

Interview Assessment #16

Name of Professional: Dr. Benjamin Greenberg

Profession/Title: Professor of Neurology (Autoimmune Neurologist)

Business/Company name: UT Southwestern

Date of Interview: January 26th, 2021

Assessment:

In this research interview, I interviewed Dr. Benjamin Greenberg. Dr. Greenberg is a professor of neurology at UT Southwestern. In specific, he specializes in autoimmune neurology. Prior to this research interview, I hoped to learn more about specific neurological and neurodegenerative diseases, primarily Parkinson's Disease, which is my focus in ISM. Dr. Greenberg, specializing in autoimmune diseases/neurology, was a great candidate/professional to interview in hopes of me learning more about this topic. During this interview, I was very excited to be given the opportunity to gain further insight into the current treatments and research going into this field. Since my goal is to determine effective early biomarkers and diagnosing methods for Parkinson's Disease, I realized that it was necessary for me to interview a professional who specializes in a similar field who could enlighten me on a first-hand account of similar research.

We started off the interview by discussing the current treatment options for patients with autoimmune brain conditions. I found this information very useful because I have also

conducted research pertaining to the current Parkinson's Disease treatments available for patients. Therefore, learning about the parallel treatments for other neurological diseases provided me with insight into the world of treatments for neurological diseases. In addition to teaching me about the specifics of the treatments used on patients for these diseases, he emphasized the importance of patient care before and after treatments. Patients with neurological diseases are different from patients with other diseases in that these diseases tend to not be curable and have permanent as well as progressive effects that need to be closely monitored and are not fixable through a single treatment. This related to the Parkinson's disease treatments that I researched in that the Parkinson's Disease treatments worked in a way in which they directly affect dopamine reception in the brain rather than suppressing the nervous system as a whole.

Additionally, Dr. Greenberg informed me about the work-life of a neurologist. He informed me that often times witnessing the fragile states of patients can be unsettling especially with Parkinson's Disease in that patients are unable to fully recover from the disease and you are forced to witness, firsthand, the deterioration of their mental state. I also learned that this field is one of the most difficult fields to get into and maintain a successful career in because of the many intricacies in the field of neurology. He also told me that the reason he is able to maintain a successful career is due to his passion for gaining knowledge and helping others. This cemented the realization that I wish to pursue this field because I share a similar passion as well as a similar interest in this field. In Dr. Greenberg's profession, he is able to take part in ongoing medical research which I also hope to pursue in my career in order to make advancements in the field of medicine.

Through my future in ISM, I will continue further research into the intricacies of Parkinson's Disease with the ability to draw comparisons between my research as well as the knowledge I gained through this interview with Dr. Greenberg and autoimmune neurological disorders. While I already know much of the current research going into Parkinson's Disease treatments and diagnosing methods, I will incorporate this new information into my ongoing research in hopes of meeting my goal of helping Parkinson's patients around the world.