COVER LETTER  
PRANAY SIMON ARYAL  
  
I was raised on a hospital campus in Bihar, India. My mother was a pediatric charge nurse and my father worked as a hospital clerk. During my childhood, I came to witness and understand firsthand how health disparities directly affect illness. As a young child, I watched how families traveled long distances, some even selling their homes or possessions, in order to seek critical medical aid. I started to develop an interest in the wide spectrum of diseases, the inadvertent misconceptions of patient’s understanding of diseases, and the powerful relationship between a patient and a healthcare worker.

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 enjoyed working on challenging cases and using my creativity when some of the diagnoses were not classic “textbook.” One of the most rewarding experiences during my medical school years was the dedicated bedside teaching rounds offered by my attendings.

After completion of medical school, I worked as an independent physician for three years in north-east India (Assam) to fulfill my loan repayment for my medical scholarship. During this experience, I treated tropical diseases common in India such as dengue, malaria, tuberculosis, chikungunya fever, and others. I was able to enhance my academic study with actual clinical encounters.  I also had rotations in pediatrics, surgery and gynaecology.  Often, the whole family would travel long distances to be treated.  We would often have shortage of doctors in a few departments.  This is when I realized the need of becoming a well-rounded doctor who could give primary care to various kinds of patients.   I volunteered at medical camps near areas afflicted by inter-tribal feuds. Helping the refugees allowed me to appreciate the medical contribution I could offer to children, women, men and the elderly.

I subsequently attended my medical residency at one of the top three medical institutions in India.   During my training, I worked eight months annually (three year program) on internal medicine. I also spent time on rotations including Dermatology, Pulmonology, Cardiology, Hematology, Gastroenterology, and ICU. I feel comfortable managing patients with HIV infection, dengue fever, typhoid fever, tuberculosis, malaria, scrub typhus among others.

Because of my strong interest in medical research, I have also served as a primary research investigator during my Internal medicine residency looking at patients’ pancreatic response/clinical markers during multi-organ insult in intensive care unit. My study was presented at the University’s Research day event. I have also worked as a research assistant with Dr. Julio Ramirez at University of Louisville, Division of Infectious Diseases. This was a retrospective study of the incidence of malignancies and infections in patients with HIV disease treated with HAART.  My work involved data collection and data-entry from retrospective records. Data highlighted at University of Louisville Research Day.

In conclusion, I feel I am a strong candidate given my previous medical background and my inquisitive nature to solve problems. I am also familiar with research and how to manage a project from start to finish. I would like to gain additional experience with academic research and quality improvement and work together in a team setting. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,   
  
Dr. Pranay S. Aryal  
(Permanent US citizen, married to US Physician trained from UC)