Scientist Spotlight: Alejandro de Quesada

1. The most interesting thing to me about his work is how the creation of Gatorade was due to scientists attempting to solve a problem and not the wish to create a commercially viable drink that can make money. The fact that is also just happened to become very famous around the entire world is very impressive and a testament to how well made and helpful of a product it is (Gordon, 2014). 2. The process of how Gatorade works and which parts of the body it affects is related to topics in our course such as intestines that take part in the digestive system. Gatorade allows for faster rehydration because it contains water and electrolytes and carbohydrates, so when water is absorbed in the GI tract it immediately brings the nutrients you are missing with it. Additionally, his general work as a nephrologist or kidney researcher will come into play in future lessons, specifically, the lesson on the mammalian kidney. 3. Dr. de Quesada worked in Dr. Robert Cade’s lab in the Health Science Center of the University of Florida. Dr. de Quesada also worked with 2 other research fellows in the department of nephrology, Dr. James Free and Dr. Dana Shires (Dooley, N.A.). Dr. de Quesada did his first rotations in the mountains of Cuba after getting his medical degree from the University of Havana Medical School.

4. The most interesting thing about Dr. de Quesada’s career by far is his origins and where he started out vs where he ended up. The beginning of his career and where he comes from, all had many obstacles and difficulties as he lived in Cuba during the time of Fidel Castro’s rule. This complicated much of his life and forced him to move to the US and pursue a career there instead. I find his dedication to his values and beliefs to be very admirable as he would rather leave his country of origin than sign a paper that states something he disagrees with. 5. I don’t see myself in his career pathway as he chose a career of biology and medicine, which isn’t what I am interested in career-wise. What I can see of myself in his story is his immigrant experience as a person who is also from another country here in the US for educational and career purposes.

References

Gordon, M. (2014, January 17). *Thirst quencher*. Business Observer. https://www.businessobserverfl.com/news/2014/jan/17/thirst-quencher/

Dooley, K. (n.d.). *Celebrating the gatorade legacy at the University of Florida*. Florida Physician. https://floridaphysician.med.ufl.edu/2016/05/19/celebrating-the-gatorade-legacy-at-the-university-of-florida/