***Describe the unique qualities that attract you to the specific undergraduate College or School (including preferred admission and dual degree programs) to which you are applying at the University of Michigan. How would that curriculum support your interests? (550 words)\****

“Omeprazole 20mg XX”. I stared at one single line of a seemingly nonsense list, ignoring the barely-decipherable penmanship of the resident doctor. “Take 2 strips of 20 gram-omeprazole pills”, a fellow volunteer said, finally making sense.

I was volunteering at a medical research facility in the remote island of Kei Besar, Maluku, Indonesia where I apprenticed doctors, nutritionists, and pharmacists. From ultrasounds to drawing blood, I was trained to conduct basic check-up procedures in the clinic. Following a diagnosis however, I was most nervous upon being called into the pharmacy unit. I had to search and label medications before instructing its use and dosage to the patient. Nonetheless, I eventually familiarized myself with common drugs in the inventory—a truly rewarding feeling. By then, my perception of the work shifted, and my enthusiasm arised.

The experience opened my eyes regarding the significant role of medical professionals and life-saving drugs: key components behind the recovery of those patients. Ultimately, it drove my newfound fascination in pharmacy. After much consideration, I was drawn to the University of Michigan’s College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, with preferred admission into the College of Pharmacy. Exceptionally recognized amongst other institutions, it will provide me with much-needed hands-on practicals, such as analytical chemistry using spectrophotometry, to strengthen my preparation for a career as a pharmacist. I am intrigued by courses on “Biopharmaceutics and Biology of Drug Delivery”, where I will study the basis of drug product design and development, as well as the movement of its molecules in the body.

Moreover, I would like to work with Professor Michael Kraft since his expertise in drug-nutrition interaction aligns with my current research in the interference of omeprazole’s neutralizing properties in the presence of milk. With his mentorship, I could broaden my scope in clinical pharmacy and enhance my overall research competence. Therefore, I intend to delve deeper into the field by collaborating and exchanging ideas with other like-minded individuals in his laboratory.

 Despite my intentions to pursue pharmacy, the opportunities offered by the University of Michigan paves a way for the fulfillment of my personal goals and ambitions. With my long-time passion in the medical scene, I wish to participate in organizations that benefit public health, such as the UM Student Run-Free Clinic. I imagine myself deep in conversations with my peers about addressing the need for more accessible healthcare to aid the underprivileged. Furthermore, it would be a setting stone prior to organizing outreaches of my own in the future, where I envision the improvement of the healthcare (e.g. nutrition) literacy of my local community. Aside from academics, I also felt instant excitement with the possibility of engaging in intramural sports, specifically tennis. I hope to continue my progress in semi-competitive tennis to stay active both physically and socially.

Whether strolling through the streets of downtown Ann Arbor, or waiting hours while my father browses through the gift shop, my three-time visits to the campus have genuinely left a lasting impression. In fact, as I write this essay, I am wearing a Michigan navy blue jacket with an “M” embroidered on the chest. Above all, not only is UMich the ideal school to guide my passion in pharmacy, but its notably welcoming atmosphere makes it an honor to someday call myself a Wolverine.