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Innovative Scholars Program
Weekly Update- April 17, 2009

This was our last week in this program!

I have a mixed feeling. I am sad to leave Office of Civic Education Initiatives and the research lab. However, I will be very happy to see all my 10th graders and return to the classroom with a lot of things accomplished. They are: a solid foundation for an ongoing research study with several stages already approved by the IRB; an opportunity to involve my students in this research study and the excellent chance to contribute to the bank of knowledge; 12 Worldwide Classroom™ Distance Learning Programs planned and executed; and, new interdisciplinary curricula.

These 105 days spent here at Cleveland Clinic were not just a few days spent away teaching, but a scholarly period which has provided an enormous amount of knowledge and training! The well known world-class facility filled with unending learning experiences is a real treat in my professional life. It is an experience of a lifetime which makes me feel that I have been through a college course! It is hard to explain the taste of honey, and this experience cannot be explained in a few words! I strongly recommend this opportunity to every teacher.

This week, I collected the CSF samples from two more patients and ran the first phase of the assays! More assays will be accomplished in the coming weeks! Meanwhile, I have prepared my PowerPoint, hypothesis, abstract and the research poster. On the last day of the program, a graduation ceremony was held and I presented my study to a scholarly gathering inclusive of Jane and Jon Outcalt, the donors. One of the scientist feels there is a chance my study will be published in several journals! This makes me feel that this is a rewarding experience accompanied by a great learning process. If the research is published, this will be another great chance for me to improve my knowledge, expertise and skills. I can't wait to see my students and share this experience!

I thank each and every person I met in this program for this excellent experience!