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Medical School Admission Essay

My interest in urology began with an inherent curiosity about the field. It was strengthened by urology research and solidified by rotations in nephrology, surgery, and urology. I excelled in anatomy, renal and human physiology, and molecular biology, probably because I love grappling with complexity, considering multiple dimensions at the same time. Though I am good at quick decision making, I enjoy being able to sit down to contemplate a problem without immediately rushing to an answer. I love that there is oftentimes no easy answer. I believe the personal strengths that allow me to stand out as a candidate for this residency are my perceptiveness, ability to withhold judgment, empathy, and endurance.

While nephrology is my favorite non-surgical field, my passion for surgery steered me towards urology. (I was fortunate to have an excellent urologist mentor. Journal articles in urology interested me. My research in urology developed to the stage where I felt comfortable proposing and independently carrying out projects of my own.) I taught myself statistics, including regression modeling and survival analysis on SAS and SPSS. My work on prostatectomy learning curves was recently published in the Journal of Robotic Surgery. I (then) initiated a project investigating independent predictors of urinary function using mixed model and regression analyses and recently wrote the draft manuscript for a project investigating oncological outcomes in pN1 prostate cancer treated with robotic prostatectomy using multi-institutional data. It became very clear to me that I would continue to be curious about this field for the rest of my life.

My family and I came to Detroit in the late 1990s. Most of my elementary school years were spent in midtown Detroit, where I attended public school from second to fifth grade. In retrospect, Detroit has had an enduring, positive influence on my character and values. My joy from mentoring my younger brother of 12 years, reading books, and long distance running has further strengthened my patience, endurance, and love for experiencing life in other's shoes. My ability to run 20-30 miles a week at my peak attests to my physical endurance. My life experiences and the opportunity to serve on the Michigan Daily Editorial Board has instilled in me an appreciation for the exchange of ideas and the ability to value disagreement. As a member of a family that moved often, I developed strong sociability and adaptability skills, and a sense of well-being – that things would work out in the end.

[For academic programs only?] I have had the privilege to work with an academic urologist since the beginning of medical school which has had a lasting influence on my career goals. My interest in research is not fueled by the hope of making great discoveries or curing disease or becoming renowned, but from the desire to be able to answer (a good question) with data or experiments. I would like to continue with research for as long as possible. My goal for residency is to train in a program that provides an outstanding foundation in urologic surgery and encourages research.

I am fully confident I have what it takes to excel in the practice of urology. It is through this field that I feel I could best serve others.

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