

Statement of Purpose

Growing up, I was a very curious, passionate and ambitious child. I grabbed all the opportunities that were chosen to come in my way. Science has always been my passion since ever. I participated in many scientific and technology fairs in school and state level. I was head girl during my schooling and I happened to participate in many inter and intra school competitions where I happened to win many medals as appreciation. I was also very much interested in badminton, chess, throwball, caroms and participated in those competitions. I am also a good reader. I enjoy reading fiction, adventure, self help genre. As a person, I describe myself as creative human and am very much dragged towards dancing, drawing, painting and other extra curricular activities too. That creativity in me made me to start a YouTube channel and a Instagram page recently. So this made me habituate and learn to balance things with its own priority.

I enjoy studying science because it is a subject that encompasses so much of life's issues and practicalities, and a subject that can be applied and made useful to everyday life. Biological science is fascinating but it is even more exciting when studying abnormal function in medical science, from the facts in pathology to the application in pharmacology. My first biggest decision which set the path for my career was choosing Medicine as my field of study. I remember since I was child that it's my habit to take it as a challenge and turn it into my way. During my undergraduate programme I have undergone training courses on advanced medical science and technology development, attended scientific conference and workshop, and also participated in many extracurricular activities and got awarded for the same.

After completing of my undergraduate studies, I got the chance of working with Dr Altaf Akbar who gave me an opportunity to assist him in his eye hospital during weekdays. During many diagnosis I realized that there are an increasing number of patients with eye disorder which are related to neuro problems. Many of whom were getting symbolically treated and only after a confirmed diagnosis, they received proper treatment which helped them in improving their life. I came across 2 cases of Multiple Sclerosis in which both of the patients were having double vision. I also realized that both Parkinson's and Alzheimer's diseases can have effects on the eye and vision too. I also got to assist Dr. T Murali Krishna during weekends. While assisting, I came across a patient who had severe pain in lower back. MRI confirmed that the pain was not muscular, rather it was Lumbar Spinal Stenosis which is a neuro problem. The patient was advised physiotherapy treatment and not surgery. He got considerable improvement in 2 months. I was intrigued by the fact that Human brain can have an effect on nearly every part of the body. To understand more about human brain, I participated in a webinar titled "Optical Imaging of Brain Function". I realized that the complex chemical interactions within the body, especially how neurons affect the brain and psychology is a dilemma and one which I would love to study and understand.

In recent years there have been a myriad of ground breaking discoveries in science. However, I believe more can be done in neurology as we have a worldwide ageing population with many complex problems related to neuroscience affecting many sufferers and their families. I wish to

study neuroscience as I would like to examine conditions and also investigate other aspects of the field. In my opinion, Neuroscience is more than the brain and nervous system; it is about being able to improve quality of life, whether by discovering how to rehabilitate organs or developing new cures. I look forward to the opportunity to explore this unknown territory in my postgraduate studies.

It will never fail to surprise me how humans have made so much progress in understanding something as vast as the solar system, yet we still have not fully understood our brain; something which is so directly relevant to us. This is why I would like to pursue a career in research after my degree as I believe we need to gain a clearer picture of our anatomy. For us to comprehend the full potential of our mind is challenging but I believe I am more than ready immerse myself into the rapidly developing neurological field. Through this course, I hope to quench my thirst of gaining knowledge. I believe that my educational background has instilled in me the qualities required to meet the rigor of this demanding course, and subsequently, the profession. I am sure that this course would surely help me in achieving my further ambitions.

Thank you,

Dr Soumya Priya Malayanur