

A cluster of ten teal dots arranged in two rows of five in the top left corner.

Asian American Youth Program Scholarship Presentation

Vivian Huang

Two teal plus signs and a large teal circle in the bottom left corner.

Agenda

1 Career Direction

2 Why This Path

3 Experiences

4 Leadership & Service

5 Future Outlook

6 Questions & Answers



01

Career Direction



Surgical Dermatology

What Is It?



- Involves diagnosing and removing skin growths and cancers
- Common procedures include excisions, Mohs surgery, cryosurgery, laser surgery, and skin grafting

Why It Is An Impactful Field Of Medicine



- Skin cancer is the most common type of cancer
- 1 in 5 Americans will develop skin cancer before age 70
- Melanoma cases rose by 42% from 2015 to 2025
- Skin cancer is highly treatable if detected early (Melanoma has a 99% 5-year survival rate)

Physician Assistant vs Surgical Dermatologist

Category	PA	MD/DO
Education (post-undergrad)	3 year master's degree in Physician Assistant studies + 1 year PA dermatology fellowship (optional)	8+ years post-undergrad (4 years medical school + 3-4 years residency + 1 year Mohs fellowship)
Licensure	PANCE exam	American Board of Dermatology (ABD) exam
Surgical Tasks	Performs excisions and assists in closing Mohs surgeries	Performs the actual Mohs cancer removal
Autonomy	Needs to be supervised by a doctor	Full autonomy + supervises others



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Why This Path



Why Dermatology: Family Medical History

Skin Condition	Family Member
Hereditary acne (require retinoid treatment)	Mother and me
Bullous Impetigo (bacterial infection)	Sister
Skin ulcer (caused by stroke and paralysis)	Grandfather
Keratinous cyst (required surgical removal)	Me

Family medical experiences made me realize:

- The skin's complexity, including infectious complications, wound care, and surgical intervention
- Surgical dermatology allows me to use medical knowledge to **diagnose and heal** patients of all ages, improving their quality of life



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Experience+

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Vincent Wang Wellness Center Internship



Direct Patient Care

- Performed phlebotomy/drew blood
- Conducted electrocardiograms (EKG)
- Took vitals (temperature, blood pressure, and oxygen saturation)



Shadowing

- Shadowed physicians, nurse practitioners, and physician assistants
- Inquired about their career trajectory



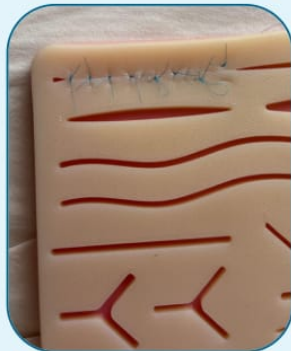
Takeaways

- Sense of fulfillment from providing care to underserved populations
- Saw a variety of patients living with chronic conditions

Surgical Dermatology Skill Building

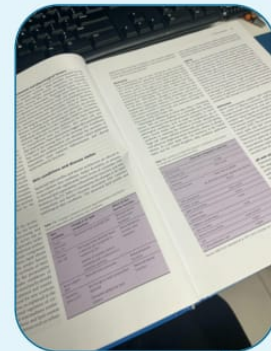
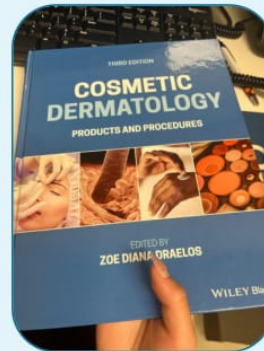
Suturing Practice Kit

- Practiced suturing with a kit
- Types of sutures: simple interrupted, running subcuticular, horizontal mattress



Learned Medical Terminology

- Read *Cosmetic Dermatology Products and Procedures* by Zoe Diana Draelos to learn medical terminology





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Leadership & Service



Leadership + Community Service

Leadership	Relevant Skills	Impact On Career Choice
Running Coach Girls On The Run 3 seasons	Physical fitness: trained 50 girls 2 times per week to run a 5k Motivating children: encouraged children to set and achieve fitness goals	Values: increased health awareness, discipline, stamina, fitter lifestyle Relation to medicine: increased knowledge of musculoskeletal system and desire to improve health outcomes
Co-founder of Story Hour (writing program) 2 years	Leadership: taught 38 children writing skills, developed course curriculum	Values: pursuit of academic excellence, expressing ideas and emotions Relation to medicine: improved my communication skills, empathy of the human experience
Study Abroad in South Korea 2 months	Language learning: attained intermediate proficiency in Korean Problem solving: adapted to unexpected obstacles in a foreign country	Values: flexibility, cultural competence Relation to medicine: increased my desire to work with diverse ethnic groups



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Future Outlook



Summary

1. Family Skin Diseases

Includes acne, bullous impetigo, skin ulcers, and keratinous cysts

2. Career Exploration In Dermatology

Watched medical videos on cyst and lipoma extraction surgeries

3. Dermatology Based Skill Building

Practiced suturing and studied a dermatology textbook

5. Cornell University B.S. Human Development + Pre-Med Track

Taking pre-med courses and joining pre-health clubs

4. Internship At The Vincent Wang Wellness Center

Direct patient care cemented my decision to pursue medicine

Future Steps

1. Build A Strong Academic Foundation

The human development major allows me to understand patient psychology, pre-med courses build up strong science foundation

2. Continue Clinical Experience

Direct patient care in a dermatology clinic is the most relevant

3. Hospital Volunteering

Continue giving back to the community and gain experience in different medical settings

6. Medical/PA School

Gain medical knowledge and licensure

5. Network With Dermatologists

Build mentorships and resources for career development

4. Find Research Opportunities

Do research related to skin conditions or gene editing



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Questions & Answers

