

Dear Kaiser Permanente Bernard J. Tyson School of Medicine Admissions Committee,

My name is [REDACTED] and I recently had the pleasure of attending my interview on October 26th. I first want to extend my deepest gratitude for the interview. The team at KPSOM admissions, including [REDACTED] on the student panel, [REDACTED], and my faculty MMI interviewers, made my interview an amazing experience, allowing me to truly open up and envision myself as a student at KPSOM. For that, I thank everyone involved!

One part of the interview that deeply resonated with me was the mission of KPSOM: To seek students who want to change the world. It's recognizing that, for many patients, the status quo simply isn't enough. Therefore, we have a functional and moral necessity to break this mold. As someone who grew up low-income and saw firsthand both the devastating effects of avoiding care as well as the transformative power accessible healthcare had in my mom's hospice care, KPSOM's central tenet is close to my heart. My goal is to become a physician my parents could have trusted at their lowest; someone who not only bridges gaps in care faced by both low-income Latinos and service members but collaborates to shine a light on other communities' intimate struggles in healthcare. KPSOM's focus on improving medicine from a systems perspective while dismantling financial barriers for students who will give representation to patients historically excluded from healthcare gives me confidence that a brighter, healthier, and more just future is being shaped here. More than any other school, I'm elated to have the chance to mold this future at KPSOM.

I also wish to update the committee on my recent publication in the *Journal of Global Health Reports*. The paper explores a novel multidisciplinary approach to investigating conflicts' role in gut dysbiosis faced by refugees. My portion, an expansion of my thesis on wound infections, is a sweeping review of war pollution's effects on the gut microbiome of Palestinian refugees. Beyond my publication, I hope to continue exploring novel innovations in conflict and low-resource medicine at KPSOM. KPSOM's Global Health program, cultivation of student research through the scholarly project, and collaboration with tissue engineering at CalTech will allow me to draw from these diverse disciplines to further the evolution of low-resource wound care and antimicrobial treatment.

The citation for the publication:

~~F. Al-Majidi, A. Al-Bayati, B. Al-Dabbas, et al. (2021) Microbiome and Gut Health in Conflict Zones: A Review of the Literature. *Journal of Global Health Reports* 5. doi:10.29392/001c.28997.~~

Thank you for taking the time to read my letter! Please let me know if there is anything else the committee would like to know in evaluating my candidacy.

Respectfully,

[REDACTED]

AMCAS ID: 15000641