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## Introduction

The University of South Alabama Student Run Free Clinic (USASRFC) is a multidisciplinary clinic managed by student representatives from the University of South Alabama (USA) and Harrison College of Pharmacy at the Auburn University. USASRFC provides holistic care through an integrated approach, utilizing the strengths of different healthcare disciplines for patient needs. While this benefits the patients, it also provides the opportunity for students to practice working on multi-disciplined teams. This allows students to understand different healthcare roles, how to communicate and coordinate across disciplines, and how to utilize each role's strengths to maximize the patient's care. In a qualitative study, we assessed volunteers' perspectives on their experience working within multi-disciplinary teams.

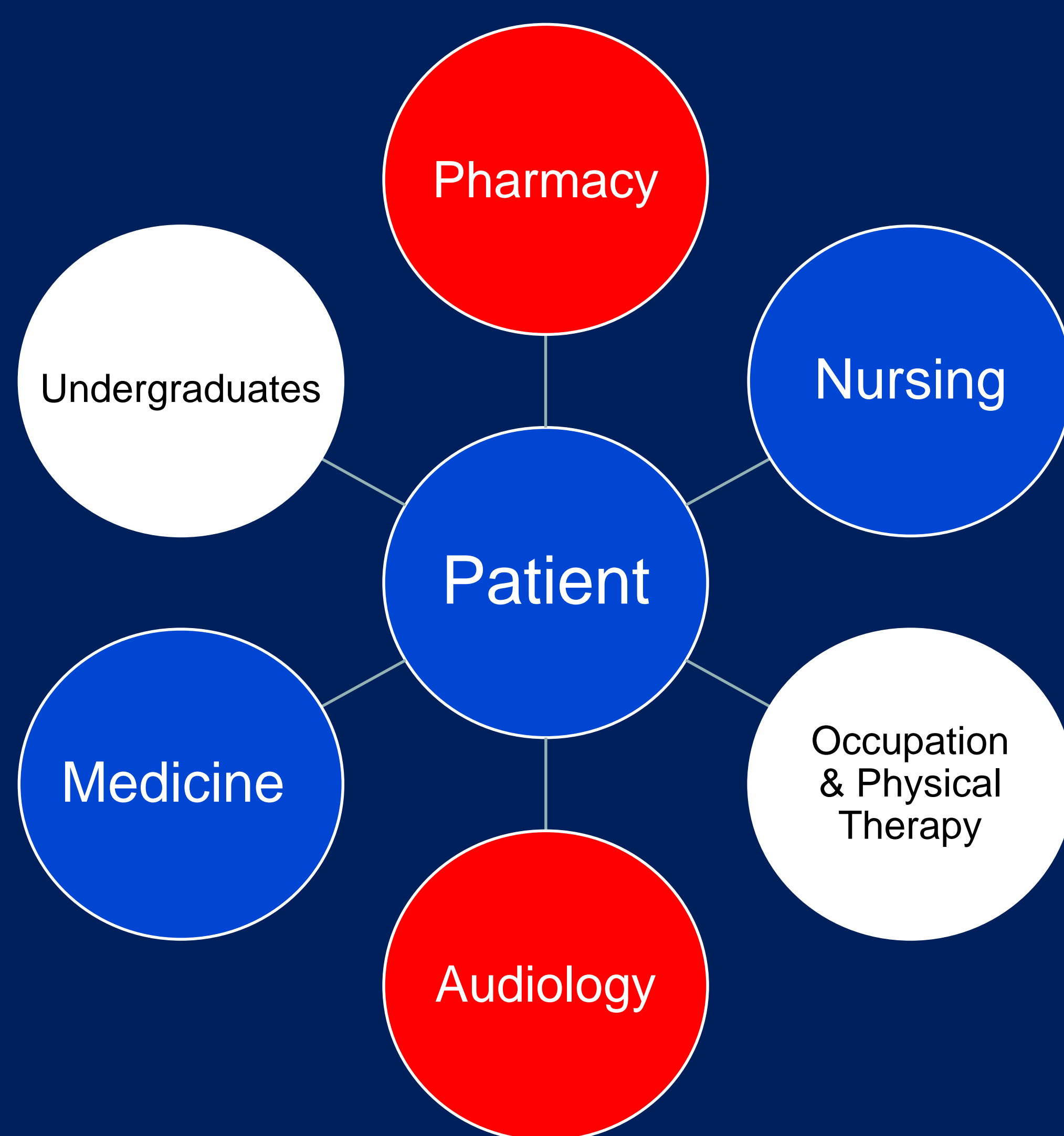
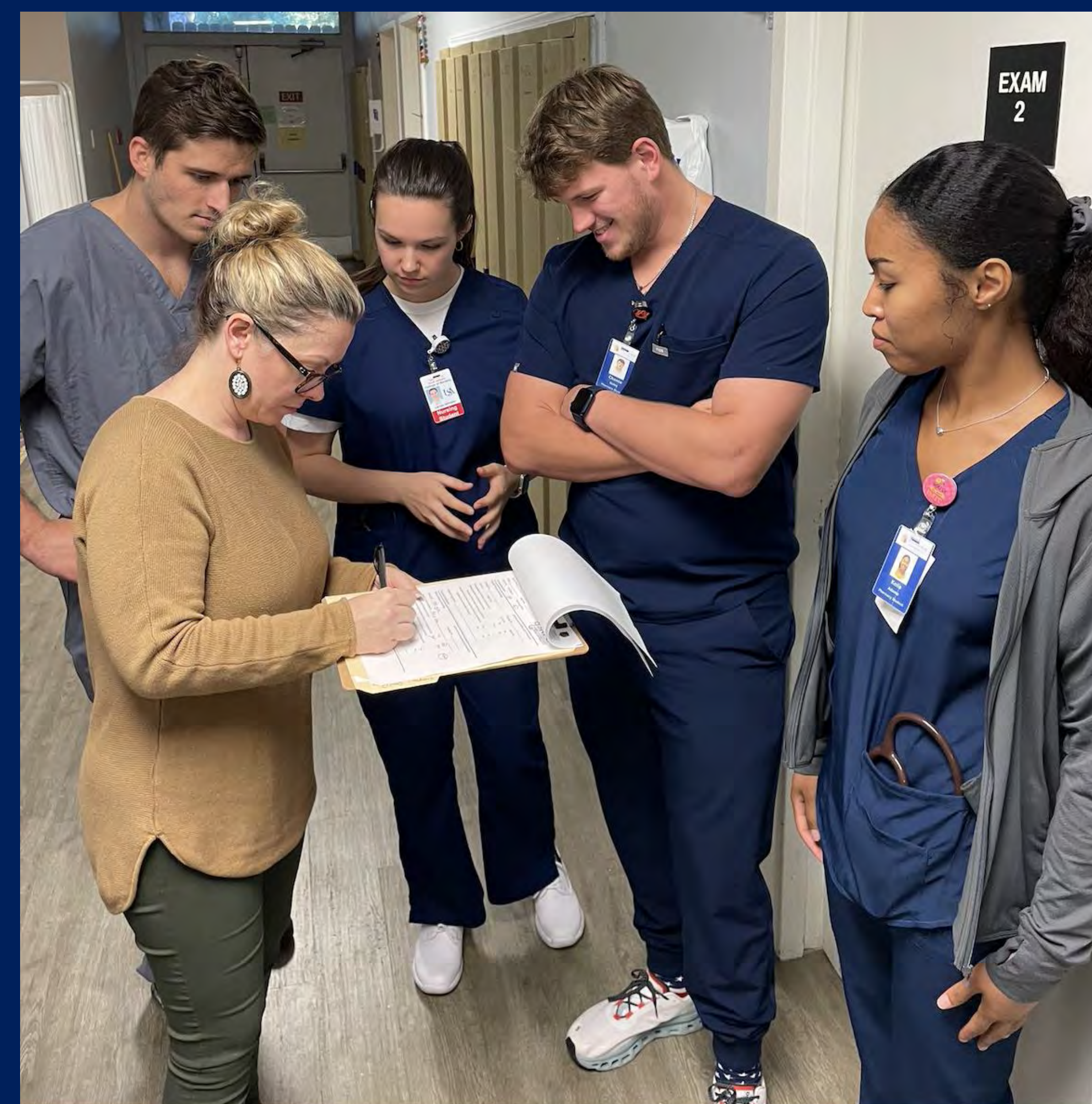


Figure 1: Disciplines represented at USASRFC

## Methods

Two executive leadership members (CH & TH) conducted multiple focus groups with volunteers from different clinic sessions to inquire about the views of the experience volunteering at the student-run, multidisciplinary clinic. The themes inquired in the focus groups included: learning experience (both clinical and operational), importance of volunteering, and ideas for improving clinical services. Focus groups were conducted between June 2022 to March 2023.



Picture 1: Focus group conducted after clinic session

Discipline	Sample Size (%)
Medicine	21 (44.68%)
Pharmacy	16 (34.04%)
Nursing	5 (10.64%)
Audiology	2 (4.26%)
Occupational and Physical Therapy	1 (2.12%)
Undergraduates	2 (4.26%)

Table 1: Proportion of disciplines amongst focus groups

## Results

Eight different focus groups consisting of 47 volunteers were completed during this period. The focus groups included the following disciplines: medical, pharmacy, nursing, audiology, occupational and physical therapy, and pre-professional undergraduate students. All experience reflections were positive and included a continued desire to volunteer at the clinic.

Three common 'highlights' from their volunteer experience were: interesting cases, practicing didactic skills, and learning about other health disciplines. All focus groups stated that within their education, they have little or no experience working amongst other health disciplines. Multiple students from medicine noted how they learned other disciplines can conduct a focused history and physical exam. A specific example from medical students was learning that occupational therapist could assess activities of daily living (ADLs), something medicine has no specific training on.

When asked about improving clinical services, multiple volunteers noted involving other health disciplines. Specifically, USA has both a nurse practitioner and physician assistant program who do not volunteer at the clinic. Other noted themes for improved clinic services were further practice and experience on disciplinary teams. Multiple volunteers noted that by the end of the clinic session, their clinical team was better able to support each other after learning and practicing how to work together. From this feedback, the USASRFC leadership conducts pre-clinic huddles to allow each volunteer to provide their skillset along with what they can perform or conduct to support the clinic team. Utilizing these pre-clinical huddles have helped in improving team dynamics from the start of clinic.

## Conclusions

USASRFC multidisciplinary model has allowed a unique opportunity to support a complex patient population. Additionally, it provides clinical experience to students from different healthcare disciplines to practice in interdisciplinary teams. The USASRFC continues to gain feedback from volunteers on improving and expanding services to our patients, but also how to maximize student opportunities in providing their specialty within the overall healthcare system.

Themes
1. Learning Experiences
Understanding roles of different disciplines
Practicing didactic skills
Interesting cases
Serving challenging patient populations
Experiential learning
Healthcare operations
2. Importance of Volunteering
Positive impact on community
Personal growth & satisfaction
Building connections with colleagues
Gaining perspective
Empowering others
3. Improving Clinical Services
Enhance interdisciplinary teamwork
Standardize protocols
Establish quality assurance measures
Patient education empowerment
Feedback and evaluation
Increase evidence-based practices

Table 2: Different themes as responses in focus groups