

NAME: REBECCA SPASARI

DISCIPLINE: CHILD NEUROLOGY

Past/current experiences working in the field of disabilities:

I began working as a swim teacher in a special recreation organization as a teenager and developed a passion for working with people with disabilities. I continued as a leader in the student volunteer organization for disabilities throughout college and I entered medical school with the goal being a physician that cares for people with neurodevelopmental disabilities. In residency, I have focused my training and elective time on the diagnosis and medical management involved in autism. I have used these experiences to teach medical students and residents about the evaluation of autistic patients in both inpatient and outpatient settings.

Goals for your LEND training experience:

I am excited to gain experience in advocating for patients with neurodevelopmental disabilities. I hope to develop skills that allow me to be a leader in the field and to provide care to people from diverse backgrounds. I want to become more knowledgeable about policies surrounding the disability community and how they impact my patients' daily lives. I am looking forward to forming relationships with people working in the field of disabilities outside of medicine.

What you wish to contribute, in the future, as a professional/family member in the field:

I plan to work as a child neurologist who cares for children and adults with neurodevelopmental disabilities. I hope to improve the lives of autistic individuals especially during the transition period into adulthood through advocacy and continuing medical care during this time.