

Onyoo Park
334 E 26th St. Apt 12A-2
New York, NY 10010

SNUCMAA, NA
PO Box 631
Port Washington, NY 11050

Dear SNUCMAA,

I want to thank the SNUCMAA again for your generosity in funding the scholarship and for selecting me to be a recipient. The scholarship funds were used to reduce the debt burden I had taken on to pay for the school fees and housing. Due to this, I was able to engage in extracurricular activities that I would not have been able to otherwise. For example, I am serving as one of the regional directors for the NY/NJ chapters of Asian Pacific American Medical Student Association (APAMSA). Recently, I attended the APAMSA national board retreat in California. I would have hesitated to attend such a retreat due to the cost of travel. However, the scholarship allowed me to attend events like the retreat and take advantage of the opportunities for networking, professional development, and learning about the health needs of the Asian American communities. Moreover, being able to live in NYC has also contributed to my professional and academic development. I was able to interact with an incredibly diverse patient population, meeting patients who spoke languages that I have never heard of before and who had life experiences that I could have never imagined. These experiences have taught me how to work with patients of such diversity and develop cultural humility.

Throughout my academic journey, there were many individuals and organizations that helped me. They provided mentorship, when I did not know how to navigate the college application and medical school application processes because no one in my family had before me. They supported me financially, which made my education possible. I have always felt indebted to give back by supporting students with similar backgrounds as me in the future. Additionally, I have become interested in the health needs of immigrant communities, especially Asian American communities that are underserved or in poverty. This interest was instigated by my personal experiences but also in my involvement with the APAMSA. With other regional directors, I am planning a regional conference in NYC with the theme of immigrant health and health equity. Through this, I have begun to learn much about the health needs of the Asian American communities and immigrants. I have also learned about the inequality that exists in access to healthcare. I hope to be able to help these communities receive the healthcare they need. I am also the outreach coordinator for the NYC Free Clinic, a free primary-care clinic run by medical students. These involvements have stimulated an interest in serving individuals that do not have adequate access to healthcare due to financial, societal reasons, and I envision myself serving their needs. I want to thank SNUCMAA again for the scholarship, for allowing me to pursue opportunities that contribute to my professional development, and for supporting my dream of helping the underserved.

Sincerely,
Onyoo Park