WHERE’S OUR MANOGRAM®?

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My internship at the AdMeTech Foundation started on May 23rd. It has been really busy working here every day, and I love it! AdMeTech is a 501(c)(3) organization “leading the global battle against the prostate cancer crisis by transforming patient care” (http://www.admetech.org/about-us). AdMeTech has two foci: 1. Awareness, education, and advocacy programs aimed at the advancement of prevention, early detection, and treatment of prostate cancer, and 2. A research program focused on the development, clinical evaluation, and large-scale implementation of the Manogram®.

I chose this internship because I believed that I would gain a lot of experience by working in a growing organization. I found AdMeTech during Brandeis’s Just In Time Career Fair, and the company asked me one day before the career fair if I wanted to schedule an interview for a potential internship. My supervisor later told me that AdMeTech asked me up front because she thought my resume suggested I would be a great fit with AdMeTech. I loved the interview process, both with my supervisor and with my future colleagues. I believed that I was very comfortable and confident during both interviews and I was able to demonstrate my strengths and my aspirations for the internship.

AdMeTech is a small organization with big ambitions. Over the summer, it needed to: transfer all its information into a new purchase database (Blackbaud); launch a new website; and work with the Massachusetts State House to organize the Annual Prostate Cancer Awareness Day, which occurred on June 19. Overall, lots of work has to
be taken care of, and I worked closely with my supervisor to discuss how things could fit into the time I have here. I am really excited because I am getting plenty of opportunities to gain experience within the non-profit sector.

My first assignment was to consolidate the existing database so it could be transferred to a better database: Blackbaud. The existing database wasn’t efficient because only one person at a time could access it. With Blackbaud, AdMeTech’s information would be better organized, more accessible, and more professional. Although my supervisor gave me a month to do it, I was able to complete the assignment within five days; I think this demonstrated to her that I was capable of taking on a more complex assignment.

That assignment was creating the organization’s new website using a platform called WordPress. My initial reaction when I learned about this assignment was one of excitement. Although I had prior experience with website construction, I was only managing and organizing resources that were the building blocks for the website. This time, I had the opportunity to create the website myself and to have substantial input on a project from start to finish. Additionally, creating this website gave me another chance to learn about the organization and its niche in the health care system.

Our team worked really hard within a limited timeframe and our supervisor was very satisfied with the final product (see here). Through this assignment, I learned that making a health-focused website is different from making other websites. For example, health-focused websites need to create eye- and heart-catching “hooks” to demonstrate the urgency of a given health issue. Additionally, for AdMeTech as a non-profit
organization, donations are a substantial source of funding, so fund-raising needs to be especially catchy to gain someone’s attention.

So far, my sense of AdMeTech as a workplace is that the work is challenging, but the setting is relaxed/informal and supportive. I feel comfortable working with my colleagues and I work very closely with my supervisor. Because it is a small organization, I have the opportunity to have my hand in a lot of projects. However, I also think being proactive and reliable has helped me become more involved. The feeling of accomplishment is great, and both my supervisor and the CEO are pleased with my work. I look forward to further developing the qualities of a great staff member, which I believe include good time management, attention to detail, perseverance, and patience.