

My desire to deepen my training in ultrasound stems from treating a simple low back pain patient at 3 AM. This patient was pacing around the room, obviously uncomfortable but in no acute distress. I introduced myself and began to obtain his history. Non-traumatic low back pain, woke him from sleep, no associated radiculopathy. Patient was diagnosed with hypertension several years ago but he has never been treated for it. He had a 2 pack a day smoking habit. I performed a physical exam and could not reproduce his pain with palpation. I thought about his history and physical for a moment, then the lightbulb moment occurred and I grabbed the ultrasound. Placing the curvilinear probe on his abdomen, I found the cause of his back pain. It was an 8cm abdominal aortic aneurysm. The patient's blood pressure was treated and he was transferred for management. That was the first time I had used ultrasound to save a life.

I then made the firm decision to pursue an ultrasound fellowship after serving as an instructor during an emergency medicine interest group procedure lab. I was in charge of the ultrasound station, and I was showing MS-1s how to perform a FAST exam. I have always enjoyed teaching and mentoring younger students, and I love how ultrasound allows a learner to directly visualize anatomy and an active disease process. Ultrasound allows for a combination of theoretical, visual, and mechanical learning, which in turn makes for a more meaningful educational experience.

Completing an ultrasound fellowship will aid me in becoming an effective teacher of residents and medical students in emergency medicine. It will also augment my emergency medicine practice and enable me to take better care of my patients. After completion of fellowship, I hope to join an academic program where I can focus on both education and patient care. I also want to continue to contribute to medical literature through scholarly projects. I am excited for the next step and I am ready to move forward.