

With the generous scholarship from Seoul National University College of Medicine Alumni Association of North America (SNUCMAA), I was able to spend the past semester at Weill Cornell Medical College (WCMC) with minimal burden of medical school loans. Furthermore, with the given funds, I was able to buy needed resources such as First Aid USMLE Step 1 exam textbook as well as acquire the Boards and Beyond videos, which are important supplementary materials to help guide my learning in medical school. Given that my institution (WCMC) does not grant government subsidized loans, if I were to take out more loans I would have to accrue interest even during medical school and residency. With this said, the scholarship goes far beyond the face value, and helps me save the cost of medical school even farther down the road by avoiding compounding interest. The decrease in level of stress due to financial hardship has helped me get through the past semester without being distracted by these external factors, but rather focusing more on my academics and clinical activities.

Currently, I am working with the Weill Cornell Center for Human Rights, where I am helping asylum seekers receive clinical evaluations, which helps significantly increase their likelihood of receiving legal asylum here in the United States. Furthermore, I am also working to help start a new clinic, called Weill students for Harm Reduction, which seeks to help Persons Who Inject Drugs (PWID) receive wound care, and minimize the risk of serious complications. Furthermore, I am about to join a clinical research project with Dr. Richard Lee, a staff at WCMC that seeks to study the effects of fecal transplant of specific bacteria in microbiome that may decrease the risk of Urinary tract infections in patients who have had kidney transplant surgeries.

While I am still in the process of selecting a specialty, no matter which field I enter I hope to dedicate my career in medicine to help work with underserved populations. Before coming to medical school, I had the privilege of working for one year at Lawndale Christian Health Center, a clinic in westside of Chicago that focuses on serving low-income patients in a predominantly Hispanic and African-American neighborhood. Seeing the need for more physicians who are willing to serve in these neighborhoods in the continual effort to close health disparities, I want to play my part by working at a place like Lawndale after residency. Whether I am serving directly in the clinic as an Internal medicine, Pediatrics or Family medicine physician, or going into more specialized fields such as Cardiology, Orthopedic or Radiology and volunteering part of my time to serve in these clinics, I am interested in pursuing medicine that focuses on serving communities in need, rather than pursuing high status in academia. Furthermore, as a devout Christian who seeks to live out his faith, I believe that my motivation to serve in this capacity is not motivated by any external factors, but my own calling to go to a place like Lawndale. I hope to return the blessings that I have received from God, whether it is being able to attend a superb medical institution like Weill Cornell Medicine, or receiving this generous scholarship from SNUCMAA.