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As I watched my baby brother sleep, I was in awe when I reflected on the moment the sperm and egg cell combined to produce what was now visible to me. The miracle of life sparked my fascination with science. My fascination with science is what led to my career choice in the health field. After obtaining a bachelor's degree in Biology, I am going to pursue an MD/PhD in Biomedical Engineering so that I can practice medicine as a pediatrician, but also conduct research on the construction of biomaterials that will one day benefit my patients.

When I was nine, I was diagnosed with Grave's Disease. This disease is caused by hyperthyroidism and some of the symptoms are excessive fatigue, protruding eyes, a visibly enlarged thyroid, extreme weight gain or loss, having difficulty sleeping, and dizziness. As I have actively pursued my interests in myself, in my community, and youth community, I realized that my health is not an obstacle, but a blessing in disguise. It is a blessing because it forces me to take responsibility for my own health and to carefully consider the decisions I make about activities that can negatively affect my health. In doing so, I am practicing a methodical way of thinking about health management that will certainly help me care for patients in my future career as a doctor. When I am a doctor I will be able to better connect with my patients on a personal level, since I share their struggle with health maintenance, medication management, and keeping a positive outlook toward a healthy life. This is my personal connection.

My intellectual connection sparked when I explored my curiosity about science when I attended the SummerLab Program at Boston University School of Medicine. The program provided me with the opportunity to learn and apply basic concepts and techniques related to biotechnology. Working in teams, we acted as "companies" who needed to produce large quantities of purified green fluorescent protein to fill multiple orders by the end of the week. At the end of the week, the Dean of Admissions for the Medical School explained to us that the process we used to produce this protein was the same process used for insulin

production in pharmaceutical companies across the world. My father has diabetes and after hearing this, I thought to myself that I should produce insulin for my dad! Although after thinking about the attempt, it sounded absurd, but it felt great to know that I was capable of producing something that had the capacity to be life altering. The research I will partake in will give me the ability to produce or discover something that will be life altering to my patients. I believe that there are many ways of preventing the worsening of the most dangerous diseases by eradicating the progression of pathogens at the molecular stage. The advancement of technology has given many scientists the opportunity to construct biomaterials that can detect progression of pathogens or development of diseases.

Later on in my career as a professional, I want to build clinics in my home country to help the health care system. My inspiration for becoming a medical scientist was reinforced when I recently visited Haiti for summer vacation with my family. I met a young man in Haiti who had just recently come out of a four-year coma. I elucidated my passion for the subject of science as he smiled, confirming to me that my future plans in healthcare are supported and encouraged by those who need care the most. He also inspired me to dedicate myself to the country's healthcare system. He had just turned twenty and was preparing to go to High School as a sophomore. Tears rolled down my cheeks as he described why everyday he thanks the Lord for waking him up after those four years. He spoke of how he considered me lucky to go to school in America, and that I should take advantage of my opportunities. Before I left, I promised him that I would come back and help my country after achieving my academic goals. Because of a doctor, he had the chance to keep his life and wake up. I believe I can change my country as a whole, if I can change the lives of its individual people. As a doctor, I will have the opportunity to change individuals' lives. As a scientist and engineer, I will have the opportunity to build something that will save individuals lives. Science and Technology have impacted me personally and intellectually. The molding of science and technology is the reason why I pursue my career as a Medical Scientist.