



Lamees Ibrahim El Nihum

MD + MEng

EnMed Pilot Student I Burroughs Wellcome Scholar

<https://vitalrecord.tamhsc.edu/get-to-know-lamees-el-nihum/>

Hometown: Temple, TX

Undergraduate Institution: Texas A&M University

Undergraduate Degree: BS in Chemical Engineering

Why do you want to be a physician?

My first and greatest role model in medicine was my father, whose passion for surgery ignited a similar fire in his second of four daughters, for better or for worse. I feel that my father exemplified the values of compassion and genuine care toward his patients, and somehow maintained an inspiring work ethic while also committing to us wholeheartedly as a family. I am also inspired by the surgeons who surround me in the Texas Medical Center. A cardiothoracic surgeon at Houston Methodist once told me, "I am a doctor first, a surgeon second, and a cardiothoracic surgeon third." His sincerity and undeniable commitment to the welfare of his patients stood out to me and sparked within me a resolve to hold myself to such noble standards that make a livelihood as a physician so rewarding.

Why did you choose Texas A&M College of Medicine?

I chose the Texas A&M College of Medicine because it was close to home, and was even more secure in my decision when the EnMed program was announced, which I eagerly jumped into as a pilot student in the summer of 2017. I am in awe that enrolling in the Texas A&M College of Medicine has landed me 3 years later in the midst of the Texas Medical Center among the most brilliant physicians of our time.

Why did you choose to pursue a graduate degree in addition to the MD?

As an undergraduate I completed a BS in chemical engineering and a minor in aerospace engineering, knowing that I would one day attend medical school where I would then, I told myself, focus my passions only on medicine rather than answer to every interest that called out to me. This did not turn out to be the case. When the EnMed program was announced, I

was pulled once again into a multifaceted education, wherein I would enjoy delving into the world of medicine as well as carry out a master's degree in engineering. Honestly, I was relieved at heart: I had had ideas for projects as an undergraduate that I wanted to carry out in the field of medicine – for example, convert my experience in computational fluid dynamics (in aeronautical design) toward medical initiatives (particularly in the cardiovascular arena) – and I would now have a chance to pursue them. I hope such opportunities will present themselves throughout this research year as I interact with my clinical and engineering mentors while a scholar in the Burroughs Wellcome Fund Academy of Physician Scientists, and am beyond exhilarated to see where this year will take me.

What are your career goals and how do you feel the MD Plus Program will help you?

My ardent dream is to pursue residency and fellowship in cardiothoracic surgery toward ultimately becoming a congenital heart surgeon. I know the road will be long and challenging, but the idea of constantly learning and improving upon myself as a physician in the field of surgery compels me, as well as the thought of contributing to the advancement of the field. By the grace of God, EnMed has already opened doors for me that would not have presented themselves to me otherwise. I am in constant interaction with cardiologists and cardiovascular surgeons at Houston Methodist and am growing and thriving under their mentorship. Through this program I hope to carry out research and device design that will contribute to the evolving dynamics of interventional cardiology and cardiovascular surgery, as well as serve as the beginnings of an interest in research and biodesign that will only continue to grow and develop throughout my medical career.