy Owens

To conclude the action-packed day at Ochsner Baptist, Dr. Hamilton, an OBGYN, came to speak to us about obstetric careers and the necessity of work-life integration. She spoke about her lengthy career as an OBGYN and about the ways she managed her work life and her family life. Her best advice? Leave the work at work! While she greatly enjoys the role she plays in her patient's lives as a doctor and counselor, she highlighted the importance of separating the spheres of work and family. All STAR Students were able to gain valuable knowledge about the hectic life of a physician from her talk!

Preparing for College

Kaitlynn Williams

We got some life changing advice Monday morning from Dr. Barbara Beckman. She explained to us how we can prepare ourselves now to be ready for college next year. Throughout her presentation we were advised with the do's and don'ts of high school and college. Dr. Beckman also told us how she is a huge supporter of the STAR Program and tries to speak every year. Us students are very appreciative of Dr. Beckman for supporting the program and making this possible for all of us.

Transplant Tour

Nikole Alvarez

To conclude our eventful day, we took an in depth tour of what a transplant patient sees during their stay at Ochsner. From the OR to the ICU, we met amazing staff who explained what made their department so special. Technological advancements such as the DaVinci and copper infused sheets to prevent infections help Ochsner stand out in the healthcare industry. Thoughtful gifts such as kidney, lungs, and heart shaped pillows for transplant recipients and donors were a great hit among the STAR students!

Innovation

Nikole Alvarez

During Dr. Milani's presentation we learned about new technological advancements such as an AI who can determine which patients are at risk of going into cardiac arrest. We learned about the importance of quality over quantity when Dr. Milani's talked to us about why physicians should be rewarded for patients who rarely have to come back to the hospital versus patients who continuously have to return. It was extremely interesting to see how Ochsner is continuing to innovate.