

Why I chose to participate in an externship

After residency, I will be pursuing a career as an academic dermatologist doing clinical trials in atopic dermatitis. I wanted to do this externship to understand how drug development happens from an industry perspective, and get to know the various industry stakeholders and their role in drug development.

My externship experience

I spent 4 weeks working for the New Product Planning Group at LEO Pharma. This team was based in Copenhagen, Denmark, so I was working remotely. They are essentially the “corporate strategy” arm at LEO Pharma. My project for the month was to create an acne disease strategy for them. I interviewed several KOLs (expert clinicians) to understand the current treatment landscape for acne and what the unmet clinical needs are, did some opportunity sizing using epidemiology and pricing models, and presented my work to the group at the end of the month. Because I wanted to learn more broadly about drug development within industry, I was also introduced to numerous stakeholders (from explorative biology, translational medicine, clinical trials operations, business development and medical affairs) to learn about their roles at LEO.

Final thoughts

I had a fantastic experience as an extern at LEO Pharma, and am grateful to AID for connecting me with this opportunity. LEO is a really exciting pharma company that is specifically focused on dermatology, with several biologics in clinical stages of development that have the potential to transform standard of care. Most of all, I absolutely loved the culture at LEO - all of the colleagues I worked with were supportive of my learning and ensured that I had a productive and fun month!

Sally Tan, MD, MPH