



Social Outcomes of Childhood Cancer Survivors

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This summer, I had the privilege of working at CHOP in the division of oncology. I worked with Dr. Matthew Hocking and his research team on a number of his projects, which focus on the late effects experienced by pediatric brain tumor survivors.

This was my first collegiate research experience, and I learned a tremendous amount about the entire research process. I learned how to enter data, run statistics, create a research poster, code qualitative data, and effectively review articles. I had a hand in scoring measures from participant visits and had the opportunity to shadow numerous participant study visits.

The aim of one of the projects I worked on this summer was to assess the relationship between neurocognitive functioning, family functioning and health related quality of life among pediatric brain tumor survivors when they have recently completed tumor-directed treatment. As part of my involvement in this research project, I chose to look at the association between family functioning and social and emotional quality of survivors at a later time point. Additionally, I helped with a second project of Dr. Hocking's, which seeks to compare the social functioning of brain tumor survivors and solid tumor survivors.

In addition to the numerous applicable skills I gained this summer, I also gained insight into pediatric oncology. This research experience has provided me the opportunity to make connections with and shadow individuals in the field. It has confirmed my desire to become a pediatric oncology nurse and it has opened my mind to the possibility of conducting my own research.

I am extremely thankful I was provided this opportunity to work with Dr. Hocking through PURM and Alex's Lemonade Stand Foundation. I plan to stay on Dr. Hocking's research team this fall, and look forward to all that I will continue to learn.