

My Story by Jingyi Huang

My story is about my dream and my difficulty. When I was a few years old, my grandfather, a family doctor in China, would sometimes bring me to his workplace. I have vivid memories of how he treated patients and talked with them as friends. His patients were in pain when my grandfather walked in their homes, but smiled in relief when he departed. Since then, I have developed an appreciation for what doctors do for others, and aspired to be one of them.

My volunteer experience in the Red Cross in China in 2010 and 2011 developed further my interest in becoming a doctor. I was first taught with some basic massage skills to promote the well-being of seniors in different communities at weekends. The more I learned about first aid, the stronger my desire to know about the human body.

Besides training, I had the opportunities to put what I learned in Red Cross into practice in a sports competition of a school. Under the scorching sun, the girl involved in the running accident looked weak with a reddened face, dry lips, abraded skin on her knee, and a swollen ankle. I tested her body temperature to verify my diagnosis of her condition. According to the visual symptoms and her high body temperature, she seemed to have had a heatstroke before she joined the race, so she stumbled and got hurt during the race. I put a cold pack on her ankle, sterilized the wound with medicinal alcohol, and asked her classmates to carry her to the first-aid station immediately where there was shade for her to cool down and take a rest. One hour later, her temperature was back to around 37 Celsius degrees. The experience gave me a great sense of accomplishment as I was able to handle the emergency calmly, carrying out close observation and sound judgment, and applying technical skills correctly. Furthermore, it gave me a glimpse into the real world of a hospital where the situations are usually more urgent and complicated, and compelled me to dedicate my life towards caring, improving, protecting, treating, extending and, most importantly, saving others' lives. The volunteer work in Chinese Red Cross has deepened my interest in Biochemistry that was sprouted by my grandfather's living example as a doctor, and prepared in me the qualities and skills of being a doctor. I strongly believe the sophisticated education of University of California will provide me full knowledge and training to pursue a career in medicine so that I can carry on the profound legacy left by my grandfather.

However, as a new immigrant in America, I was almost stopped on my way to be a doctor. My mother and I immigrated to America in 2012, and because she couldn't communicate with others in English, it's hard for her to find a job. But in the first year, I had to pay the school fee as international students which took most of our saving. To survive, I have to work under heavy study pressure because I wanted to transfer in two years. Now I have spent one and a half year in Foothill College and I also have applied for transferring. But the financial pressure and study pressure are so heavy that I could not focus on my studying well. If I get this scholarship, it will help me a lot to overcome the financial problem and I could work better to finish my studying. And I will also try to give back the society, like being a tutor in EOPS give help to other students.