

Dear SNUCMAA-NA Scholarship Committee and Dr. Il Young Kim,

I would like to express sincere gratitude for the encouragement and support I have received through the SNUCMAA-NA Scholarship since last fall. It is truly a joy and honor to share a brief update on my journey over the past several months.

As of this February, I have completed the pre-clinical, didactic portion of my medical education and will begin clinical rotations in about a month. At the moment, I am in the middle of my dedicated study period for the USMLE Step 1 examination, which I will be taking at the end of March. Studying many hours each day with limited human interaction can sometimes be mentally and physically draining. Nevertheless, I remain deeply grateful for the opportunity to pursue this education and I recognize that this privilege comes with the responsibility to give back throughout my career.

A couple weeks ago, I had a wonderful opportunity to briefly shadow one of my mentors, an orthopedic surgeon at Massachusetts General Hospital. The experience served not only as a refreshing break from Step 1 studying, but also a powerful reminder of why I chose this path. Spending time with my mentor and meeting patients whose lives had been significantly improved through surgery reminded me that the countless hours of studying and the rigorous exams and curriculum are not merely academic hurdles, but preparations for providing the best care possible to my future patients. As mentioned in my previous letter, my interest in orthopedic surgery continues to grow. The ability to operate and restore the function to bones and muscles is both fascinating and rewarding. Seeing the tangible improvement in patients' lives after operation reinforces my motivation to become an orthopedic surgeon. In addition, I am currently involved in three orthopedic research projects. One of these projects, under the guidance of my PI at New England Baptist Hospital, is expected to be published in the *Journal of Elbow and Shoulder Surgery (JSES)*, and I am honored to be listed as the first author.

I would also like to briefly share how I've been using the generous SNUCMAA-NA scholarship over the past few months. Cooking has always been one of my favorite ways to unwind from studying and research. I typically spend about \$200 per month on groceries. My monthly rent is approximately \$1300, and I currently reside in the medical school dormitory where utilities are included. I am very grateful for my current place, as it is only two-minute walk from school and the building is located right next to Boston's Chinatown. Having lived in China for ten years earlier in my life, Chinatown often brings me a comforting sense of home.

Once again, I would like to express my greatest thanks to the SNUCMAA-NA Scholarship Committee and Dr. Il Young Kim for this generous support. I will always remember the support I have received from this scholarship and will carry this forward by helping others throughout my life.

All glory to God.

Sincerely,  
Young Hwan Kim  
MD Candidate, Class of 2028

