

WORK EXPERIENCE TWO REAL ACCOUNTS

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Our medical consultants share some of their work experience stories. These are the experiences that helped them make their respective decisions to study Medicine.

It is important to remember that everyone's medical work experience will be different – this a reflection of the nature of the diverse and ever-changing medical world. It is crucial that you get your own experience by securing a both GP and hospital placements.

Michael Zervos:

"On a work experience placement in ophthalmology, I was lucky to sit through an afternoon of cataract surgeries. I didn't know much about the procedure beforehand, and was really shocked initially that the patients would be awake. I remember how the surgeon sat with the patient before the operation and explained how long it would take and what they might expect. He answered all her questions and made sure she felt comfortable before proceeding.

During the surgery, the patient became distressed and the surgeon asked me to sit by the patient's side and hold her hand. That was the first time I had felt able to contribute anything to someone else's medical care and I could see why being part of the medical or nursing profession was amazing. I talked to the patient throughout her operation and afterwards she told me that it made all the difference, I will never forget the relief in her voice".

Don Oboh

"I spent a week shadowing doctors in a GP surgery in Lambeth, a borough in which there is great diversity in terms of the patients that turn up. An elderly gentleman came into the practice having been diagnosed with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease. The man was not very well-educated but still required an explanation of his disease. The GP then proceeded to explain the pathology using the analogy of a hose being unable to pass adequate water through and likened that to reduced air being able to pass through the gentleman's airways.

Throughout medical school I have never forgotten this explanation – it demonstrated for me the importance of being able to simplify aspects of Medicine, whether that to be patients or even my friends!"