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# Medical School Personal Statement

In the summer of 2008, I was walking into my chemistry final when my phone unexpectedly rang. The call was from my cousin, who told me that our grandfather had lost his battle with colon cancer. Despite the fact that I had known that this day would eventually come, I was immediately overcome with shock and grief. The phone fell from my hand, and I stood there with tears in my eyes, reflecting on the thought that had been in my mind ever since I first found out that my grandfather was ill - if he had been given better information about preventive care, his cancer might have been caught at an earlier stage and his death could have been avoided. Ultimately, the circumstances of my grandfather's illness fueled my long-held passion to pursue a career as a physician. I wanted more than ever to acquire the skills and knowledge to help people in underserved communities like the one in which I grew up.

My desire to help those in need ultimately compelled me to pursue my undergraduate education in health sciences. During this period, I had the invaluable opportunity to shadow various physicians, experiences that afforded me a firsthand look at the interactions between doctors and patients. Subsequently, I participated in the American University of Antigua's premedical program, "Bridge to MD," which led to my matriculation as a medical student at that school. Courses such as cellular biology, histology, gross anatomy, FCM-1, biochemistry, physiology, epidemiology, preventive medicine, and neuroscience provided me with a solid foundation on which to build at Medical University of Americas.

Equally important in my development has been my volunteer work in hospitals, with health organizations such as A Single Light and at places like Vista Manor Nursing Center. Providing one-to-one comfort, care and information to patients and their families in these varied settings broadened my perspectives, taught me humility and cultural competence, and reinforced my desire to become a physician who understands her patients, treats them the way they deserve to be treated and educates them in a manner that allows them to have agency in their personal health.

Since leaving AUA due to personal health issues, I have been pursuing an MBA in order to better understand and navigate the business and administration aspects of medicine. At the same time, I have been actively studying for the USMLE Step 1 exam, which has solidified and expanded my medical knowledge. During this period, I have given extensive thought my future career and determined that I would like to pursue pediatrics or family medicine. These fields will give me exposure to a diversity of health conditions and allow me to provide continuity of care, thereby challenging my intellect and bringing me great personal and professional satisfaction.

As an experienced, dedicated, and compassionate individual, I am confident that I will thrive at MUA. With the skills and knowledge I develop in your rigorous program, I will be well-positioned to realizing my goal of becoming a physician who is both a healer and an educator.

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