There are many reasons why I decided to pursue a health profession. I have faced turmoil, and suffered. However, that does not compare to the amount of sadness I have seen while looking into my mother’s eyes. The amount of pain, emotionally and physically, my father has witnessed cannot be comprehended by a mere human. They were able to escape the war in their homelands but were not able to escape the war within their hearts. However, their power and determination to continue living and pushing through any situation is one of my main reason for pursuing a health profession.

As a kid, I have always loved science and wanted to know everything on planet earth and beyond. I wanted to discover new things and break boundaries, so I decided to major in biology. However, in college, I started to gain a desire for politics, management, and the health and welfare of people. This desire started to manifest during my spring break of sophomore year. I remember watching the news on Aljazeera with my dad and crying due to their lack of resources and poor conditions. However, approximately 30 miles away were beautiful and flourished households. This blatant unfairness within a country fueled my heart; and, as I studied different concepts within the sciences, I decided I wanted to take my knowledge and apply it to the health and welfare of people, not only in America but also those in the third world and war-torn countries.

I, then, decided to increase my focus on the human aspect of biology. By taking classes, such as immunology, developmental biology, and anatomy and physiology at Longwood University, I was able to acquire much-needed knowledge to gain skills that are beneficial. I have learned about the human immune system and how it combats pathogens that have entered the body through ingestion, orifices, and breaches on the skin barrier. I have learned how powerful single-celled eukaryotes, helminth, and bacteria are despite their small size. The topics I learned induced a child-like state for me. I was able to find new information and increase my knowledge while loving every second of it. Learning how different things can negatively impact the human body led me to focus and seek the medical and epidemiology world.

Due to my desire to be part of the medical and epidemiology world, I decided to participate in an internship at Centra Southside Hospital in Farmville Virginia. I was able to job shadow different medical personnel in different medical departments. From this, I learned how to communicate with people of all genders, backgrounds, beliefs, ethnicities, and morals. I am able to connect with people on a deeper level and share a bond of trust. The internship increased my insight in disease transmission and medication accessibility which directed my attention in getting my masters is public health and a medical degree in pathology.

After my internship, I became a volunteer emergency medical technician. I used my communication skills to gain a better relationship with each patient. It opened my eyes to the socioeconomic aspect of a community. It revealed little disparities between America and the rest of the world. I saw people of all financial backgrounds and was baffled with their living conditions and health situations. I treated people who had diabetes but could not afford insulin. People without EpiPens and amputees that could not afford a proper prosthetic for their daily lives. Similar to the hospital, I wanted to do help more than provide a one-stop-shop for people.

For these reasons, I have chosen Eastern Virginia Medical School. Their focus on improving their communities is aspirational. As a student ready to graduate and pursue a master’s degree in public health, I cannot think of any other school that can better prepare, inform and guides me than Eastern Virginia Medical School. I strive and determine to study public health and epidemiology to better society and communities across the globe by decreasing the socioeconomic gap, and Eastern Virginia Medical School will prepare me well for this aspiration.