

Planting roots in an unknown land, forfeiting passions that were never explored, sacrificing dreams in favor of a more stable, predictable future. Together, these represent the realities my parents, Jalil and Warda, faced when they immigrated from Syria to America in the 1980s. They wanted their children to live the American dream, and strived to provide us with the necessary platform to reach our full potential. As a result, my time throughout medical school has been defined by my identity as a first-generation Syrian American, daughter of Jalil and Warda. I am driven toward a future where I can fulfill my dreams, and find meaning in my everyday work, both for myself and for my patients. I believe this sense of purpose and duty truly culminate in my future practice as an Internal Medicine Physician.

My third year clerkships were mainly through outpatient clinics, but throughout fourth year, I scheduled my own rotations at hospitals where I was confident I would thrive. As a true extrovert, treating acute, chronic, and acutely chronic diagnoses with access to interdisciplinary networking and inclusive care between providers, all under one roof, was incredibly appealing. I have found I can maximize patient outcomes through seamless organization and rigorous synthesis of even the most limited information, leaving me with a formulaic approach to evaluating symptomology. Most importantly, my love for Internal Medicine stems from the autonomy I am granted and flexibility I can utilize in my clinical approach to build meaningful relationships. As a future Internist, I believe that building trust, using clear communication, and practicing collaboration through teamwork will be central to my practice and continue to be refined throughout residency.

I have been told one of my greatest traits is my ability to offer sound advice and listen intently. I have learned to implement this not only in my personal life, but also my professional endeavors. For example, I recently encountered a visibly distressed, overwhelmed patient who was coming in for a simple follow-up for frequent falls, due to what she thought was a case of overmedication. As she fervently described her symptoms, she became increasingly distraught and inconsolable. Worried for her safety and emotional welfare, I alerted my attending who shared my concern and she was admitted to the emergency department. While she was eventually diagnosed with antidepressant discontinuation syndrome, my team's success was reliant upon giving her the opportunity and attention she deserved to share her perspective. As such, I have prioritized making my patients feel comfortable and heard when sharing their concerns, ultimately cultivating a safe space defined by respect. Notably, my most recent IM rotation has taught me to trust that my patients know themselves better than anyone else, and I simply need to offer them the platform to share that knowledge with me. I truly believe this approach has not only shaped me into a future provider who is inherently trustworthy, but also one who is best positioned to tailor my patients' care according to their needs, goals, and desires.

I seek a residency program that proves resident well-being is a top priority. I believe it is important to be taught by attendings who have a love for teaching and are willing to offer corrective guidance alongside positive feedback for exceptional work. Being in the hospital for at least 12 hours a day, my co-residents and I will become very close, all learning together, working toward one same goal, which is to save lives. I will contribute support, happiness, a bubbly personality, positive energy, enthusiasm, intelligence, and classiness. I am someone who sees the glass half full, and I never want to forget that this is the position that I have worked so hard to achieve. Overall, I look forward to joining the field and profession that will allow me, daughter of Jalil and Warda, to wake up every day truly loving what I do.