

Personal Statement

Pediatrics is my number one career choice. In many ways, it also reflects my second, third, and fourth career choices. Educators teach and lead young people toward success. Legislators draft policies that improve processes for their constituents. And professional golfers commit themselves to extensive study and practice to master the skills of their profession. As a pediatrician, I see myself incorporating all three. I want to master the skills of pediatric diagnosis, work to improve the processes of medical practice, and successfully educate my patients so they are empowered to choose a healthy life.

Naturally, my learning must precede anything else I do. But learning in medicine is not simple. We operate in a flood of information and our best evidence evolves daily. As such, learning to exercise good clinical judgment requires extensive study and practice, even life-long. Growing up, I fell in love with golf and wanted to play well. To pursue that goal I poured over instruction books and reviewed countless hours of videotape, frame-by-frame, of favorite players. Then I worked persistently to learn the right mechanics. Today, my pursuit is different but the principle is the same. By extensive study and practice I want to become an evidenced-based pediatrician who always obtains a clear history, performs a thorough physical, and shrewdly sifts his findings before ordering tests or treatments so as to properly diagnose my patients. This is my primary professional goal.

As I gain experience in the pediatric profession, I also hope to be involved in improving the processes we use every day. These include protocols in the clinic or hospital and broader healthcare policies in the community. I grew up in a home where ideas were discussed, viewpoints compared, and I learned to think for myself. In addition, I am analytical by nature, identifying weaknesses and taking initiative to improve them. During a time when I served as executive secretary to the bishop of my church, I relied heavily on these traits. I was able to initiate changes that improved the way we served our members and administered programs. Such experiences laid a foundation of initiative that I can build on in pediatrics. I want to add my perspective to policy decisions and represent what is right for my profession.

The most important part of pediatrics, of course, is patient care. I am one who believes an essential part of that care is education. In school, more education translates into better opportunities, and in life, more knowledge leads to greater control over one's circumstances. In healthcare, meaningful patient education can do the same. I saw this while working with Dr. Wyatt, a Pediatric Endocrinologist. He taught his patients in a friendly, clear, and efficient manner. His patients felt involved and in control. His example inspired me to set goals to listen and communicate more clearly with my patients. As a pediatrician, I hope to hone these skills and thereby empower my patients to be in control of their health.

Beyond elements of practice, policy, and education, I am drawn to pediatrics for another reason. Its patients and practitioners are simply a happy group. And from working with faculty, residents, and other students in pediatrics, I feel my temperament is a good fit for the field. My character is calm, my approach is amiable, my personality is professional, my strength is sincerity, my hidden trait is humor, my pride is parenting, my creativity is computer cards, my indulgence is ice cream, and my fun is in family. My personal aspiration is to be a devoted husband and father with a well-rounded life. My professional ambition is to be a modest, respected physician.

I believe pediatrics is an excellent specialty. I am excited to enter pediatric residency. I want to find a program that offers the opportunity to train in a well-structured and well-administered environment with physicians who love to teach. Further, I not only need the right fit for my training, but also the right fit for raising my family. As I seek to become a skillful clinician, an advocate for my profession, and a committed educator, I need a program that will make it possible for me to unite both my personal and professional goals into a single fulfilling career.

*One of the best I've
ever read*