

Julia An
50 E 98th St, Apt 9D-2
New York, NY 10029
juliaan2027@gmail.com
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Seoul National University College of Medicine Alumni Association of North America

Dear Dr. Taewoong Kim and members of the Dr. Taewoong Kim Scholarship Committee,

I hope this letter finds you and your loved ones well! I am writing to provide an update on my educational progress and to again express my deep appreciation for your generous support.

I started my medical education at the Icahn School of Medicine back in August and have been thoroughly enjoying the experience of learning new material and building relationships with peers and mentors. I completed courses in anatomy, biochemistry, microbiology, and am currently taking physiology. I joined various interest groups, and shadowed attendings with introduced me to the fields of anesthesiology, otolaryngology, gastroenterology, ophthalmology, and oncology. I started volunteering at EHHOP, a free clinic in East Harlem run by Sinai students and attendings. I completed additional Nexus classes titled "Surgical Skills," "Advanced Medical Spanish," and "ENTroduction to Otolaryngology."

Additionally, I applied to and was accepted into the Global Surgery and Surgical Leadership program, which has provided me with extra education, mentorship, and guidance that has been shaping my future goals for global health and medical missions. I was also chosen as one of three first-year students to lead the "Surgical Skills" course for the next two years, which aims to prepare first- and second-year medical students for clinical rotations. I applied to and was accepted into the Medical Student Training in Aging Research (MSTAR) program, funded by the National Institute on Aging (NIA), so I will be spending the upcoming summer at Mt. Sinai researching thyroid cancer treatment in geriatric populations. Outside of school, I have continued my active involvement in my church community at Redeemer Lincoln Square and am still tutoring multiple high school students from lower-income backgrounds to contribute towards educational equity and to give back to my community.

This scholarship has provided me with invaluable opportunities to delve deeper into my personal interests both within and outside of medicine and has significantly alleviated the financial challenges associated with medical school.

My future goals include working towards global health equity, advancing equity in education and mentoring younger students interested in healthcare, and serving wherever there is the most need. While I am not yet certain which specialty I will choose, I have been consistently working towards these fundamental goals of mine.

This scholarship and your support serve as a constant reminder of my commitment to upholding the values of medicine and strengthening my dedication to excellence both within and beyond the clinical setting.

Please do not hesitate to reach out if you would like any further updates on my academic journey. Once again, thank you for your generous support.

Sincerely,

Julia An