

California Medical Association Foundation Summer 2008

Executive Summary

During the summer of 2008 I interned with the California Medical Association Foundation, working on their HPV and cervical cancer project. Other ongoing projects that the Foundation is working on are obesity, diabetes, cultural competency, and programs in collaboration with ethnic physicians. My supervisor was a wonderful mentor and extremely supportive of my growth as an intern. She was patient, open to hear my ideas, and always encouraged me to get highly involved in whatever I was working on. My coworkers were friendly, often young, and always made sure to have a little fun while they worked.

The main projects that I worked on throughout the summer were: researching cultural and social barriers against HPV vaccination, updating the Foundation's website, preparing for the HPV summit for the upcoming fall, and updating the HPV toolkit for health providers. I was always involved in the "action," sitting in on dozens of conference calls with prominent collaborators across California. I learned about the development of vaccination campaigns in the Department of Public Health, was always allowed to ask questions, encouraged to share my research findings, and was given a firsthand look at the thought process and challenges that go into developing health policy.