

Dear Fellowship Director:

The purpose of this Letter of Intent is to express my most sincere interest in applying for the Ultrasound Fellowship program at your institution.

My life journey began in a very diverse part of Florida. I grew up in a household nestled in an immigrant rich community. I have personally witnessed the damage and trauma natural disasters bring upon coastal towns and communities. Sadly, the vast majority of these communities have poor populations and therefore limited resources when disaster strikes. My goal is to serve such communities, not only as an emergency physician but as a leader focused on strengthening the entire emergency medicine infrastructure, facilities, equipment, and training included. But while my interest has always been in EMS and disaster medicine, I have recently developed an immense appreciation for ultrasound.

As a Resident I have gained broad clinical exposure to patient care through affiliate institutions such as --- (Level 1 trauma center, aeromedical program, over 100,000 ER visits/year), --- (70,000 ER visits/year), --- (undifferentiated patient population), and ---- (Level 1 Pediatric trauma center, 60,000 ER visits/year). In addition to emergency medicine, my residency program has provided supplemental education and training in traumatology, toxicology, aeromedical critical transport care, and ultrasound as instructed by the ultrasound director and ultrasound trained faculty.

Prior to starting residency, I had only seen a few slides about ultrasound during a radiology lecture in medical school. This all changed in residency, where orientation consisted of a "boot camp" in ultrasound.

Later there was one experience in particular that opened my eyes to the importance of ultrasound. I had an 11 year old male patient who was brought in by his family under the impression he was suffering from constipation. The family had attempted treating him at home with a laxative but without relief. He had a three day history of abdominal pain and was unable to play with his siblings. He also complained of dysuria. Based on the information given, I proceeded by obtaining an abdominal X-ray and urinalysis. The X-ray showed possible ileus with moderate stool burden and the urinalysis was abnormal but not impressive for urinary tract infection. The patient was written up for discharge. But somehow I was not convinced that constipation and/or a UTI was the cause of his symptoms. So I decided to take the ultrasound into his room. The scan revealed a 7.5 mm appendix with a collection of fluid near his bladder.

Ultrasound aided me in diagnosing a ruptured appendix in a child that was slated to be discharged home with antibiotics already electronically submitted to his pharmacy. From that day forward, I became fascinated with the power of ultrasound and began bringing it with me for almost all patient complaints.

In addition to using ultrasound regularly, I began promoting ultrasound education to medical students and incoming interns. In the distant future, I hope to share my knowledge by developing an ultrasound curriculum with hands on training for students especially for those learning in areas which are vulnerable to natural disasters. I wholeheartedly believe ultrasound has enormous potential and is a game changer for physicians working in remote areas such as islands and coastal towns with limited access to the

breadth of patient care otherwise available. Moreover, having the ability to perform bedside ultrasounds for quick and accurate diagnosis with less wait time and cost, will better aid emergency physicians responding to a large volume of patients normally seen in natural disasters. I feel my interest in pursuing ultrasound is absolutely essential to my medical career. I also believe that pursuing ultrasound will not preclude me from expertise in emergency medicine but will rather compliment my clinical skills in emergency medicine. I would be honored to join the ultrasound fellowship at your institution and promise my participation and contribution to the program will be nothing short of excellent.