In my summer internship in the dialysis center at the New York Hospital of Queens I participated in a study on the effects of an iron-containing drug on patients with kidney failure. Dialysis patients usually have low iron levels and the administration of a drug containing absorbable iron might help maintain levels of iron in their blood. Dialysis patients come to the center at least three times a week, where they are connected to a machine that removes wastes from the blood; cleaned blood is then returned to the body. The drug we tested is administered to the patient during dialysis.

Each patient entered into the study must have a minimum iron level and must sign research participation agreement. To monitor the progress of the patient, weekly bloods were drawn and the patient was examined by a physician. Any adverse effects or hospitalizations were noted by another researcher and me. Once the patient’s bloods were drawn, I would prepare samples for testing both in our lab and in other labs.