

Personal statement

Curiosity has always driven me towards successful new experiences, from leaving home to become a first-generation college graduate to researching articles as a member of a radiology team. Now I am thrilled to be applying for a residency program where I can indulge my curiosity and immerse myself into the study of radiology.

I was born in the Chicago area, but I have spent most of the last 17 years in southeastern Wisconsin. My parents have always been very supportive of my aspirations to attend college and become a physician. However, they could only offer limited personal advice to me. My father was the first one in his family to graduate from high school, and I am a first-generation college graduate. Before high school, I knew that I wanted to obtain a higher education in a new geographical location. Many of the steps that I took to achieve this goal were unfamiliar to my family. Nevertheless, I vigorously pursued the unknown, researching how to get into and finance attending a competitive university. Towards the end of obtaining a chemistry degree at Cornell University, I repeated the entire process to apply to medical school. These experiences have taught me that investigating my questions and working ardently to achieve my ambitions will lead to success.

When I began my third year of medical school, I was uncertain which specialty would be the best fit for me. However, I soon became intrigued by how radiological findings modified many differential diagnoses and treatment plans. On several occasions, I went down to the radiology department to get images read. I was captivated by how the radiologists would pick out details in the imaging and correlate them to what I had seen clinically.

During my interventional radiology rotation, I came to appreciate how radiology is integrated into patient care: we would look at patients' imaging in the morning, complete histories and physicals, perform interventional procedures, go through our results with the primary team, and see the patients the next day. I particularly enjoyed attending several conferences in which surgeons, oncologists, and diagnostic and interventional radiologists collaborated to discuss the next step in patient management. I remember these conferences fondly and look forward to participating in a team approach to patient care.

To become an effective member of a radiology team, I will rely on my intellectual curiosity to push me forward. I first learned how to translate my curiosity into hard work as a chemistry student at Cornell, and since then I have found great inspiration in new learning environments. As a medical student, transitioning from lectures to my clinical years, I extended the curiosity ~~XX~~ developed in the classroom to patient care. During my rotations, I constantly questioned why certain steps were chosen to manage patients. I learned to refer to journals and to critically assess articles' levels of evidence, which facilitated decisions in patient care. Even as a medical student, I could make a difference by presenting articles to the team, and I dedicated myself to doing so.

In the coming years, I am excited to engage my scientific and medical curiosity as I progress towards my career as a radiologist. I look forward to working as a resident member in your radiology department.

Great job