

Dear SNUCMAA-NA Scholarship Committee,

Thank you again for your generous support for my medical education. I am honored to be a recipient of the Dr. Il Young Kim scholarship, and I have been utilizing the scholarship to my utmost ability in the past few months. I am excited to provide you a progress report of what I've accomplished thus far in my first year of medical school.

First, I have been very dedicated to my studies. As a one year pre-clinical program, Vanderbilt Medicine has been pushing me to new heights of studying and discipline. The Dr. Il Young Kim scholarship has allowed me to subscribe to AMBOSS, anatomy models, and other critical study resources without me feeling a heavy financial burden, and this has allowed me to excel in Vandy Med's rigorous curriculum.

Next, I've been completing and disseminating research that I've worked on in the past few years. My PI Dr. Zixiu Xiang, collaborators, and I recently submitted the manuscript "M1 Muscarinic Receptor Activation Enhances Somatostatin Interneuron-Mediated Inhibition in the Prefrontal Cortex: Implications for E/I Balance and Treatment of Schizophrenia" to Molecular Psychiatry, and the manuscript is now under review. My PI Dr. Tiffany Woynaroski, collaborators, and I are making final revisions on the manuscripts "Demographics of Participants in Early Childhood Autism Intervention Research: A Project AIM Systematic Review and Meta-Scientific Analysis" and "A Comparison of Stability and Predictive Validity of Caregiver Talk Indices in Toddlers with Autistic and Non-autistic Siblings" for submission. The data from the latter manuscript has also been submitted to the International Society for Autism Research Conference 2026 for a panel presentation, and we are awaiting results. I've budgeted much of the scholarship money for future conference opportunities, and I am very grateful to have the Dr. Il Young Kim scholarship to disseminate research at conferences, bolster my academic career, and absorb from some of the brightest minds in research and medicine.

Third, I've been getting greatly involved with Vanderbilt Medicine's extracurricular communities, particularly with our Shade Tree Clinic, a student-run clinic providing free care to Nashville's under-resourced populations. I volunteered and ran for the Shade Tree Trot, an annual 5K to raise money for the clinic (**picture attached**). I was also a part of the planning committee for the annual Shade Tree Dinner and Silent Auction, where over \$200,000 was raised for the clinic through the generosity of physician donors and sponsors (**our flyer attached**). Lastly, I've been increasingly involved in Vanderbilt's chapter of SNaHP (Students for a National Health Program), particularly in their initiatives to fight for Tennessee Medicaid expansion. As a Vanderbilt undergraduate and alumni, I developed many nonprofit connections in Nashville, and I am working to utilize these connections to build new partnerships between these nonprofits and our medical school. The scholarship has been and will continue to be

instrumental in helping me contribute to all of these initiatives by allowing me to offer financial support for key events.

Lastly, I've found great joy in hosting various events for my classmates at Vanderbilt Medicine, promoting a sense of unity and camaraderie among the class. **Attached is a group picture** of many of my classmates at my apartment for a White Elephant Christmas Party. The scholarship has given me the means to lean into my love of hosting events and facilitating connections between people. I will be running for Class President in the upcoming Class Council elections with hopes to represent my class to Vanderbilt Medicine's administration and to the general medical community.

With the scholarship, I plan to continue succeeding in my studies, contributing to research, supporting our student-run free clinic, and being a glue for my peers and my community. I have a great conviction to support people without access to medical care, both nationally and internationally. I plan on enrolling for Vanderbilt Medicine's traveling clinical electives, which will take me to Kenya or Nigeria to support the clinics Vanderbilt physicians have set up there. Because of SNUCMAA-NA's generosity, I will have no worries in pursuing these goals. Thank you for your continued support for my education and growth, and please reach out to me if you have any questions.

Best,

Insung Kim

Insung Kim

M1, Vanderbilt Medicine Class of 2029

Photos:



Picture 1. Vanderbilt Medicine first-years at Vanderbilt Shade Tree Trot. I am pictured in the middle holding number 140.



Picture 2. The official flyer for this year’s Shade Tree Clinic Benefit Dinner.



Picture 3. Vanderbilt Medicine first-years at my apartment for a White Elephant Christmas Party. I am pictured in the bottom left with a red sweater.