

Testimonial for Dr. Adrian James

07-Nov-2016

To Whom It May Concern,

My name is Arushri Swarup and I am a Master's student in biomedical engineering at the University of Toronto. Dr. Adrian James is my project supervisor, working on developing tools to facilitate endoscopic ear surgery. I met Dr. James when he supervised this project in an undergraduate engineering design course. He was very approachable and wanted us to learn as much as we could about ear surgery. This would help us to engineer a useful tool for endoscopic ear surgery. He invited our team to observe his surgeries in the OR, took the time out of his busy schedule to explain the anatomy, surgery, and how the endoscope works inside the ear. He encouraged our creativity and we had productive discussions when we met to talk about the tool design. He went above and beyond as a supervisor when he took us to the surgical skills lab to test our tool prototype and connected us to CIGITI, a medical tool development lab at SickKids. CIGITI gave us the prototyping and fabrication facilities required to be successful in the project. Furthermore we practiced our final presentation, that we delivered to the class, with him and he gave us appropriate feedback to ensure we hit all the necessary points.

I enjoyed working with him in undergrad so much that I asked him to be my supervisor for my Master's project, where I am continuing work on this project. He is an amazing supervisor because he makes the time every week to meet with me to discuss our progress, constantly ensures we are on track with the requirements of my degree, teaches me about ear anatomy, and invites me to see his surgeries to learn and develop ideas about tool development. He has also connected me with other local ear surgeons around Toronto and invited me to the Endoscopic Ear Surgery course that he led. He has set up all these learning opportunities for me to ensure that I have a solid background in the current views of endoscopic ear surgery. I also observe him training the resident surgeons in the OR so they can practice their surgical skills. He positively encourages the residents, and ensures they thoroughly understand what they need to do before they do it to maintain the safety of the patient. His attitude is definitely that of an experienced, knowledgeable and encouraging teacher.

Apart from his excellent teaching skills and his compassionate attitude, he is very knowledgeable in the field of otology and that is evident by the surgical skills course that he organized and led this October. He delivered valuable lectures on endoscopic ear surgery techniques, performed a live surgery demonstration for the surgeons who attended the course and assisted them in the surgical skills lab providing guidance, insight and sharing his knowledge and experiences. He shared many of his experiences in the OR, including mistakes, preventing others from making them. Sharing mistakes is an amazing quality in a surgeon because it not only teaches others valuable lessons, but it also shows the humility of his character. He wants to ensure his students succeed, by not making the same mistakes he did. He also travels to deliver lectures about otology skills and endoscopic ear surgery in particular. He has many publications about endoscopic ear surgery and minimally invasive cochlear implant surgery. He was on a team at SickKids to develop a minimally invasive method for cochlear implant surgery. He has published many papers relating to surgical outcomes, techniques, etc. in cochlear implant surgery, endoscopic ear surgery, and other fields in otology.

Dr. James is a deserving candidate because apart from being a highly skilled world-leading otologist, he genuinely wants his students to succeed.

Thank you,

Yours Sincerely,

Arushri Swarup

*Arushri Swarup 07-Nov-2016*