

## **Beyond Blood Sciences**

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### **Summary**

My elective was split into several different secondments over the course of my second year of the STP rather than a traditional block rotation. These areas included neurophysiology, bowel cancer screening, microbiology, the mortuary, with vascular surgery still to complete. Seeing these areas gave me greater understanding of how clinical scientists work in other settings, patient-facing roles, and how pathology fits into many parts of a patient pathway. As my first year rotations remained in blood sciences I was fairly sheltered in aspects of patient-facing roles in the hospital. Visiting neurophysiology and observing clinics was therefore interesting and helped identify which communication techniques could be applied to my home department. I was lucky enough to be invited to observe spinal surgery and see the role of neurophysiology in the theatres. Bowel cancer screening provided me with opportunity to see a large-scale screening programme in action and reflect on the differences from requested tests. The mortuary tour I attended gave insight into post-mortem procedures and how samples are collected for biochemical analysis. Visiting microbiology highlighted results that require days to develop as opposed to continuous automated analyses seen in biochemistry. I hope vascular surgery will again provide me with experience of clinical areas and give me greater knowledge of hospital procedures. I believe my elective has broadened my experience of other departments and I feel capable to develop multidisciplinary links to enhance patient care in my future profession.