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### Driven by Patient Need

I have always known I wanted to pursue a career in medicine. By the age of seven, I had observed my little brother's elbow reduction so many times that when my second-grade classmate dislocated her elbow, I reassured her, "I had the situation under control." As I was about to pop her elbow back into place, my mother pulled me away explaining, "it was better to leave these procedures to medical professionals." From that moment on, I made it my mission to accompany my family to every one of their doctor's appointments, and so began my pursuit of medicine.

I have since completed my EMT certification and will complete my Advanced EMT certification by this summer. I have been interning for the resident of a functional neurosurgeon at the University of Utah. I have shadowed in the operating room where I observed electrode placements and temporal lobectomies. While these experiences have confirmed my commitment to medicine and love of the operating room, my desire to become a physician has stemmed not only from fascination, but an acknowledgment of need.

When my friend allowed her type two diabetes to become life-threatening, she explained she never realized the severity of her condition because "she couldn't relate to the information presented to her." She expressed her distaste for the excessive scare tactics told in stories and the

dullness of medical journals, making me question how I could help people like her. Ever since, my dream profession has also focused on the distribution of medical knowledge in a compelling and effective way.

I plan to pursue a heavy science and math undergraduate education while also obtaining a liberal arts education. Having significant experience in the sciences, mathematics, and liberal arts will improve my ability to capture and illustrate patients' lives while also revealing the environmental and lifestyle factors that lead to disease, spreading awareness in a more personal and accessible way.

I aspire to become a physician who knows how to discover and treat the root causes of disease rather than just alleviate symptoms. I will use critical thinking and ingenuity to enable myself to become both a physician, and what I would refer to as, a "personal narrative medical writer." I hope to use my experiences in patient care to write, with patient consent, semi-fictional adaptations of patient conditions, capturing both the scientific and deeply emotional aspects of their illnesses.

As a physician I will provide emotional support while addressing medical issues. I will strive to balance the skill of applying scientific knowledge with the art of managing human emotion to better treat patients. I hope to use my medical background to create engaging and meaningful stories to better impart medical knowledge. Creating this unique career pathway will enable me to optimize the power of individual patients' experiences by conveying their voice throughout their physical and psychological healing, inspiring others to do the same.