Personal Statement

During the 2007 Breast Cancer Awareness Campaign in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, I felt strongly committed to a career in medical imaging as nearly every woman there expressed serious concerns about breast cancer screening radiation exposure. I was profoundly inspired to share my basic radiation safety and protection knowledge to alleviate their misconceptions, successfully convincing many attendees to undergo this necessary screening. My enthusiasm, effective communication skills, and willingness to positively influence others’ lives will help me achieve my long-term goals of becoming a college professor and a researcher in my field. Accordingly, educating my community drove me to continue pursuing a degree in radiological sciences.

While studying diagnostic radiology as an undergraduate, I had the chance to partake in extra summer clinical training. Most radiology departments in my city were upgrading their equipment from conventional to digital systems then. This digitization process exposed me to different imaging techniques, from darkroom film processing to computerized radiography and direct digital image capture, helping me appreciate the variations in image quality between technologies and making the physics therein more comprehensible.

I applied diligent training, persistent studying, and faithful conduct towards a Diagnostic Radiology Department teaching assistant position at King Abdulaziz University following my 2010 internship. I assisted faculty members for a semester, teaching introductory CT courses, preparing and grading students’ exams, and providing guidance during their clinical training. These duties taught me the immense yet enjoyable responsibilities of faculty members, broadening my perspective of the medical imaging field.

Furthermore, I came to the United States after receiving a fully-sponsored scholarship to continue my studies in medical imaging. During my nuclear medicine advanced placement program, I conducted a capstone project based on my clinical experience. Observing recurrent artifacts within raw data, I examined Regadenoson’s effects on the gallbladder during stress myocardial perfusion imaging with 99mTc-Tetrofosmin affecting image quality. My facilitator praised my meticulous nature, a trait which will help me conduct future research.

My PET/CT graduate studies became my research experience’s transitional period. In my research project, “Non-Conventional Applications in Breast Imaging,” I discuss the significance and limitations of certain nonstandard breast imaging techniques. Indulging in research projects improved my ability to search, understand, and evaluate published works more efficiently, enhancing my intellectual independence through analytical reading and cultivating my knowledge of medical imaging advancements. I am keenly interested in expanding my CT technology skills with Prof. Frederic Noo in his CT image reconstruction studies. Furthermore, I became interested in musculoskeletal CT imaging after conducting research in “Dual-Energy Computed Tomography in Musculoskeletal System.” Thus, I desire to work with Prof. Andrew Anderson in MSK CT applications. I also wish to conduct PET/CT applications research studies with Prof. Dan Kadrmas. Therefore, I am eager to join the University of Utah’s Bioengineering Department imaging track to conduct further extensive medical imaging research (PET/CT).

Because few radiologic technology field professionals exist in my country – especially in academia – I have decided to first help fill this void through continuing my education. Joining your Ph.D. program will help me achieve my short-term professional goal of continuing my graduate studies and will become my medical imaging career’s foundation. This degree will certainly lead to my long-term professional goal: to become a medical imaging researcher striving for lifelong learning and a college professor motivating students to self-analyze medical imaging issues.

**END OF SAMPLE**

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