

Yogita Kathrotiya, ('24) reflects on her APPE rotation:

"During my first week, the orientation and topic discussions on organism nomenclature, gram-positive, gram-negative, fungal, and HECK YES organisms laid a strong foundation for the weeks to come. I quickly realized the importance of accurate identification and classification of microorganisms in tailoring effective antimicrobial therapy for patients. The opportunity to shadow my preceptor during antimicrobial scoring and pharmacokinetics sessions exposed me to the meticulous process of optimizing dosing regimens for critically ill patients.

Week 2 built upon the knowledge gained in the previous week, with in-depth discussions on bugs and drugs, antimicrobial spectra, and common drug interactions. I became more involved with patient care activities. Daily patient case workups and presentations were particularly instrumental in honing my clinical decision-making skills. These interactions provided me with the opportunity to recommend appropriate antimicrobial therapies, de-escalation strategies, and IV to PO conversions. Through patient cases, I encountered various infectious disease scenarios, such as MRSA bacteremia, syphilis, *Clostridioides difficile* infection, MDRO infections, osteomyelitis, urinary tract infections (UTI), pneumonia, skin and soft tissue infections, meningitis, endocarditis and tuberculosis. It was incredibly satisfying to see how my recommendations positively impacted patient outcomes.

The continuous learning during the rotation was evident in the weekly topic discussions and quizzes, on topics such as CAP/HAP/VAP, endocarditis, UTIs, skin and soft tissue infections, intraabdominal infections, and osteomyelitis. The preceptor-led lectures and discussions expanded my knowledge base and facilitated thoughtful discussions. Participating in the interdisciplinary virtual ID pharmacists meeting was a highlight of the rotation. It provided an invaluable opportunity to see how everyone was eager to share their knowledge and experiences, fostering an environment of continuous learning and professional growth. I learned about different approaches to managing similar cases and gained a deeper appreciation for the intricacies of infectious diseases.

As the rotation approached its conclusion, I prepared and presented a journal club on 'Safety of Cefazolin for Perioperative Prophylaxis in Patients with Penicillin Allergy Labels' which allowed me to enhance my presentation and research skills. Furthermore, attending patient case presentations by medical students deepened my understanding of complex infectious disease cases and allowed me to participate in interdisciplinary meeting.

Throughout the rotation, my preceptor made sure I was actively involved in patient care activities. The pharmacists entrusted me with patient case workups, allowing me to take the lead in identifying treatment plans and making appropriate recommendations. Their mentorship allowed me to gain confidence in my clinical decision-making abilities and learn from real-life patient encounters.

Reflecting on my rotation, I am immensely grateful for the opportunities to apply my pharmaceutical clinical knowledge in real-life scenarios. Working closely with infectious disease physicians and other healthcare providers emphasized the significance of an interprofessional approach to patient care. This experience not only reaffirmed my passion for infectious diseases but also instilled in me a sense of responsibility as a future pharmacist to advocate for antimicrobial stewardship and evidence-based practices.

Overall, my APPE rotation in infectious diseases was a transformative experience that equipped me with the skills and knowledge necessary to excel in this specialized field. I am confident that the lessons learned during this rotation will continue to shape my practice as a pharmacist, and I look forward to applying these invaluable insights in my future career. "