

The golf course was where my brand of *athletic surgery* flourished. Golf demanded a keen eye and an even keener mental precision – characteristics vital for the practice of medicine. The golf course was also the ideal platform for self-discovery because it was a competitive terrain that tested my discipline and dedication, and ultimately, led me toward a career in medicine. The lessons I learned on the golf course have transcended far beyond the green, and proven to enhance my abilities as a student, individual, and indeed, a prospective physician.

Before settling in Montreal, North America's francophone *capitale*, my family and I called many American and Canadian cities home. I lived in rural towns as well as bustling cosmopolitan centers. This broadened my worldview by exposing me to a diverse range of communities, furnishing me with an ability to effectively interact with individuals of all stripes and perspectives. Consequently, I evolved into a people person who enjoyed servicing the needs of others. Moreover, medicine was indeed the *family business*, and topics such as nationalizing health care, medical access and pressing medical issues were discussed at the dinner table. In addition, I was exposed to amputees in need of artificial limbs and developed a doctor's spirit as an adolescent. However, my emerging interest in medicine hit *closest to home* when my father suffered a near-fatal heart attack. I remained close to his bedside tending to his every need, while also learning about the cardiovascular system by staying informed of my father's treatment.

Before sowing the seeds of an eventual interest in medicine, my love for golf was already in full bloom. I possessed natural talent, but excelling as a collegiate golfer with professional promise required a keen work ethic, hand-eye coordination, and leadership. The golf course was also my haven for self-healing, where I could temporarily escape life's demands and express myself without uttering a word. Gradually, my enjoyment led to two consecutive most-valuable player awards and being twice named *National Student Athlete of the Year*. While coaches encouraged me to join the professional golf tour, my interests and experiences led me down another path. I remained conscious of my golf *handicap*, but also generated an emerging commitment to individuals suffering from physical handicaps and sickness. Therefore, it was not coincidental that my passion for medicine was birthed as much on the golf course as it was at home and the classroom.

The sense of joy I experienced on the golf course was only matched by my satisfaction serving patients. I volunteered at a small hospital in Potsdam, New York, where I shadowed four

physicians in a small but dynamic Emergency Department. Donning the scrubs came as naturally as clutching a nine-iron. Furthermore, working in an intimate setting alongside highly skilled physicians gave me the mentorship and invaluable hands-on opportunities a larger facility could never extend. In short time, I learned to help mend broken bones and resuscitate patients. Also, Potsdam was a largely indigent and working-class township, thus directly tending to patients was not only empowering but also exposed me to the stark impact socioeconomics had on medical access. Inspired by my tenure at Potsdam Hospital, I spent the following summer observing amputee patients learn how to function independently again at *JE Hanger Ltd*, and learned how artificial limbs can utterly revitalize one's life. Primary care brought about results no score sheet could boast: a direct impact on the lives of individuals, which was *scored* by the series of smiles and life-changing achievements my efforts won. I developed a belief that personalized and compassionate medical care can truly make a difference in the lives of patients, and leave a lasting dent on the medical field at large.

Like the unique challenges posed by a challenging new golf course, the medical landscape is ripe with intellectual, clinical, and practical challenges I am excited to undertake. I majored in Chemistry and Biochemistry at *St. Lawrence University*, disciplines that proved to be my springboard into a medical career. In line with my interest, I was elected President of the *American Chemical Society*, and won a coveted *St. Lawrence University Research Fellowship* to focus on the impact of anti-cancer pharmaceutical drugs. In addition to primary care, I am also interested in science-related research and clinical engagement, which I hope to further explore as a medical student and physician. I look forward to the opportunity of becoming a leader at your medical school, both inside and outside of the classroom, by helming student councils and participating in organizations such as *Habitat for Humanity* and likeminded endeavors.

Medicine will be far more than merely my profession, but a labor of love that will extend far beyond the clinic or hospital where I serve. The transition from white golf balls to white scrubs may seem unusual, yet the game helped me discover that my passion for medicine must be coupled with commitment and *drive*, and most critically, a sincere desire to help humanity. For me, golf and medicine will always two inextricably linked passions.