

Neurosurgery Residency Personal Statement (Important Details Changed)

My desire to become a neurosurgeon stems from my clinical research in spinal surgery and disorders at the Department of Neurosurgery at Large Hospital Group, my clinical clerkships in neurosurgery, and my personal experiences with the physicians who cared for my grandmother after she suffered from a stroke.

When I was 13 years old, my grandmother suffered from a stroke that rendered the left side of her body completely inanimate. I remember visiting her at the hospital many times and eagerly watching her receive care from compassionate medical personnel. I came to admire the neurologists and neurosurgeons and the excellent care they provided for my sick grandmother. Witnessing her comfort following her interactions with physicians inspired me toward the medical profession. I came to understand the positive impact that a great physician can have on a patient's life and decided to pursue a career in medicine and neurosurgery.

My studies in the basic medical sciences at Foreign Medical School B gave me a greater appreciation for the functions of the brain and the spinal cord. As I entered my core clinical clerkships, I discovered the importance of applying what I had learned in neuroscience to the medical and surgical patients that I encountered. I still vividly remember my first neurosurgical case and the immediate adrenaline rush it provoked as I looked through the microscope to see the dural sac and its vessels. I decided I wanted to transfer to the United States so I could pursue a neurosurgical residency.

I transferred to US Medical School C, even though it required an additional 2 years of medical school to become a U.S. medical graduate. At US Medical School C, I re-initiated the neurosurgery interest group becoming its co-president, pursued research opportunities, made connections with the local neurosurgeons, and obtained sub-internships at competitive neurosurgical programs.

During my fourth year of medical school, I had a major lapse in judgment. On one of my clinical clerkships, I missed too many days in order to interview for residency programs. As a result, I received a negative clinical evaluation and was asked to repeat my fourth year of medical school. My actions were inexcusable and I will never repeat them. I learned from this experience and I used it to help me to become a better physician. I took the additional time to get involved with more research projects and gained greater exposure to neurosurgical programs.

I have had 3 clinical clerkships in neurosurgery at the Hospital A, Hospital B, and Hospital C. I tried to scrub in on as many cases as I could, meet with patients both pre- and post-operatively, and to provide good follow-up care. My clerkship directors praised me for strong teamwork skills, patient care, and medical knowledge.

After medical school, I decided to take a year off to do clinical research in Neurosurgery at Large Hospital Center, where I have co-authored more than 5 published papers and conference abstracts on the topic of spinal surgery and disorders. I hope that my work will improve the quality of life for all patients who suffer from spinal disorders.

I now look to return to clinical medicine. An ideal residency program will offer a fair amount of autonomy combined with the necessary guidance, while allowing me to conduct research, particularly in adult and pediatric central nervous system tumors. These attributes, along with my love for teaching, would form the way for me to become the best academic neurosurgeon that I can be.

Neurosurgery is my passion. My struggles over the years in achieving this goal have proven that and they have prepared me to succeed in your residency program on all levels. I am confident that my attributes and skills will be an invaluable asset to your institution and for this great specialty at large. I am certain that my grandma would be proud.