

Pathology Residency Application

Surrounded by sixteen students in a classroom filled with a map of the Gettysburg battlefield, colorful charts indicating the various phylum of invertebrates, and reports written about famous classical composers, my fifth grade teacher finally began the long awaited discussion on “Is a virus a living organism.” This abstract topic opened my eyes to a world I had never known. By the next year I had read *The Hot Zone*, a nonfiction book about the Ebola Reston virus and the various outbreaks. I became engulfed in the world of science and all it had to offer. My first experience “surfing the net” was spent searching information from the Center for Disease Control. By this time, I knew the rest of my life would be devoted to science and the many wonders it encompasses.

As I entered college, I wanted to become a biomedical researcher. During my college career, I had an internship at the Northeast Regional Cancer Institute. The experience affected me profoundly. My career goal changed, I now wanted to become a physician, although my ultimate ambition was the same, to pursue knowledge and aid others. My passion for the pursuit of knowledge was further inspired during my first two years of medical school. One course in particular, Foundations of Pathology, peaked my interest. It combined so much of what I hoped to gain from medical school, clinical knowledge and basic science correlated with health and illness. It was during this course that I realized pathology encompasses a multifaceted understanding of disease. At first this was a bit intimidating, but now the complexity and challenge are what compels me towards pathology.

After my Foundations of Pathology course, I worked on a research project dealing with donor specific antibodies and kidney transplant rejection. I was also taken through various cases, both the common ones and the more unusual. I was challenged to think about everything from physiology and histology, to diagnosis and treatment. Through my third year rotations, I found that I enjoyed each specialty, but more importantly the diagnostic approach behind each. This served to solidify my passion of pathology. Pathologists are an integral part of the medical team. They synthesize clinical history with visual evidence and laboratory testing to form a complete picture of a patient. Collaborating with faculty from diverse specialties, continually teaching students, residents, and ourselves, and incessantly inquiring about disease demonstrates how pathologists are leaders in the field of medicine.

Pathology offers a career as challenging and intellectually stimulating as I can imagine. Furthermore, it is a dynamic specialty with immense potential for medical advancement and innovation. I look forward to a pathology residency, where I can be a productive member of a team, providing the highest quality of care to patients. I challenge myself to be a life-long learner. My passion for the field will be displayed by my enthusiasm to teach. I hope to attend a residency program that offers research opportunities and faculty guidance which will promote my interest in becoming an independent investigator. I aim to be part of a program that will provide a setting incorporating both independence and support, so I can develop comprehensive diagnostic skills and cultivate diverse clinical interests. With my determination, dedication, and diligence, I am eager to join the team.