

## Personal Statement – Family Medicine

John L. Clark, Jr., MD practiced pediatric medicine in my hometown of Odessa TX. He was the person my parents came to trust and seek for answers when my health or my sibling's health was compromised. My parents built a long lasting and trusting relationship with this person; that relationship was nurtured to the point that when my parents were ill they asked him for advice. It was at this point that I became interested in Family Medicine. I remember thinking that I wanted to do what he did: help people and build relationships like the one that had been formed between him and my family. Throughout all of my childhood and a substantial part of my adolescence, I believed Dr. Clark to be our family physician. When I became ill as a teenager, only then did I learn that Dr. Clark was a Pediatrician. I wanted his help, yet he had to recommend another physician who could further assist in my situation. Nevertheless, by that point in my life my mind was set towards becoming a family physician.

My interest in family medicine was solidified during my third year of medical school. I absolutely enjoyed every rotation from start to finish. During each rotation I enjoyed the content of that field and at the end of everyday I could see myself dealing with these problems on a daily basis. There are several reasons that lead me to believe I am well-suited for the field of Family Medicine. First, I enjoy being able to use my medical knowledge and apply it to the formulation of a management plan. Second, I also derive satisfaction from my ability to tailor both my patient interaction and management to each patient's unique situation. Furthermore, I want to form strong, long-lasting patient-physician relationships so that patients can trust my abilities and their management plan. I open my arms to the challenge of being prepared for the unexpected. This means that I will enjoy the fact that behind every door I will encounter a patient with different complaints and/or symptoms, different disease processes, different paths and experiences. Finally, I want to offer my services to every person regardless of their age, sex, ethnicity socio-economic or health status.

I hope to be accepted into a Family Medicine program that meets some of the criteria I believe will allow me to develop as a Family physician. The location of the program is an important factor. I would like to train in a residency programs that is located either in a small or mid-size city in Texas. It is important to me to make sure that our new home can offer my husband the opportunity to pursue and accomplish his goals. I would like to be provided with hands-on experience in obstetric/gynecology and surgical fields. I would like to spend the time necessary to expand and solidify my knowledge of medicine as it pertains to both inpatient and outpatient medicine. I would like to participate in a program that values the meaning of team collaboration, communication and trust. I believe it would be a great experience to work with physicians that integrate wellness/preventative medicine into their practice of medicine. I am very excited about starting this new phase in order to reach my professional goals. I have dedicated my efforts to pursuit this profession, a profession that will undoubtedly fill me with a sense of satisfaction.