

My childhood introduced me to the idea of a medical career, but I never really committed myself to pursue this career until the spring of my junior year in high school. In 1988, the faculty at Charles Wright Academy introduced a five-day program into the curriculum, designating it, "Career Week." This was an opportunity for me to spend some time observing someone in his own work setting whose career peaked my interest. I decided to intern with a cardiologist named Dr. Lapis, who let me observe him in his office and in the local hospital. I was amazed at how far medicine had advanced, and became convinced that we were in an era where its potential was limitless. I witnessed various cardiovascular, abdominal, and orthopedic surgeries and was fascinated at how surgeons had to be mechanics yet artists of the most complex living entity on earth. As each door opened up to a new and more exciting aspect of medicine, I found myself eager to learn more and more about the field. At the same time, however, I saw patients whose illnesses were deemed "terminal," and I realized we were still a long way from conquering cancer and other baffling diseases. At the heart of it all, I discovered that doctors were in our lives to help alleviate our pain and suffering and to ultimately cure our sickness and disease.

Having an OB/GYN as a father has provided me with a lifelong "Introductory Course to Medicine 101." And like most of my classes, it has been rewarding yet challenging. As a child, there were numerous instances when "family time" was interrupted by "the beeper" or when I heard the car ignition firing up in the middle of the night. Clearly, being a doctor required a substantial amount of time, energy, and pressure. At the same time, though, I also had the wonderful opportunity to tag along with Dr. Lapis on his hospital rounds. Having seen the smiles on his patients' faces and listening to their appreciation, I really felt a sense what my father had earlier described to me as a feeling of "accomplishment and reward." After having gained these insights into the realities of medicine, I feel committed and confident to move on to the next level.

My college education has provided me with a stepping stone towards the high level of inquiry and investigation that is demanded by medicine. The intense, "think-tank"-like environment of Johns Hopkins has enabled me to inquire about unfathomable ideas and concepts, which have compelled me to realize my true potential as a scholar. In fact, it was not unusual to see some of my Nobel-laureate professors stumped by the questions of my peers during lectures! The nucleus of my foundational quest has been my intense involvement in research. This included elucidating the precise role of bradykinin in cell-mediated immune responses, under the auspices of Dr. Damian Pride at the Johns Hopkins Asthma and Allergy Center (9/92 – 5/93). It seems that suppressing the release of bradykinin may be a more effective means of reducing allergy symptoms than anti-histamines. I was also involved in mapping the human brain using digital computer imaging with the guidance of Dr. Noel Brown at the Johns Hopkins Medical School (6/92 – 9/92). Most recently, under the mentor ship of Dr. Hin Palk and Dr. Sum P. Lao at the VA Medical Center in Seattle (6/93 – 8/94, 6/94 - ), I will be first author of a paper establishing micelles in human bile as calcium-binding protein carriers with associated membrane enzymes. This exciting discovery should alter our current thinking on how gallstones might be formed. Gallstone formation is just one of the many processes that we do not fully comprehend about the human body and the diseases that plague and cripple it. Consistent with the goals of medicine, I hope to, in the future, describe as many of these "unknowns" as possible and to subsequently aid or possible cure others in need of medical attention.

Aside from the pressures of school and research, I have balanced my academic pursuits with music, and feel blessed to have experienced something very special. Playing the violin in the Tacoma Youth Symphony for ten years and being part of the All-State and All-Northwest Orchestras, the Olympic Music Festival, The Lillienfeld School of Music, and Encore for Strings, have provided me with the invaluable traits of discipline, team work, and a lifelong appreciation of the Arts. Competing in the Washington State Final competition for solo violin tested my abilities in keeping my composure while exuding a strong sense of self-confidence. At the same time, attaining the chair of Associate Concertmaster in TYS challenged my efficiency as a leader and a role model. Along with music, I am also a sports fanatic, whether it be skiing, basketball, soccer or golf. Being the intramural athletics chairman for the Delta Epsilon chapter of Sigma Alpha Mu the past three years has allowed me to keep in close touch with sports through college. At home, I help my community as a volunteer for the Intensive care Unit at St. Francis Hospital in Federal Way, WA. My activities have helped me grow as a person, given me confidence in my abilities, and provided me with valuable insights into human behavior. I look forward to devoting myself to the field of medicine in which I can cure perplexing diseases while providing care to people.