

## PERSONAL STATEMENT

"He's a retired lawyer, but he still comes into the clinic in his tuxedo, bow-tie, and extensive rhetoric." This was the warning given to me, by my staff physician, before I went to see one of his patients during my Family Medicine clerkship. I curiously entered the room and performed a brief history and physical exam. I then reported back to my staff. I updated him on the patient's diabetes and blood pressure control, and noted that the patient was indeed very pleasant, well spoken, and dressed to the nines. "I would've been worried if he wasn't in his tux" my staff replied. It was that moment when I realized I was interested in Family Medicine. Every visit during the month was prefaced by a brief synopsis of what made each patient unique. It is one thing to establish a relationship with patients, but another to be able to develop that relationship as a barometer to their well being. It is something very special.

I love being able to have long term relationships with patients, not only for the enjoyment of the personalities, but for the continuity of care that it provides. I also enjoy the breadth of knowledge that primary care offers. I valued many of my rotations and found something applicable to be taken from each. The Family Medicine clinic I worked in had multiple physicians, each with a particular niche, whether it is Obstetrics, Dermatology, Sports Medicine, or Geriatrics. In addition to a variety of medicine, there is also a variety of patient populations; fun loving children, sweet elderly, a few more memorable, such as the bow-tie lawyer, the bear hunter, the brew master, the mixed martial arts fighter.

Another population that I am passionate about working with is the underserved. My experience, during medical school, volunteering at the Greater Milwaukee Free Clinic was invaluable. I also spent time volunteering at a free clinic in Guatemala. Here, I was able to spend time learning medical Spanish. My hope is to improve my Spanish while working at a Spanish speaking clinic in Milwaukee this August.

The other compelling aspect of Family Medicine is my belief in primary care and preventative medicine. My undergraduate degree was in nutritional science. I thought it would be a great supplement to a medical practice. Being able to address diet and lifestyle seems most important with our increasing rates of childhood obesity.

I actually started medical school interested in pediatrics. I volunteered at Children's Hospital in college, coached basketball, and worked at a playground. While still loving the time spent with the pediatric population, I found myself really enjoying the conversation with adults and the perspective of the elderly.

My personal interests, skill set, and professional talents lend themselves to having the ability to connect with patients. I am a good listener. I am a communicator and I am comfortable with a variety of populations. Now that I have found an area of Medicine that I believe to be right for me, my hope is to spend some time in residency to grow as a medical professional. I look forward to working hard, seeing the opportunity in every difficulty, and expanding my medical knowledge in all aspects of primary care. By understanding the individual as well as the illness, I will be able to enrich each doctor-patient relationship through the patient's own unique idiosyncrasies, and partner with them for their well being.