



Family Medicine Moments

June 27, 2024

Introduction: Two weeks ago I shared a tribute from one of our scribes in our Scribe Fellowship. This week I am sharing the insights Chidinma Uchendu, an aspiring physician, learned from her scribing experience at Hahnemann. Chidinma was involved with MassAHEC's high school pipeline program at the Boston AHEC, so she has a long-term interest in a career in medicine. She will be busy this summer preparing for her application to medical school and we wish her a successful outcome!

A Scribe's Tribute #2

By Chidinma Uchendu

Dear Dr. Schoerning and all of the Hahnemann Family Health Center staff,

It feels like just yesterday when Ashley was guiding me through the Hahnemann halls, assuring me, "don't worry, this place is a maze." You all have made my commute from Boston worth every mile.

Starting at Hahnemann, I had the privilege of being trained by Ashley Street while working alongside Dr. Schoerning. As a teacher myself, I was impressed at Ashley's ability to multitask, ensuring I wasn't making errors while absorbing crucial information during patient visits. I would love to have her as a student in my classroom. She

exhibited patience and dedication until I gained the confidence to navigate tasks independently. Despite technical challenges, she always found a way to make things work. So, thank you, Ashley!

There are numerous positive influences I've encountered here, and I could sing praises for all of them. My OMT mentor, Dr. Schoerning, or as she'll tell you to call her Laura, stands out. From the start, she welcomed me with open arms, offering positive reinforcement to ease the stress of being new while ensuring I learned during my time here.

Her interactions with patients are truly remarkable. She maintains an unrivaled poker face, effortlessly handling situations from malfunctioning interpreters to her own physical discomfort, all while providing exceptional care. Did I mention she can fix body aches like no one is watching. I commend her ability to create a safe and welcoming environment for all patients, seeing each individual beyond their allotted time slot. Her exemplary qualities are ones I aspire to emulate as a future physician.

I've cherished my time at Hahnemann, not only with Dr. Schoerning but also with other exceptional providers like Dr. Fowler. We have a little competition going on to see who can drive the longest distance and she's beat me, and I've driven from Ohio to Boston. And Dr. Gwaltney, who understands the importance of music in uplifting spirits. You have all left a lasting impression.

During my time here, I've learned valuable skills, from OMT procedures to gaining insight into the breadth of family medicine and forging connections with patients that have left a profound impact. Witnessing the joy on a patient's face upon recognizing me has been deeply moving. Though my role here may have been small, knowing I've made a difference fills me with gratitude.

I refuse to bid farewell but rather see this as a "until next time," hopefully as a medical student if you'll have me. Representing the Scribe Fellowship under Linda and Dr. Manno has been an honor, and I'm immensely grateful for the opportunity you've given me. Your unwavering support has ignited confidence within me, propelling me towards applying to medical school. I couldn't have embarked on this journey without you. As I prepare for the summer, which entails studying (yay!) and polishing my medical school applications, I hope you will see my name in your pile come fall.

Once again, thank you to everyone who has enriched this experience. I may have to consider relocating to Worcester. Until we meet again, this is not a goodbye, but a "until next time."

Sincerely,
Chidinma Uchendu, aspiring physician