

## **Interview Assessment #1**

**Name of Professional:** Dr. Junaid Ahmad

**Profession/Title:** Anesthesiologist

**Business/Company Name:** Dallas Anesthesiology Associates

**Date Interviewed:** October 23, 2024

Going into my first interview in the ISM program, I was extremely nervous. I was interviewed by Dr. Junaid Ahmad, an anesthesiologist who I contacted through networking with family. My father knew an anesthesiologist and referred me to him. I researched Dr. Ahmad's background (schooling, company, etc.) and texted him. Dr. Ahmad was very kind and open to a conversation the next day. As an anesthesiologist, he has limited availability, so he could only arrange a virtual interview the next day.

Through my questions, Dr. Ahmad offered excellent insight into the field of anesthesia. He did his undergraduate schooling and went to medical school, where, right before his fourth year, he decided to practice anesthesia. Afterward, he went on to do four years of residency. Afterward, I asked Dr. Ahmad if he would have done things differently. An anesthesiologist goes through many years of schooling, so I wondered why Dr. Ahmad found this schooling worth it. He advised me that it was all worth it and that he loves his job. This was extremely valuable, as the next 10 years will be challenging. This advice will keep me motivated, knowing it will all be worth it.

For my third research assessment, I researched the benefits and drawbacks of practicing anesthesia in a private practice compared to a hospital setting. Dr. Ahmad has been practicing

anesthesia privately for over 20 years through Dallas Anesthesiology Associates, where he and a team of 20 other anesthesiologists work with surgeons providing general anesthesia. Dr. Ahmad talked very highly about practicing anesthesia with a private practice and said it allows for a much more flexible schedule. He informed me of his day-to-day schedule, and he leaves for work roughly around 7 am and returns home by 6 pm. Of course, a couple of days may run later, but his work ultimately allows for a healthy lifestyle. This is extremely important because I plan on having a family when I'm older, so practicing privately can allow for a better work-life balance.

With technology on the rise and with the heavy influence Artificial Intelligence (AI) is predicted to play in the future, I asked Dr. Ahmad what his views are on AI in the field of anesthesia. I wrote a research paper on how AI will affect anesthesiologists in the future, but I wanted to get an anesthesiologist's opinion firsthand. He predicts that AI will help anesthesiologists with small tasks that can make the job slightly more accessible, but ultimately thinks AI will not significantly impact anesthesia for many years. This was a big concern of mine, and I was relieved to know that the field of anesthesia is and will remain for years to come in a stable environment. That way, I know that anesthesia will be the same field I have been preparing for after 12 years of schooling and residency.

Overall, my biggest takeaway would be the advice Dr. Ahmad gave me. He said don't rush your youth; everything will fall into place eventually. This resonated with me for numerous reasons, the main one being to enjoy my last bit of high school. Often, I find myself wishing I

was in college and starting the path toward my career. Dr. Ahmad said time flies before you realize it, so I want to live in the moment, my last year in high school.

After 25 minutes, I asked him if he had any questions regarding the ISM program. I answered all his questions and thanked him for taking time out of his day to meet me. Finally, I asked if he had any feedback on my interviewing skills. Thankfully, he said I had well-prepared questions and I was good at making conversation. However, he said I could improve on my eye contact. I didn't realize it, but when I speak, I look away from the person I'm talking to. My eye contact is excellent when listening to the individual speaking, not when I'm saying. I informed him that this would be an area that I would improve on.

I had an extremely informative interview with Dr. Ahmad and will be reaching out in the future regarding a second interview. It was informative, and I enjoyed talking to and learning more about him. I am excited to use the knowledge he shared in future ventures.