

Samuel Moorcroft – Baylor College of Medicine Internship Week 5 Blog – 04/09/2017

Monday - 04/09/2017

Today was Labour Day however all of the events had been cancelled due to Hurricane Harvey. Despite this the day was action packed! It started off me heading over to the firing range, I wanted to get an understanding of the American enthusiasm for guns. I got to hold a variety of guns and tried shooting a GLOCK pistol. This was a good experience, which I'm glad I did however I'm not sure whether I'd want to do it again. It was really interesting to meet some gun enthusiasts but bizarre to hear their views on gun ownership! After this I headed over to Dave & Buster's, a huge arcade/ entertainment hall. There was every kind of arcade game from penny slots to the wheel of fortune. I struggled pulling myself from the bright lights and flashing signs so I can imagine it'd be nigh on impossible to drag a child away! Once I'd blasted my last space invader I headed over into midtown to meet up with Hannah and Ella to go out for dinner. We hit up a ramen bar that was brilliant. We'd previously attempted to go twice before but failed due to the huge queues, it was well worth the wait. The food, drinks and ambience were simply fantastic; Jinya is well worth a visit if you're ever in midtown Houston!



Tuesday – 05/09/2017

WOW! Today had to be my favourite day in Houston. Hannah, Ella and myself visited NASA. We headed off early to ensure that we made the most of the day. First we went on the tour of the grounds, we started off by watching a talk given at the original control room from which the Gemini and Apollo missions were managed. This contained all of the original stations and even the red telephone with a direct line to the pentagon and the speaker from which 'Houston, we've had a problem here' was announced! There were also only 10 of us on the tour, which gave us more opportunity to ask questions and talk with the ex-operations staff speaker. After this we went to the engineering warehouse where we got to actually watch the engineers work on future projects. Following this we headed over to see the Apollo 19 rocket. It was decided that after Apollo 18 the funds

were no longer available to send people to the moon and so the \$1 billion rocket is now held within a huge warehouse! It was truly magnificent to see the size of the rocket and how it was made. After the tour the girls and I watched a talk about some of the current missions that NASA is working on with particular focus upon the aim of getting to Mars. We then headed to see the Independence space shuttle. This shuttle was flown across the US astride a Boeing 747 aeroplane. Both the shuttle and plane had been stripped down to their bare bones to reduce weight and accomplish this incredible feat. We got to walk inside the actual shuttle and plane to see how this was achieved. After this the three of us walked around all of the educational facilities and artefacts. The trip was incredible, I challenge anyone to go to NASA and leave not wanting to be an astronaut!



Wednesday - 06/09/2017

Today was predominantly spent preparing for our final presentations tomorrow! This morning Stuart took the girls and myself to pick up our identity cards so that we could observe Dr Curley perform a surgery tomorrow! I'm now really excited about it, I can't wait! After this I went for a lunch meeting with Dr Jean

Yong and Dr Jian-Ming Lu. They were both lovely people and it was a pleasure meeting them both. This afternoon the final edits to the presentations were completed and ideas fine-tuned.

Thursday – 07/09/2017

Today was unbelievable. We got into work for 7am this morning to meet with Dr Curley and prepare for our surgery observation. The surgery we got to observe was that of the ablation of a cancerous liver tumour. The ablation was achieved through the insertion of a microwave probe into the tumour tissue that heats the local region above the temperature of cell death, effectively cooking the tumour. The ablation was chosen as the treatment of choice due to the tumours close proximity to the Hepatic vein, as such resection was not a viable option. After the surgery it was straight to the conference room to present our final work to the department of surgery incubator team and Dr Brian Patrick, part of the BCM Technologies and Business Development department. The Intuitap presentation went excellently with some really interesting discussion about the means of further development to ensure that the proof of concept model complies with what the FDA expectations. Overall everyone was really impressed with our work and it seems as though our work will genuinely help those at Intuitap Medical. Our individual projects were also very successful with IRCs filed for each of our inventions. After our meeting Stuart, Andy and Matt took us to have group photos at the De Bakey museum before heading to the Pit, an All American Barbeque joint. The food was incredible, by far the best food I've had in Texas! We handed each of the DoSI members their presents to thank each of them for all of their effort to bring us here before each of us headed off. Me and Andy were the only ones left and headed over to Valhalla for one last drink and a game of corn hole, an American game involving throwing bean bags into a board with a hole in the centre. This was really good fun and a nice way to sign off the whole trip.

This program was a fantastic opportunity filled with experiences whose memories will stay with me for many years to come. I'd just like to thank everyone again who has been involved with organising our visit.



