VENTURING OUTSIDE MY COMFORT ZONE: MY STUDY ABROAD IN SOUTH KOREA

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A LITTLE ABOUT MYSELF

• Senior in Lyman Briggs College
• Cognitive Neuroscience Major
• Visited Merida, Mexico and Seoul, South Korea
• Undergraduate Assistant at the Institute of International Health
• Long Term Goal
OVERALL TENSIONS

• “Are you crazy? Hopefully I see you back in the states in a week!”
• Political Climate- All eyes on the North
• July 2017 North Korea travel ban
NAVIGATING UNKNOWN LOCATIONS

• Airport to hotel at 2 AM
• Previous international travels had an itinerary (India, Mexico)
• First time in east Asia
LANGUAGE BARRIERS & ETHNICITY DIFFERENCES

• From street signs to google maps
• Unfamiliarity with the language
• Darker skin tone
• Perceived as being different compared to others
OVERCOMING OBSTACLES

• Despite the challenges, learned new culture and practice of medicine
• More accepting of students visiting the states
• Willingness to help others situate to surroundings
• While we are different, we have so much in common
MEDICAL EXPERIENCES
DIFFERENT MEDICAL PRACTICES

• Alternative medicine practices (CHUNA Method)
• Jaseng Hospital for Oriental Medicine (Herbal, non-invasive approach)
• Medical diagnosis and treatment methods different
MEDICAL IMMERSION PROGRAM AT KUMC

• Focused on different surgical specialties within Korea University Medical Center
• Learned from renowned surgeons
• Learned about the healthcare system in South Korea (insurance, medical tourism)
WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT? WHAT I LEARNED

• Internship at Institute of International Health
• Reality of stepping in someone else’s shoes
• Small gestures make a big difference
• Introduction to American culture
QUESTIONS?