CEO Beijing, Summer 2013

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ENT Surgery

I don’t have very many pictures from Beijing United Family Hospital, but this one shows two ENT surgeons and my friend Aoda, an OR nurse, performing a septoplasty to repair a patient’s deviated septum. I was lucky enough to see many surgeries in the OR at BJU, and it really influenced my interest in specializing in surgery in medical school. It was fascinating seeing things I had only learned about from books and diagrams, as well as the techniques being used in surgery today. One goal is to be as non-invasive as possible; for instance, in a laparoscopic appendectomy, only three holes are punctured into the abdomen in order to remove the inflamed appendix.
Catheterization Lab

This picture was taken behind the lead walls and glass of the catheterization lab at UFH. During a DSA (Digital Subtraction Angiography), the neurosurgeons thread the catheter carefully up the femoral artery to the neural circulation in order to see the blood vessels. Once the catheter is placed, everyone leaves the room so that the X-ray can be turned on and contrast dye injected. This allows real-time visualization of blood flow through vessels. It was quite beautiful to see the contrast from the injection site flow through the arteries, then diffuse and disappear as it entered capillaries and then veins returning blood to the heart.
**DSA**

X-ray showing the position of catheter in one of the major arteries branching off the aortic arch.
DSA cont.

The real-time image of contrast dye in blood flowing through what looks like the vertebral artery (but I am not entirely sure). I followed this patient to the Cath Lab after he was admitted to the ER for severe headache, which was later seen (in MRI) to be subarachnoid hemorrhage (SAH). This was especially interesting to me because my case study featured a patient who had SAH following aneurysm rupture. DSA was performed to determine the presence of an aneurysm in this patient, but none was found. Overall I was very lucky to be at UFH and learned many things.
People can visit the Great Wall in sections, and this one is called MuTianYu and is one of several surrounding Beijing. I went with my family, as my mother was also visiting. This part of the Great Wall has technology – concrete, which was invented at the time it was built. I’ve been back to China three times, and each time I’ve been able to go to a different section. Some parts are considered “wild” because they haven’t been restored recently and are unsafe for travelers.
Bird’s Nest

The Bird's Nest Stadium is arguably the most famous Olympic structure ever built, despite the misgivings people had before its completion. I wasn't in China for the 2008 Beijing Olympics, but along with the rest of my family I avidly followed the events via NBC. We are huge fans of the Olympics, so it was quite wonderful to visit the Olympic gardens and stadium.

*One of the ER doctors at UFH is also part of the NBC medical staff and attends each Games to set up facilities for their army of reporters. Being trained in Emergency Medicine really translates to a lot of situations, which is one of the reasons I’m now interested in it as a specialty.
Shanghai Trip

One weekend during the summer, I took the high speed train (400 km/hr!) to Shanghai, since I’d never been there before. I stayed with the CEO Shanghai interns, and we went walking in the Pudong Financial district, which is across the river from the historic city. We couldn’t decide if this building looked like a needle, samurai sword, or nail clipper, but the picture did turn out great. That weekend, a typhoon was able to blow away the clouds of pollution in the city, so the sky was beautiful too.
Polar bear

I visited the National Art Museum of China during one of our weekends in Beijing. The collection contained an interesting mixture of European and Chinese style art, because during the 1900s Chinese artists began to learn techniques such as oil painting. I enjoyed this sculpture – it looks abstract at first, but then you can see a polar bear reflected horizontally.
Sanlitun District

A shopping center in the Sanlitun neighborhood (adjacent to the area where we lived in Beijing). China has been very prosperous in recent years, and some people are very wealthy. In Beijing and Shanghai, this affluence resulted in many high-end stores in giant malls. In Sanlitun, there are Balenciaga, Prada, even an Alexander McQueen boutique. These stores empty almost all the time – the luxury items are even more expensive in China. But they’re in business, so the demand does exist.
Infinite kites!

At the parks in Beijing, some vendors sold series of small kites connected together that flew in a line (see picture). They could be made very long; this string must have contained almost a hundred kites. I brought some back to try at home.
Ada, Nonye, Catherine, and I went to HouHai during our second weekend in Beijing (this is probably my best picture containing people). I think the interns in CEO Beijing really formed a tight-knit group during the summer. I’m happy that I returned to Columbia with wonderful friends.