



To,  
The President & trustees,  
Shivani Bhatt Charitable Foundation  
18 Aryanagar Society, Amul Dairy Road Anand,  
Gujarat, India

Subject: A testimony letter

I am writing this letter to express my gratitude to everyone involved in helping me reach the stage I am at right now. This letter will also share my experience, which will help future candidates and encourage them to achieve their goals through the Shivani Bhatt Charitable Foundation(SBCF).

I was in a situation where I probably would have to wait another year to apply for the residency match as all the available observerships and clinical experiences were canceled due to unavoidable circumstances raised by the COVID-19 pandemic. But I got lucky. I found a way to reach out for an observership through the SBCF. Their efforts to establish a network and create a pathway for future aspirants, just like their daughter, Shivani, gave me another chance at achieving a solution to this unique problem. With their recommendation, I secured two rotations with prominent and highly esteemed doctors, Dr. Nilesh Patel, a Cardiothoracic Surgeon, and Dr. Meherwan Joshi, a Cardiologist, in New Jersey.

I had the opportunity to observe Dr. Patel for 2 weeks at Saint Michael's Medical Center, Newark, and Dr. Joshi for 4 weeks at his clinic in Trinitas Regional Medical Center, Elizabeth. I think I was fortunate to come across these individuals who agreed to help me out in such dire circumstances, and for this, I express my heartfelt gratitude. I started with a 2-week observership with the Cardiothoracic & Vascular Surgery Department chief, Dr. Nilesh Patel. I was expected to arrive by 7:30 AM and attend procedures performed by his team and himself in the operating room and observed the critical care team manage the patient in the post-operative ICU. It was a fantastic experience to observe how well the team functioned under Dr. Patel's able eyes who always set a high bar and how easy the team made things look under his leadership. In the operating room, I also had the opportunity to interact with the exceptional team of anesthetics lead by Dr. Harish Nandigam and Dr. Claudia Komer. They gave me

valuable insight and lessons in cardiovascular evaluation and management of patient intra- operatively and post-operatively. I had learned more than I had expected. Beyond his polished skills as a surgeon and superior leadership skills, Dr. Patel is a kind-hearted person who took a keen interest in my development and well-being. I am thankful to him for being a wonderful guide on this journey. At the end of each day, he would give me some important advice, which will hold me in good stead in the long run. To date, he keeps a check on how I have been doing. I don't think I could have gotten any luckier in this regard. His experience and suggestions throughout this journey have been invaluable.

Following the 2 week rotation with Dr. Patel, I had the chance to observe under Dr. Meherwan Joshi, a Cardiologist and associate professor of medicine at Trinitas Regional Medical Center, for 4 weeks at his clinic. During my time with Nilesh sir, he told me that Dr. Joshi is the best doctor/teacher you will meet. And, he was right. The 4 weeks went by in no time. I was able to establish a good rapport with the office staff and Dr. Joshi. He is an extremely busy person, but he took the time to answer my questions despite his busy schedule. He would create stimulating situations that kept me engaged every day. He gave me the chance to examine and interact with his patients, giving me some valuable patient experience. He always set a very high standard at his practice. He demands a good work ethic. He kept me on my toes by assigning me topics for home-work to assess me on the following day. Beyond the academic discussions, Dr. Joshi is a grounded, humble man and has given me crucial advice and has guided me in the right direction on various occasions. He also gave me an opportunity to write a case report with a cardiology fellow, which helped me develop a stronger resume. On the last day, Dr. Joshi dropped me to my daily commute and gave me an encouraging piece of advice. I can happily say I could meet some wonderful people and make excellent relations, which made the experience very, very rewarding.

At the end of both the rotations, they agreed to write a letter of recommendation, which has helped me apply for the match. This certainly wouldn't have been possible hadn't it been for the SBCF. I am a proud recipient of this unique opportunity, and I can't be thankful enough to have been able to accomplish all I have, considering the difficulties around us. With the combined efforts of the SBCF team and the doctors who took me in, I have successfully applied for the interview season in time and have received a few interviews as well in a short span. It's been good so far, and I hope to give some good news in a few months. Regardless, I would like to give due credit to everyone who has helped me come this far.

This foundation was made for the right reasons. It is encouraging the development and wellbeing of several deserving candidates. I would like to encourage everyone to confidently participate in this observership program and in the development of the foundation. To be able to do what Shivani had set off for before her untimely demise, I feel fortunate. She has been able to change lives despite not being around us, and I am fortunate to be on the receiving end. I pledge to help and contribute to the foundation's development. I will be happy to guide anyone who chooses to take on this journey. The foundation's initiatives and actions are commendable. They only remind me of Shivani for who she was. A kind, generous, and ambitious woman.

Thank you again.

Yours sincerely,

Anuj Thakre