

January 10, 2011

Drexel Medical University
Physician Re-entry/Refresher Course
Hahnemann Hospital
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

To whom it may concern:

I'm a 61 year-old, retired ENT-Head & Neck – Facial Cosmetic surgeon, who after three years of retirement, realizing there was more to life than biking, golfing, yard projects, etc., decided to return to what I was trained to do and what I really enjoyed doing – that is surgery.

I researched many programs, including the PACE program in San Diego, but after high recommendations I chose the Physician Re-entry Program at Drexel University – Hahnemann Hospital in Philadelphia. My course was from November 1 through December 10, 2010.

It was an intensive program that will ensure one of a confident and smooth transition back into medicine. Although programs varied based on ones medical background, my typical day (as a general surgery doctor) started at 6:30am making rounds with the residents. Afterwards, at 7:30, I chose to attend the Internal Medicine Board Review – Resident case presentation conference led by Dr. Boselli. This was invaluable.

I then went to the OR and was able to pick from around thirty rooms (on two floors, including the cardiac cath lab and ERCPG rooms), observing four to seven surgeries per day.

In the late afternoon I would go to the CME office for detailed computer cases. Through “Doc.com”, “Dx.com” and “SIMPLE” (which it wasn't), I was led through very well

done simulated patient cases that were most educational. The cases were general internal medicine and general surgery type of cases.

The first week also involved doing three Internal Medicine History and Physical's (H & P's). These were video-taped and later reviewed with a Professor. In my case, Dr. Varjavand was very helpful with corrections where needed and suggestions to improve the outcome. Five weeks later, another set of three H & P's were done, and due to the thorough teaching one can see marked improvement in accuracy and completeness of the latter reports.

A 'Self-Assessment Medical Board Review Exam' is taken before the course begins, and then again upon completion. I did pass the pre-exam, but certainly not with flying colors. My post-exam score more than doubled, and showed improvement in all twenty-nine areas.

It's a tremendous program that is well organized, extremely current and well worth the investment. The support staff even assisted with long-term housing for my stay, which was walking distance to the hospital. They've left no stone unturned. I would highly recommend to anyone considering re-entry or just an overall refresher course in Medicine.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Craig J. Ball'.

Craig J. Ball, M.D.
California