

My name is Grace Kwon, a recipient of the 2025-2026 Seoul National University College of Medicine Alumni Association of North America (SNUCMAA-NA) II Young Kim, M.D. scholarship. As a current first year dental student at UCSF School of Dentistry, this scholarship has been a great assistance in purchasing my dental school kit and dental loupes. My dental school kit includes necessary tools that allow me to learn how to take care of patients and be a part of serving the community in San Francisco. Additionally, my dental loupes are a type of magnifying glasses that allow dental professionals to create intricate work for our patients. These important tools can be incredibly expensive, but through this scholarship, I was able to purchase both my kit and my loupes. This scholarship continues to encourage me to be a part of the positive change in dentistry and focus on giving back to others.

In the future, I envision myself becoming a dentist that gives back to the community through volunteer work and educating the community on proper oral care. As a dentist in training, I believe it is important to understand that certain patients may be facing difficult circumstances, causing them to overlook their oral health. This makes it even more important to provide compassion and empathy while offering treatment plans and suggestions, making sure they feel comfortable to share their concerns. This scholarship has allowed me to focus on growing my interpersonal and technical skills as a dental student, which has been invaluable. It has allowed me to participate in important research at UCSF, become a part of multiple student organizations focused on serving the community, and learn how to become the best dentist I can be everyday. As a Korean American, I also believe it is important to service my community as well through communicating in Korean for patients who may find it difficult to convey their

thoughts in English. I am incredibly proud of my Korean heritage and it is something that I continue to become a part of, even at UCSF. Thank you for the opportunity to share my story through the Seoul National University College of Medicine Alumni Association of North America (SNUCMAA-NA) Il Young Kim, M.D. scholarship and thank you for your support of my dream in becoming a dentist. Thank you!

