ER is my second clinical rotation department. I love it because I not only learned clinical management of various interesting emergent conditions, but also refreshed a lot of my basic knowledge.

My working schedule in the emergency department is totally from that in the surgery department. Firstly, I worked three days plus a conference day a week. Secondly, my daily schedule is not fixed, because there are subgroups in the ER team with different schedules. Some groups work from 7 am to 7 pm, some work from 11 am to 11 pm, and some work from 12 pm to 12 am. I was assigned to different groups and got different experiences. For example, urgent care groups deal with minor traumas and diseases with lower level of risks. Red team deal with most dangerous traumas and conditions that need immediate intervention after initial evaluation. In ER, I was assigned for new patients for initial assessment and presented the related conditions to residents or attending physicians. Also, I was assigned for some procedures or I asked if I could help in some procedures. Most helpfully, on Wednesdays, I just went to classrooms to listen to the presentations of residents and sometimes, attending physicians.

In my rotation, I learnt how to manage the different emergency conditions. For every case, I need to make a list of differential diagnoses including the most likely diagnosis and the most urgent diagnosis. For example, for a 62 y/o male with c/o of severe lower back pain, the most urgent diagnosis, AAA needed to be excluded because it needs immediate intervention and has the highest risk, while the most likely diagnosis, renal stone needed to be testified. The ER experiences help me understand how to arrange work-ups for emergent patients. I also learnt how to deal with different patients. In ER, there are many patients with urgent conditions and in acute distress. We need to retrieve accurate focused history as soon as possible to consider all the possible diagnoses. Time is a key factor in ER. In addition, I learn a lot basic and clinical knowledge from the presentations on every Wednesday. Every Wednesday there is a different topic to be focused. For example, on the ultrasound day, I learnt how to do IV access under ultrasound guide.

In my rotation, my oral English was improved, but I still need to improve it further. I am doing my practice.