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For the past 5 years, I have done analysis on the MISTIE (Minimally Invasive Surgery Plus rt-PA for Intracerebral Hemorrhage Evacuation) and CLEAR (Clot Lysis: Evaluating Accelerated Resolution of Intraventricular Hemorrhage) clinical trials on stroke. During this time, I have decreased revision time of reports, specifically reports to the data safety monitoring board (DSMB), by using automated report generation. I used R alongside markdown and LaTeXto create a standardized reporting structure for trial results.

After receiving my Master's degree in Biostatistics, becoming a consultant for the Johns Hopkins Biostatistics Consulting Center (JHBC) on various projects. I am 3 years into my PhD program of Biostatistics, I believe I understand the requirements and day-to-day life of an academic statistician. I do not, however, understand the requirements of a biostatistician in an industry setting. An internship in an industry position at Merck will provide me insights into the roles I would have in that setting.

During my PhD, I have transitioned from the clinical trial aspects of our trials and focused more on the neuroimaging components of our data. Although neuroimaging is now my primary focus, I have performed data cleaning and large-scale data analysis and have extensive experience with programming and pipeline development. These skills cross many disciplines and I have found that nearly all operations can be more efficient and reliable if automated methods replace any manual steps.

Overall, I think Merck is a leader in a number of fields, particularly in health care. Working on projects that can directly help health care researchers and patients is ideal for my career, and an internship at Merck provides the foundation for long-term, large-scale impact.