

September 16, 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 Interdisciplinary Association for Population Health Science annual conference in Pittsburgh, PA, with my research mentor, Dr. Kimberly Narain. This conference was an invaluable experience in my medical education and professional growth.

I was inspired by the meeting's theme, "*Community Engagement in Population Health Science*," and appreciated the opportunity to learn from researchers who gathered from around the world to share their commitment to advancing health equity. Highlights included sessions on food equity for Latiné communities in rural areas, maternal and child health initiatives among Latiné families in Detroit, and community-centered approaches to addressing systemic drivers of health inequities. I also found great value in discussions about how early life and educational experiences shape cardiometabolic health outcomes across different gendered and racialized contexts. These perspectives deepened my understanding of how to support individual patients while also advocating for the broader communities they come from.

One of the most meaningful moments for me was the poster presentation session. Presenting my research on the relationship of self-employment on cardiovascular disease risk factors among Asian women gave me the opportunity to highlight Asian women—an often underrepresented group in research—and engage in thoughtful conversations with researchers who recognized the importance of this work. Standing by my poster, I felt not only like a presenter, but also an advocate. At a time when public health is challenged and research funding is uncertain, I was grateful for the chance to share my work and contribute to ongoing dialogue about equity and health outcomes.

As an aspiring anesthesiologist, this experience was formative for my development as both a clinician and an advocate. I plan to continue conducting research focused on health equity and women's health throughout residency and my career. As the daughter of Vietnamese refugees, this opportunity was especially meaningful, reinforcing my commitment to amplify the voices of vulnerable and underrepresented populations.

Thank you again for your generous support, which allowed me to take this important step in my journey to advance equity in research and patient care.

Sincerely,
Serinee Tran