

On a family trip in Babourika, Morocco during my middle school years, my family encountered a British couple at the hotel. The man was suffering from severe abdominal pain, and his wife began to panic as there was no immediate access to medical help in this remote village. In an act of complete selflessness, my father approached them with a simple, "I'm a physician. Can I help?" My father proceeded to treat this complete stranger in a country far from home with the medications he had on hand. The following day, the man was back on his feet and ready for another hike. I now understand that this was one of the events that truly confirmed my long-lasting dream of becoming a physician. My father's career planted a seed of interest in me so long ago that I do not even recall when this interest turned into passion. Watching my father use his skill to help complete strangers in need made me understand why I have never wavered from a career in medicine.

In order to confirm that my interest was a true passion and not a childhood phase, I embarked on several academic endeavors. I spent my summers at programs at Georgetown University listening to lectures on radiology and cardiology. What I did not learn in lecture halls, I explored firsthand in labs with cadaver dissections and emergency room simulations. At Boston University, I explored psychology by conducting analytical research over 3 weeks. During the school year, my weekends are immersed in human physiology, neuroscience and molecular biology at Columbia University—a continuation of my middle school summer exposure to these subjects at Johns Hopkins' CTY program. This exploration has solidified my dreams of becoming a physician.

Shadowing doctors allowed me to witness a doctor-patient relationship firsthand—a pivotal part of medicine. As I quickly observed, patients are more touched equally by the care provided as much as the knowledge the doctor has. Analyzing data and case study organization activities as an oncology research assistant has allowed me to develop and apply my knowledge of medicine. As a senior officer of my Red Cross club chapter, I organize bi-annual blood drives and teach health hygiene activities to kids, which has allowed me to develop strong, compassionate people skills with those I serve. The thought that this selfless service indirectly saves surgical patient lives humbles me and pushes me to do more with Red Cross.

With a goal of attending a seven year accelerated medical program, I hope to use these upcoming years wisely in order to carry out my future dreams and to exceed my own expectations. I began with an emotional foundation gearing me towards a career in medicine. I built on this inherited passion by developing intellectual interests of

my own, which pushed me further down this path. The culmination of both these aspects is a firm belief in my goal to be a physician.