PRANAY S. ARYAL  
PERSONAL STATEMENT  
  
In medical school, I came to appreciate how interrelated the multiple physiological systems are and how the process of analytical thinking works when trying to solve medical diagnoses. I was fascinated by pathology because it was a bridging science between basic and clinical sciences.  I liked seeing diseases being described at a microscopic level which helped in understanding the bigger picture.

After completion of medical school, I worked as an independent physician in north-east India (Assam) during my loan repayment service to the country. During this experience, I treated tropical diseases common in India such as dengue, malaria, tuberculosis, chikungunya fever, among others. We were required to make and examine our patients' malaria smears.  This process made me realize how much I enjoyed being able to diagnose a disease under the lens of a microscope and help as a clinical team member.

Thereafter, I attended my medical residency at one of the top three medical institutions in India.  I spent time on rotations including Dermatology, Pulmonology, Cardiology, Hematology, Gastroenterology, and ICU practicing evidence-based medicine. This has given me hands-on experience with a variety of diseases including HIV infection, dengue fever, typhoid fever, tuberculosis, malaria, scrub typhus among others.  We had very interesting and challenging clinico-pathological meetings on several medical cases.  I enjoyed how most of the final mystery diagnoses were established by our pathologists and I concluded that I would like to pursue a career in this field. I also became a primary investigator on a research project involving how pancreatic markers function during multiorgan failure on patients in the intensive care unit. This experience made me realize and appreciate how important it is to look at a clinical diagnosis not only from a patient’s history/exam and laboratory markers- but also very critically with the use of the microscope.

Furthermore, I am ECFMG certified and a permanent US resident married to a US pediatric infectious disease physician and we enjoy discussing cases which inter-relate between both fields.  I have completed four clinical electives in the United States which includes four months with Wright State University and am currently rotating at University of Louisville.   I have valued these experiences as they have given me additional clinical pearls and insight into the United States healthcare system and interest in quality improvement science/methodology.

In conclusion, I look forward to a career in pathology.  A pathologist serves as a critical team member to his medical colleagues as well as in the overall health of his/her patients and I will be honored to play a role. I am hardworking and inquisitive and am confident that I will be a successful resident and physician at VCU pathology program.