

Immunology Down Under - Naomi Wake

I carried out my elective in three hospitals in Melbourne Australia. My time was split between working in the clinical immunology laboratories and attending patient clinics with clinical immunologists. I wanted to go somewhere new and exciting where I could learn and share novel clinical immunology knowledge. I was given a contact for the Royal Melbourne Hospital by a colleague who had worked in Australia for 6 months previously, this made organising my elective not too difficult, although it still took many months of emailing and planning before it was finalised. The clinical aspect of my elective was extremely enjoyable. I attended many clinics in different hospitals with numerous clinicians, giving me a chance to witness the many different communication styles of clinicians and patients. In the laboratories I was able to give advice and pass on knowledge of assays I have carried out in the UK and learnt a great deal about assays and techniques I have not seen before. Going to different locations within the city was fascinating due to Melbourne's cultural diversity, the differences in patient populations within the city was very interesting. I thoroughly enjoyed both the clinical and laboratory aspects of my elective and learnt a great deal of valuable knowledge. The whole experience was extremely positive and has been the highlight of my STP training to date.