

Mizzou Medical Student Personal Statement #4

Under the hot sun in Tecolutla, Mexico I affirmed that medicine was the perfect fit for me. I was on a medical mission trip with my classmates after my first year of medical school. Every day we drove to a small village and set up a makeshift clinic. We did not have many supplies, which meant making quick decisions with few medications. While seeing an older gentleman, a farmer in his eighties with multiple medical conditions, we could only offer him ibuprofen and a pair of sunglasses to protect his eyes. Even so, he smiled, grabbed my hands and said "The greatest thing you have done for me was to listen to my story, and to care for me." My affinity for making quick clinical decisions and an ability to relate to patients unknown to me will help me become an outstanding anesthesiologist.

During my anesthesiology clerkship, I recall connecting with patients during a crucial few minutes with them before an operation. This will be paramount for comforting my patients who are worried about navigating the unknown journey of traveling to the operating room.

The interpersonal demands of getting to know your patient just before wheeling them back to the operating room is a welcome challenge for me. I find solace and a sense of responsibility in managing a patient undergoing an operation and in comforting a patient as they return to consciousness. I am also excited by the rapid interventions available to the anesthesiologist - from regional blocks for minimizing pain to maintaining a stable blood pressure during a complicated surgery.

Anesthesiology encompasses several aspects of medicine, allowing many procedures and interventions while demanding knowledge of pharmacology and physiology. I learned early on that my interests are broad and found something to enjoy in each of the subjects I studied. Anesthesiology includes many different areas of medicine and I naturally feel drawn to study it.

I hope to train at a program that will challenge me to develop evidence-based and effective interventions in the clinic, intensive care unit and the operating room. I envision a program that will allow me to take responsibility for patient care and offer experienced perspectives on how to improve and grow as a physician. It is important to me to work with faculty who are committed to global health, as I plan to continue in this area.

My Mexican patient believed that by taking time to listen to someone's story, we understand them. I hope to understand many more patients as I continue my journey through medicine and anesthesiology. With my ability to relate to diverse patients undergoing a procedure and interest in rapid interventions I believe I will be an asset to anesthesiology. My broad interests in medicine will allow me to explore the breadth of what anesthesiology has to offer. I look forward to developing these skills in a program that will allow me to thrive as a physician and to contribute to the field of anesthesiology.