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Independent Study and Mentorship

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Networking Gets the Job Done!

Weekly Report 09/05/16-09/11/16

This week started great with a day off of school, our first three day weekend! This week we started gathering contacts for potential mentors. We were directed to find around contacts, preferable in drivable distance, and take note of their practice/location.

Ism revolves around finding a mentor, building relations with the mentor, and creating a final product with that mentor. This truly shows the importance of the mentor selection as it may be the key to a successful future. Along with mentor contacts, interview questions for the mentors were to be written. When selecting a mentor, it is necessary to fully understand what the person specializes in and the necessary skills they have accomplished. I have 25 possible mentor contacts and have an idea on what I will ask the mentor when I interview them in the upcoming Business Symposium. I have also sufficiently learned how to set up interviews with these professionals by using a cold call script.

Through all these activities, confidence in meeting a professional in my area of interest has risen and I feel prepared speaking wise. Some areas of concern are “ How do you appropriately approach someone you want to mentor after the first call?” Also, “How do you ask the appropriate interview questions as well as make a good impression with the professional?”. With that being said, during the week coming I have been hesitating in calling one of these

professionals even as a “cold call”. I was able to overcome that with my first call that I made this weekend to test out my speaking skills. I was able to communicate with the person effectively even though they were not of interest. Another issue was the fact that there are a lot of pediatricians in the area but not many believe in treatment with integrated medicine, which is the area I’m studying in. This lead to a decrease in potential contacts. For this upcoming week I will start narrowing down the choice of mentors and start making more calls.

The week will be centered around the research over integrated medicine and making more calls. Ready for yet another eventful week in ISM!