

Aanchal Thadani



My ambition is to help heal ailing people and broken systems. I realize no matter how competent the provider, she cannot care for those who do not have the means to reach her doors. The skills and expertise afforded by the Master's in International Health Policy at LSE will allow me to use the insight of a practicing physician to help develop more affordable, sustainable, and equitable systems. When I return to the US, I will complete the last year of medical school and apply to residency in Obstetrics & Gynecology. I hope to work in an urban safety-net hospital, caring for vulnerable women of lower socioeconomic status. Learning from my patients' experiences, I will use the skills learned and practiced at LSE to champion sustainable systemic reform both nationally and internationally. I intend to

consult for think tanks and advocacy groups on matters concerning increased access and affordability of high-quality healthcare.

Growing up between Nigeria and India meant bearing witness to the debilitating effects of structural inequities and poor governance. Training in the United States, both as a future physician and an advocate for systems reform, entails working within a flawed system that leaves many without needed care. With this degree, I will build the foundations of a career in replacing systemic inequities with equitable and sustainable policies at all levels.

Both my time as a health policy intern in Washington D.C., and the few years in medical training have shown me that enthusiasm is far from enough when it comes to productive advocacy. Though I have learned a great deal from all the projects and organizations I am very fortunate to have been a part of, there are many hard skills I am yet to master. I am excited to learn the analytics (both statistical and philosophical), communicative, and executive strategies that I must practice in order to be a physician-advocate. This program and the distinguished faculty at LSE will give me the best lead.

In the near future, I will use what I learn at LSE to support my colleagues in understanding the challenges our patients must face outside of the clinical setting. I will use it to inform patient care, in creating realistic care plans that are feasible for the patient in their situation. I will continue to look for areas of improvement within local systems and use my experiences and expertise to help foster incremental improvements. In the long run, I intend to share my time between seeing patients and pursuing sensible and just policy reform on a federal and international level. I hope to return to Washington D.C. and serve as a consultant for any entity- think tank, advocacy group, legislative office, non-governmental organization - that would benefit from my background.