

Flathead HOSA

Visits Seattle Medical School

Members of Flathead HOSA had a great tour at University of Washington Medical Center in Seattle, Washington, in February. We enjoyed the whole trip – AMTRAK was as good as could be for sleeping on the train for the two nights going from and coming back to Whitefish, Montana, which is very near to our home town, Kalispell.

We learned about the Fred Hutchison Cancer Research Center and their connections with famous baseball teams and players, after being founded by the oncologist brother of a player who died from a cancerous tumor. They have three Nobel Laureates to their credit, whose works have had global consequence. The Fred Hutchison Cancer Research Center is one of three comprehensive cancer centers in the whole USA!

We had a privileged and encouraging tour by a Flathead High alumnus, who is an administrator for The Vaccine and Infectious Diseases Institute there. We attended one of the dates that the University of Washington makes available to all area High schools for introductory tours and hands-on interaction with departments of interest. Our department visits were to the Prosthetics department where each of us could try on an artificial arm and attempt to grasp objects with the attached claw. Then we visited ISIS – a simulator lab used for training surgeons. We brought the patient having surgery back to life after he crashed on the table! These were ideal sites for most of the members of our group – the future anesthesiologist, neurosurgeon, doctors, registered nurses, research scientist, and radiologist.

A very cool tip for those who would consider this tour as well is to book rooms at the Silver Cloud Inn on Lake Union, who provides discounts for people who are staying while visiting the Fred Hutchison Cancer Research Center AND they have complimentary shuttles to key locations throughout Seattle, including the train station, and a shuttle to and from the University of Washington facilities as well.

Of course, we all enjoyed a few hours in downtown, shopping and eating great food as well as visiting the space needle to view the gorgeous landscape and take in some hints of 'springtime' before returning to two more months of snow at home! NOW we are fired up for our HOSA State Conference which is coming very soon! A special HOSA thanks to Julie Collier at the University of Washington and Tamara Schmautz, Fred Hutchison Cancer Research Center, for arranging these great tours!

For more information, visit the Fred Hutchison Cancer Research Center at <http://www.fhcr.org/>

