

Prior to entering medical school, I had no appreciable knowledge of what a radiology career entailed. I falsely assumed it was a discipline I would not be interested in pursuing. As I began exploring the field, however, I quickly realized that a career in radiology would not only keep me intellectually engaged over the course of my lifetime, but it would make the most of my greatest strengths as a physician and as a person.

First, radiology allows me to integrate my passion for computers and technology with medicine. I have always enjoyed exploring computers, finding novel and more efficient ways to do routine tasks, and pushing every technological device I can get my hands on to the limits of what it can do.

Additionally, dispelling another initial belief that radiologists work in isolation, I discovered that interpersonal skills are an essential component of a radiology career. I have found radiology faculty and resident physicians to be amazingly friendly, insightful, and extremely intelligent as they interact with other physicians and patients through consults and procedures.

I consider my interpersonal skills to be one of my greatest assets, and I have always excelled in situations that require clear and concise communication, a positive attitude, and a calm demeanor. During many of my clinical clerkships, I earned the respect of residents and attendings because of my ability to relate well to patients and convince them that we had their best interests in mind. For example, I successfully negotiated “peace” several times between hostile patients or family members and those on staff. I was also able to calm patients, getting them to take medications or sit still through lengthy MRI scans.

To further explore the field of radiology, I ran for President of the Radiology Interest Group at my medical school. To my delight, I was elected by my peers. This has been a fulfilling experience which has given me increased exposure to numerous modalities. I have also enjoyed sharing my excitement for the field with other students and interacting with faculty and community radiologists, as well as radiology residents.

Serving in this leadership role deepened my desire to continue serving in roles that benefit my peers and the organizations with which I am associated. As a resident, I would like to help organize study materials for my fellow residents and make teaching/review videos with faculty to make learning easier and more interactive. In addition, I hope to work toward introducing innovative teaching methods (such as recorded lectures as “podcasts”), producing more advanced digital teaching files, and providing captivating PowerPoint presentations for residents to access on demand.

In the long-term, I am excited to contribute to the ever-changing practice of radiology. My goals are to:

- 1) Become a board-certified radiologist, then further pursue a radiology fellowship. At this time several modalities, in addition to interventional radiology and radiological informatics, are intriguing. As a radiology resident, I look forward to gaining knowledge and experience in every aspect of the field.
- 2) Become an insightful consultant to other physicians by becoming an expert diagnostic radiologist. In this role, I will be able to make a significant contribution to patient care.
- 3) Pursue the leadership role of chief resident. This opportunity would afford me the privilege of giving back to my program. The qualities that will allow me to excel in this capacity include my organizational skills, my approachability and concern for others, and my ability to remain neutral and move others towards a consensus.

My energy and excitement for radiology is contagious, and my positive attitude will prove supportive to the other resident physicians and faculty of your program. My persistence, combined with the loving support of my wife, has carried me through the tougher days of medical school and will serve me well during my residency. While I fully understand the massive undertaking involved in a radiology residency, I look forward to the challenge and cannot wait to get started.

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