

CLINICAL INNOVATION & DESIGN

TESTIMONIAL: NATALIE WESTON

2021-22 COHORT

When choosing between the various 3rd year options, I wanted something that was interesting to me, would look great on a resume, and was an opportunity I wouldn't be likely to get outside of Dell Med. I can honestly say that the CID program is the only program of its kind currently available to medical students. The only similar program currently exists is the Biodesign program at Stanford, which requires you to take two years off from residency to participate in it.

Throughout my time in CID I have gained invaluable skills in not only problem solving, business, and engineering, but in what I think is the most important of all - problem identification and validation. A lot of medical school is learning how to identify the underlying problem amidst a host of patient stories, lab data, and physical exam findings. CID takes those problem identification skills to the next level all while learning how to develop biomedical devices.

I also associate medical technology with surgical fields so I was nervous about this program being not quite as relevant as other third year options for someone going into pediatrics, but I could not have been more wrong about that. The skills and incredible connections I have gained through this program will allow me to better understand what is truly going on with my patients and develop solutions for often overlooked populations.

I am so incredibly proud of the way our team has come together to narrow down a list of over 400 identified problems to a single validated need that we will spend the spring semester prototyping solutions for with ultimate plans to patent our technology and create a business plan to bring it to market.

The program has also opened many doors into other research opportunities that are very exciting. The time commitment isn't minimal, but I have had time to stay involved in other commitments including student organizations, completing my engineering coursework for the combined CID/Masters of BME program, studying for step 2, and enjoying being a 20-something before residency starts.

