



The SNUCMAA scholarship allowed me to fully immerse myself in medical school without the added stress of financial burdens. By covering part of my educational expenses, I was able to dedicate my time and energy to hands-on learning experiences that solidified my passion for medicine.

One of the most unforgettable aspects of my journey has been our anatomy course, during which I worked on one body donor with two other medical students for multiple months to uncover the intricacies of human anatomy. As I examined the valves in their heart, followed the intricate arterial supply of their

abdomen, carefully separated each layer of muscles in their thorax, traced the bundle of nerves in their arm to the brachial plexus, and did a deep dive into their brain structure, I saw the human body come to life before my eyes. The body no longer felt like a black box. They say that the body donor you dissect in medical school is your first patient. Through this experience, I saw the story of my first patient's medical history, not through what they told me but through what I saw. Each day in the anatomy lab, my classmates and I uncovered real-life manifestations of medical conditions this patient lived with—a spinal fusion, the metal remnants of an open reduction and internal fixation surgery to heal a fractured femur, multiple tumors, a lens from a cataract surgery, and right hemisphere brain hemorrhage that was the ultimate cause of his death. These encounters deepened my understanding beyond textbooks, making abstract concepts tangible. They filled me with a sense of awe about the sanctity of our bodies and a resolute determination to ground my care for patients in this concrete imagery and reverence. I will never forget what it was like to see each finger tendon that allows the complex movements of our hands, realize just how small our auditory system is, and hold a human brain, the physical encapsulation of someone's existence, in my hands. Every moment reinforced that I am exactly where I am meant to be and filled me with immense joy and gratitude to be studying medicine at Johns Hopkins.

This scholarship also gave me the freedom to explore my clinical interests, leading me to realize a deep interest in oncology. I found myself fascinated by our coursework in immunology and neoplasms and moved by the stories I heard from patients I chatted with in the head and neck cancer wards as part of a student volunteer organization. To understand the future, we must know the past, and so I've begun a project investigating the evolution of breast cancer treatment at Hopkins where radical mastectomies were developed and diving into books on the history of cancer. My background in computer science and biomedical informatics has also allowed me to begin interdisciplinary research in liquid biopsies—an exciting frontier centered around detecting cancer through blood samples. All of these experiences have further filled me with excitement about a future as an oncologist caring for patients wrestling with cancer.

Growing up, I watched my parents and older church members turn to *hanisas* for care, incorporating traditional Eastern medicine with Western medicine in their healthcare. These experiences have shaped my commitment to becoming a culturally competent provider who bridges the gap between the two approaches. I aspire to deliver holistic cancer care that thoughtfully integrates evidence-based traditional treatments—such as herbal medicine and acupuncture—the exciting contributions of Western medicine, and cutting-edge research at the intersection of cancer and computer science.

I aspire to use my medical training to provide compassionate, comprehensive, and culturally sensitive healthcare, particularly cancer care. This scholarship has given me the foundation to pursue this goal, and I am committed to paying it forward by uplifting others in need, just as I have been supported on my journey. From the bottom of my heart, thank you for your support.