

Personal Statement

I can still hear my grandmother's laughter, often cut short by painful, hacking coughs. I would rub her back for several minutes, hoping it would give her some relief. As a child, I believed any illness could be healed, but I slowly confronted the reality that for her idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis, and for so many diseases like hers, there was no easy cure. Feeling helpless, I always questioned what I could offer to individuals like her to bring hope and relieve suffering.

This foundational question guided my undergraduate years, where I was driven to solve healthcare challenges with technology. I developed an interactive app using gamification to ease children's pre-operative anxiety, engineered a tool to help clinicians identify patients for hereditary cancer screening, and worked on smart glucose devices at Teladoc Health. These projects were rewarding, showcasing technology's potential, yet they also hinted that my deepest fulfillment might lie closer to the individuals whose lives we aimed to touch. While immersing myself in pre-medical courses alongside a major in computer science, my fascination with the human body and its complex systems continued to flourish.

Still exploring where I could make the most meaningful impact, I embraced the challenge of developing products on a massive scale as a software engineer at Zoom. I built software used by millions, including at major events like the Democratic National Convention. These projects were undeniably instrumental in shaping how people connected globally; however, I realized it felt more like I was contributing to corporate objectives than touching individual lives in the way I had always dreamed. This sense of detachment starkly contrasted with the fulfillment I continued to find in my decade-long commitment to coaching Special Olympics athletes. With each athlete, progress came from building a strong connection, understanding their unique challenges and patiently adapting my approach to cultivate their growth and success.

After several years of professional growth in the technology industry, a lingering personal dissatisfaction prompted me to take the leap. I began by shadowing a transplant nephrologist, where I saw the full spectrum of patient experiences from those fighting to delay dialysis to those thriving decades post-transplant. One patient celebrated his 20-year transplant anniversary, having been under the continuous care of this same physician from the start. His journey from illness to two decades of health powerfully illustrated the enduring physician-patient partnership, one of trust and shared commitment. This blend of long-term relationship, scientific knowledge, and medical breakthrough capable of restoring a life embodied the kind of impact I was seeking—personal, sustained, and deeply transformational.

My journey to medicine has been one of exploration, from the helplessness I felt beside my grandmother to the limitations of indirect impact in technology, and finally to the unparalleled reward of positively affecting individual lives. I hope to use my technological background as a unique lens, one equipped with analytical skills and a passion for innovation to dissect complex problems and ultimately enhance patient care. I aspire to be a physician who not only treats illnesses but who also proactively partners with patients, utilizing every available tool and creating new ones to foster health, restore hope, and honor the resilience of the human spirit. I am eager to dedicate my greatest efforts to medical school and beyond, committed to serving patients with both skill and compassion.