At the age of 10, I had the opportunity to reconnect with my father's side of the family after moving back to Colombia from the United States, where we had previously resided. It was a time of new beginnings, filled with some of the fondest memories I cherish to this day. Among the many relatives I met during this period, one individual stood out – my cousin Simon. Little did I know then that he would become like a little brother to me in the years to come.

Simon, with his youthful exuberance and boundless energy, quickly became a central figure in my life. Spending time with him on my uncle's farm, I found myself taking on the role of caretaker, guiding him through the adventures of childhood and brainstorming ways to keep him entertained. Despite the challenges of keeping up with his ever-changing interests, I relished the opportunity to help my uncle while nurturing a deep bond with my cousin. However, amidst the joy of newfound family connections, tragedy struck. Within a short span of time, both sets of grandparents fell seriously ill, and my maternal grandfather, who had been a father figure to me during my early years in Colombia, passed away. His loss left a profound void in my life and underscored the fleeting nature of time. It was during this period of grief and reflection that I made a commitment to prioritize the well-being of my loved ones and cherish every moment spent with them.

In the years that followed, my resolve was tested as my family faced further hardships. My cousin Simon, whom I had grown so close to, was diagnosed with leukemia at the tender age of 7. Watching him battle this devastating illness was heart-wrenching, and despite our best efforts to bring him comfort and joy, his condition continued to deteriorate. His passing left an indelible mark on my heart and ignited a desire within me to channel my efforts towards making a positive impact in the field of healthcare. As I navigated through my high school years, I found solace in community service and sports, using these platforms as avenues to support those in need and raise funds for underserved schools. Despite the challenges of living in Colombia and limited exposure to the medical field, I remained steadfast in my determination to pursue a career in medicine.

Upon graduating from high school in 2018, I made the bold decision to relocate to the United States to pursue my dreams. Starting out in a non-medical role at Autozone, I quickly realized that while I was helping people, it wasn't in the way that resonated most deeply with me. Determined to align my career with my passion for healthcare, I transitioned to a role as a transporter at Orlando Regional Medical Center. Working in this capacity provided me with invaluable insights into patient care and the inner workings of a hospital setting. Interacting with patients on a daily basis, I discovered the profound impact that empathy and compassion can have on their well-being. Each smile I elicited, each moment of connection forged, reaffirmed my commitment to pursuing a career as a physician.

Driven by a desire to further immerse myself in the realm of patient care, I transitioned to a role in the operating room, where I had the privilege of working alongside surgeons, nurses, and anesthesiologists. In this dynamic environment, I witnessed firsthand the critical role that healthcare professionals play in the lives of their patients. From comforting them during moments of vulnerability to providing lifesaving interventions, I saw the profound difference that skilled and compassionate care can make.

Though balancing full-time work with full-time studies presented its challenges, I remained steadfast in my pursuit of excellence. With each passing day, I honed my skills, deepened my understanding of patient care, and reaffirmed my commitment to serving others as a physician.

Today, as I stand on the precipice of my medical career, I am filled with a sense of purpose and gratitude. My journey thus far has been marked by trials and triumphs, setbacks and successes, but through it all, one thing remains constant – my unwavering dedication to making a meaningful difference in the lives of others.

As I embark on the next chapter of my journey, I carry with me the lessons learned from my experiences – the importance of empathy, the power of resilience, and the transformative impact of compassionate care. With each step forward, I am guided by the belief that through dedication, determination, and unwavering compassion, I can fulfill my calling to heal, comfort, and uplift those in need. In the pursuit of my dream to become a doctor, I am not just fulfilling a personal ambition; I am answering a higher calling – to serve humanity with humility, integrity, and unwavering compassion. It is a journey that I embrace with open arms and a steadfast resolve, knowing that with each life I touch, I have the opportunity to make a profound and lasting impact.

As I continue on this noble path, I am humbled by the opportunity to walk alongside patients during their most vulnerable moments, to advocate for their well-being, and to contribute to a healthcare system rooted in compassion, equity, and excellence. With each step forward, I am committed to upholding the highest standards of integrity, professionalism, and patient-centered care, guided by the unwavering belief that every individual deserves access to quality healthcare and compassionate support.

In closing, I am grateful for the journey that has led me to this point and excited for the road ahead. With passion in my heart and purpose in my stride, I stand ready to embrace the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead, knowing that through perseverance, dedication, and unwavering compassion, I can make a meaningful difference in the lives of others.