

November 12, 2025

Dear Jan R. Cloyde Legacy Award Committee,

My name is Serinee Tran, and I am a fourth-year medical student at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA. I would like to sincerely thank you for supporting my travel to The Obesity Society's annual conference, ObesityWeek, which took place in Atlanta, Georgia, alongside my research mentor, Dr. Kimberly Narain. Attending ObesityWeek was an invaluable milestone in my medical training and professional development.

Obesity care demands a multidisciplinary approach, and I deeply appreciated the opportunity to learn from clinicians, researchers, dietitians, and public health advocates from around the world. One of the most impactful sessions I attended highlighted the long-term effects of postpartum weight retention and gestational diabetes on childhood obesity risk, emphasizing the importance of breaking the cycle of intergenerational obesity. Another memorable presentation examined how generative artificial intelligence produces obesity-related content, revealing pervasive stigmatizing language that undermines progress in de-stigmatization efforts and negatively shapes public perceptions of people living with obesity.

A highlight of the conference was presenting my research during the poster session on the relationship between self-employment, obesity, and cardiovascular disease risk factors among Asian women. This poster presentation session allowed me to center the experiences and health risks of a population that remains largely underrepresented in research, despite having disproportionately high rates of obesity-related disease. I am grateful for all the meaningful conversations I had with researchers and clinicians, including thoughtful questions and discussions that affirmed the importance of this work.

As an aspiring anesthesiologist, this experience strengthened my clinical lens while deepening my commitment to advocacy and health equity. I am eager to continue advancing research focused on women's health and medically underserved patient populations throughout residency and beyond. As the daughter of Vietnamese refugees, the opportunity to engage in this work is profoundly meaningful and reinforces my dedication to amplifying the voices of vulnerable and historically disadvantaged populations.

Thank you again for your generous support, which made this meaningful experience possible and strengthened my commitment to equitable and patient-centered care.

Sincerely,

Serinee Tran
David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA