

"Code 99," echoed through the hospital corridor as respondents quickly darted in the direction of the intensive care unit. Adrenaline gushed through my body as I anticipated my first cardiac arrest code. Upon entering the intensive care unit, dozens of hospital personnel swarmed in multiple directions to obtain resuscitation fluid, medications and monitoring equipment. The patient was a middle aged Hispanic woman on a respiratory ventilator who appeared jaundiced as she suffered from metastatic ovarian cancer. Bradycardia had become apparent a few minutes ago. A calm and authoritative voice stated "Atropine 0.5 mg push," to my surprise coming from a young emergency medicine intern. I was delighted to see an exceptional intern become a part of a life saving initiative outside the doors of the emergency room. This is just one of the dozens of reasons why I have chosen emergency medicine as a specialty.

Emergency medicine is a dynamic field that offers an unlimited spectrum of diversity, encompassing pathology, patient characteristics, level of acuity and organ system focus. The discipline demands strong multi-tasking skills, exceptional communication and an ability to piece together a puzzle without having all the information. These characteristics, along with the ability to practice anywhere in the world, have fueled my passion for emergency medicine since I began medical school. Two month-long summer preceptorships in emergency medicine following my first year of school secured my career decision.

Making my specialty decision early enabled me to become immersed in the discipline, including my role as chairperson for the emergency medicine student interest. Under my leadership our group was awarded a grant from the *Society for Academic Emergency Medicine* for organizing an emergency medicine skills workshop. As a fourth year medical student, I intend to continue strengthening my core competency skills for emergency medicine with electives like cardiology, neurology, pulmonary and critical care medicine.

In addition being proficient in clinical skills and making rapid diagnoses, emergency medicine physicians also influence patient care through business practices. A business background and Masters of Business Administration has provided me with a natural curiosity for details outside the immediate scope of medicine that include efficiency models, billing protocols and patient satisfaction. I seek a residency program that offers sound training through strong didactics and endless pathology. My ultimate goal is to become a member of an integral team that functions 24 hours a day, 365 days a year with the capacity to deliver medical attention when counted on most. Thank you for your consideration.