

Letter of Appreciation

Dae Yong Park
Department of Medicine
1969 W. Ogden Ave
John H. Stroger, Jr. Hospital of Cook County
Chicago, IL, USA

October 3, 2023

Seoul National University College of Medicine Alumni Association (SNUCMAA)
Unit #810
5501 Merchants View SQ
Haymarket, VA 20169

Dear SNUCMAA,

I hope this letter finds you in the best of health and spirits. I am writing to express my heartfelt appreciation for the generous scholarship provided by SNUCMAA to support my aspiration to become a clinical investigator while training in internal medicine and preparing for a fellowship in cardiovascular medicine.

Since the second year of residency, I enrolled in the Master of Science in Clinical Investigation at Northwestern University to become a better researcher and an interpreter of clinical studies. It was a big decision to make, but I decided to embark on this academic journey as I dreamed of becoming an independent clinical investigator and a clinical trialist who produces new knowledge, contributes to the scientific community, and ultimately better the lives of patients around the world. Navigating through graduate school while fulfilling my clinical duties as an internal medicine resident was challenging, but my passion to continue research and become a leader in my field helped me to press forward. However, the financial burden of tuition, books, and other related expenses became increasingly overwhelming amidst the rising costs of living in Chicago and the illness my mother suffered. The scholarship from SNUCMAA, therefore, has all the more lightened this load and allowed me to focus more on my studies and research.

Sometimes, it can be lonely pursuing an academic career in the United States as you have limited connections and only a handful of people know about your medical school. In that regard, the scholarship from SNUCMAA has also provided me with the much-needed encouragement and motivation, going beyond the financial support. The support from graduates and seniors from my alma mater in the United States truly inspires me to work diligently and strive for excellence in my studies and research, knowing that I have the backing of community of individuals who believe in my potential.

I look forward to the day when I can give back to SNUCMAA and support future generations of medical trainees and aspiring clinical investigators who are also striving to jumpstart their academic careers in the United States to promote Seoul National University, Korea, and

ultimately, the lives of patients. The generosity from SNUCMAA has shown me the importance of philanthropy and the impact it can have on the lives of individuals like me.

Once again, I would like to convey the deepest gratefulness from the bottom of my heart for your kindness and support. I am committed to working tirelessly to fulfill my dreams and make SNUCMAA proud.

With warm regards and sincere appreciation,

Dae Yong Park