The Brooklyn CHC is unique in a lot of ways inherent to being in New York City. Diversity in patient population, opportunities to use Spanish, Mandarin, Cantonese, Russian, Level 1 Trauma Center, unique pathologies and social issues faced by new immigrants, low income urban communities, and much more. If you can think of it, you can find it in NYC. Another of its strengths is that all of your training is at one teaching hospital with multiple residencies (Family Medicine, Internal Medicine, OB/GYN, General Surgery). Program Directors at residencies value this. Showing that you are able to function within the hierarchy of a residency is a big plus, in addition to being able to get letters of recommendation from program directors.

If you are interested in surgery, are willing to do an AOA residency, and wouldn't mind living in NYC for a long time, come to the Brooklyn CHC. The program here is very good, and you have a super unique opportunity to get to know the residents and attendings here. The surgery program is one of the few areas of the hospital really familiar with our school, and there are two SOMA graduates in the surgery program.

One of the biggest drawbacks to the Brooklyn CHC is the sheer number of students at the hospital. There are Caribbean medical students from several schools, in addition to the NY DO school, NYCOM, and this number is increasing all the time. Most of the attendings are still not familiar with AT Still. The result is less face time with attendings. To thrive at the NYC CHC you definitely have to be aggressive in seeking out opportunities to interact with attendings, and you have to be ready to compete with the other students from the Caribbean schools in order to not be just another face in the crowd. This seems pretty unique from what I have gathered from the other CHCs, where there is a much lower student to attending ratio, and those relationships are much easier to establish. Another downside of being at a teaching hospital is that most of the procedures go to residents instead of students.

--John Haggerty