
Advocacy Internship Expectations – Discovering the Role of Medical Associations

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Over the four weeks of the Advocacy Internship, I hope to gain a more in-depth understanding of how healthcare policies are implemented through the legislature. As a resident physician, I am often affected by the downstream effects of health policies, but I do not have significant exposure to the process by which these policies are created and refined.

Thus, I hope to learn how bills are introduced to, and progress through, the state legislature. I intend to do this by following the introduction of new bills on StateWatch, attending legislator meetings, and eventually meeting with legislators to discuss health policy. I will learn how to use the tools available to me to search through current bills and to parse through bill text for information relevant to health care policy. Concurrently, I intend to learn more about how NYACP and other medical societies are able to influence these policies. To me, it seems that these societies serve as delegations advocating on behalf of physicians. By learning more about how they function, as well as how we as physicians can contribute to the process, I hope to continue to be involved in advocacy beyond the conclusion of this internship. I will continue to sit in on weekly meetings with the NYACP and will learn about what bills and topics are being followed by the NYACP. These meetings will also help me learn how the members of medical societies interact with legislators. Additionally, I will focus on a specific topic and set of bills so that I can learn how health policy advocacy works on a more granular level. By researching this topic, generating a stance on the policy, and articulating this stance with members of the legislature, I hope to gain a better understanding of the work that goes into advocating for health policy. By the end of this internship, I hope to accumulate enough information to generate a written report of my work in the form of an abstract and poster presentation to submit to the NYACP advocacy, quality, and patient care competition.