Hello! My name is **Zara Khan** and I'm a second year medical student at Tufts University School of Medicine in Boston, with interests in Global Public Health and Refugee Health.

I graduated from the University of Massachusetts Boston in 2017 with a B.S. in Biology and *summa cum laude*. I was awarded the 2017 Robert H. Spaethling Award, a top award given to one graduating senior in the Honors College, and also received the Ina Samuels Award, a top research award in the College of Liberal Arts at UMass Boston. During my time on campus, I aspired to lead and mentor students at my university. As a result, I became the secretary of Alpha Lambda Delta, an honors fraternity, and was the lead peer mentor for pre-medical Freshman Success Communities.

During my time at UMass, I spent the summer of 2015 participating in a medical internship at Turgut Ozal University in Ankara, Turkey. At the time, it was the height of the Syrian refugee crisis so I decided to visit the local refugee camps. After seeing the dire need of humanitarian relief, my colleagues and I set up a "GoFundMe" where we were able to raise money and provide basic necessities like food, clothing, and medications during the month of Ramadan. This was a turning point in my life and is the reason I decided to pursue a career in Medicine.

Before starting medical school, I spent two years in the Agudo Lab at Dana-Farber Cancer Institute. There I focused on a project studying the mechanisms of immune evasion of quiescent cells in breast cancer primary tumors. Through this experience, I met Dr. Navid Madani and was inspired by her work and organization, the Science and Health Education Center (SHE Center). With my interests in Global Health, I envision myself having ongoing involvement through the SHE Center in the MENA region as a future physician.