When zooming into our bodies to an nth magnification, the movement of a highly specific amount of chemicals can control our entire body, insinuating that biology is to some extent definite. However, how these exact reactions can create a fluid human being, is a complex and underdeveloped field in medicine which I wish to further pursue through study and research.

Eager to comprehend the neural processes that underpin human behaviour , I began to develop a fascination towards neuroscience and the length to which it governs our lives. I was led to the HarvardX Fundamentals of Neuroscience online course where I was enriched with the basics of neuroscience, from the resting potentials all the way to the different systems and neurological pathways. What ultimately became my nicotine equivalent was when I came across cognitive neuroscience, more specifically the connection between neurological impulses to human thought, memory and decision making.

It made me think, are our personalities controlled by the movement of specific ions just as in muscle contraction? How could human thought, the most capricious part of a human being, to some extent, be bound by the chemical movements across a membrane? After researching for hours on end, I began to familiarise myself with brain mapping and localisation, pondering further the dendritic connections and individual neurone stimulations that has been researched to have played a part in memory storage and decision making.

These early curiosities have sparked my interest in the cross-disciplinary nature between neuroscience and biomedicine, the plethoric gold mine of which I nurtured under an international setting atas Iheaded newly-formed of diverse high schoolers Further ifcollaborated--

Despite the global pandemic dampening my plans for a research internship at Indonesia International Institute for Life-Sciences (i3L), I turned to the Brighton and Sussex Medical School virtual work programme to get a more realistic view about a profession in biomedicine. The skills I gained in the symposium and online courses, integrated with the research methods I learned from the book “Bad Science” by Ben Goldacre has contributed greatly to my ongoing research paper on the maximal medicinal and nutritional use of coconuts and various nuts for people in rural regions of Indonesia.

My interests span outside of biomedicine, playing a significant role in the shaping of my personality and skillset. I have attended several Model United Nations (MUN) such as Harvard Model Congress Asia and was the Head of Substance of an online MUN. Participating in these conferences have definitely enhanced my analytical mindset, teaching me to employ both bird- and worm-eye views with precision, the latter of which resulted from my adeptness in mathematics and the sciences as proven by the three medals and two distinctions in several international math olympiads I have won since fifth grade.

Participating in many of these cognitive activities, I believe, have had tremendous effect in maintaining my neuroplasticity. As means of bridging my love for digital arts and my passion in biomedicine, I curated an Instagram page dedicated to explaining the actuality in medicine related scenes found on common media. I am also a proud member of the Prefectorial Board of my school and was the Vice-Head Prefect in my last year of duty, all of which has allowed me to develop my leadership, communication and teamwork skills crucial to becoming a future leader in the biomedical community.

Zooming out of the nth magnification, I hope to be part of breakthroughs in the study of neurology through professorship.

*Hi Valencia,*

*Solid essay overall! Just added some finishing touches and reordered some parts to smoothen the chronology. You clearly are the expert when it comes to the notion of neurology/neuroscience but as a reader, I think the way you use the medical field in general/biomedicine with neuroscience interchangeably may be a bit confusing. That’s why I omitted a couple of those terms where I find them to be unnecessary contextually.*

*But all in all, kudos to your work and I wish you the best of luck in your application submission!*

*- Matthew*