

## How has medicine impacted my life?



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First, I would like to introduce myself. I'm a second-semester medical student, and since the very beginning of my studies, I've been deeply passionate about neurology. During the first semester, I met several tutors, upper-year students who support incoming freshmen. Among them, there was one in particular who shared this same interest. Upon noticing my interest in neurology, he told me about an internal exam that was coming up: those who placed first would form the official neuroanatomy team for the 2025 National Morphology Competition.

Without much expectation of qualifying, I decided to sign up. To my surprise, I placed third, which meant I would represent my school at the national neuroanatomy competition. The news filled me with excitement, but also with a sense of responsibility. I knew it couldn't be taken lightly. There were still eight months until the event, so there was a lot to study.

During that time, my team and I met constantly to prepare. It was then that I realized that being a doctor requires tremendous discipline: setting aside certain activities, prioritizing study, and accepting that learning medicine is a complex process that demands effort and perseverance. As the months passed, we honed our knowledge, growing more excited each day about the experience we were about to have. I even bought my first medical textbook—neuroanatomy, of course.

Our tutor became a true master. He shared his previous experiences with us, told us about the difficulty of the competition, and yet he always trusted us. That confidence strengthened ours. Thanks to your guidance and teamwork, we were able to complete the agenda planned months before the event.

Finally, after months of preparation, the moment of the competition arrived. We traveled to the city of Oaxaca, a place I had never been before, and which was a completely new experience for me. There, I met doctors with many more years of training and dedication, who shared their perspectives with me—what drove them to keep studying, what motivates them, and the reasons they chose to become doctors. Many also offered me valuable advice. It was then that I understood the privilege of the moment I was experiencing. I even got to meet Dr. Artiaga Martínez, author of medical books; they all instructed me with their knowledge and advice, and I realized that they're just humans helping humans, that the medical community can be very close-knit, and that, when it is, it's also capable of curing the incurable.

The day of the competition arrived. The exam was similar to a university entrance test, with strict protocols and security measures, but focused entirely on neuroanatomy. While we were waiting in line, I met young doctors from different states across the country: Nuevo León, Mexico City, Coahuila, Sinaloa, among others. We all shared the same goal.

The exam was difficult, but not impossible. I remember the nerves, the deep breaths, and the months of accumulated effort. At the end, I was excited and eager to find out the results. Out of the 17 participating schools, we placed seventh. Although we didn't make it to the final, I felt completely satisfied. Until that moment, it had been the best experience medicine had given me.

I still vividly remember the look of happiness on my parents' faces, even tho my results weren't the best. I'm looking forward to the next year; I hope to go and prove to myself that, year after year, I can become a better doctor. I hope that in the next edition of this magazine I'll be able to tell you about my success, but even so, there was success: knowledge, connections, and new friends came into my life. Above all, I realized that every doctor is, at heart, just someone who wants to change the world. That's why I'm so grateful for medicine. I didn't tell them all the details, but I shared a bit about my beautiful first experience in the world of medicine.