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I completed my second clinical rotation at Schwab Rehabilitation Hospital, where there was a prevalence of gunshot wound victims. Furthermore, their health conditions were exacerbated by a variety of psychosocial factors and limited access to healthcare resources. This clinical experience, along with my formal educational training, sparked my interest in the Chicago Gun Violence Research Collaborative (CGVRC).



Upon completion of the program, I have so much to share about the lessons I learned. First and foremost, I think that gun violence needs to be addressed through a multidisciplinary lens. I appreciated the interdisciplinary, public health approach that the collaborative fostered, and I think it would be interesting to incorporate other professions, in the future.

I also learned that communication across community resources and organizations is needed to address the gun-violence epidemic. My faculty-fellow research project aimed to explore access to gun-violence prevention resources within Brighton Park. I learned about many community-level organizations that exist to do so; however, communication across organizations is needed for successful implementation and utilization.

Additionally, I think that the fellowship program stressed the importance of participatory research. It was integral to our research project to incorporate community members and workers from Brighton Park. I will take the concept of participatory research with me into my future education and career as an occupational therapist. Overall, I learned so much throughout my experience with CGVRC, and I am eager to see the continuation of the research projects.