

January 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2021

Dear SNUCMAA of NA Scholarship Committee,

My name is Matthew Chung, one of the 2020 SNUCMAA Scholarship recipients, and I am writing to you to express my humbled gratitude for this honorable scholarship.

Currently, I am a first-year student at SUNY Downstate College of Medicine. This is my first of four years, but my arduous journey doesn't end with school as residency and fellowship await me. I have had the pleasure of meeting and learning from leading researchers and professors in their respective fields, despite this difficult transition period that we are all adapting to. Over these past few months, I have not only accustomed to the way of learning content by the bulk, but also found time to reach out and receive a student-research position in the department of Orthopedic Surgery.

I regret to inform you that the glimmers of medical school are close to none, especially when moving almost entirely to a remote learning environment. In fact, some would say learning has become even more difficult (online anatomy class makes it impossible to discern a vein on the foot from a muscle of the arm). However, the SNUCMAA Scholarship has allowed me overcome these obstacles, making the learning process not only easier but more enjoyable. I have been able to utilize this scholarship towards textbooks and new, constantly-updating online resources to better prepare myself for exams. For example, I was able to obtain a computer application specially made for students taking Anatomy and Physiology that not only teaches efficiently on an online platform, but even allows me to edit a skeleton into my family photos to scare my mom. With the security of my grades in the hands of these resources that I've been able to purchase, I've ventured further than I would have ever expected in just my first semester of school, conducting my own systematic review study on the effects of anti-epileptic drugs on bone density and mineralization and even volunteer work at the Brooklyn Free Health Clinic. I've not only found a way to commence my journey in becoming an Orthopedic Surgeon, but also started to contribute towards the betterment of a community, the community that my school is embedded in, that was once an epicenter of the pandemic.

I have been able to accomplish everything that I had set out to (which was to simply pass all my classes) and more with the help of this scholarship. The textbooks, applications, practice problem sets, etc. have all given not only the raw information that I will carry for the rest of my career, but also the training in treating my future patients. I've learned the value of what it means to cure through caring. I've met ingenious mentors and loyal friends, and though the Korean-American population in my school is minuscule, I take much pride in my background and my identity and hope to bring it to the forefront of my identity as a future physician. I want to thank you, the committee and the benefactors, for helping make my dreams come true through your support.

Sincerely,  
Matthew Chung



A major part of becoming a physician is learning the skills to build rapport and developing the trust with your patients. This not only establishes an amicable environment between the healthcare provider and the patient, but also rids of any uncontrollable biases when performing a physical exam. For example, this is a photo where I am performing the respiratory exam on my standardized patient. Had I been cold to him during the interview portion of our interaction, the patient may be uneasy and it could be reflected in his breathing, a false positive.



As a medical student at SUNY – Downstate, I was offered early access to the SARS–CoV–2 vaccine, allowing me to volunteer on site.