**EDI Statement Draft**

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January 10, 2025

Interdisciplinary Medical Sciences

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**Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Statement**

**Role**

I am applying to the Toronto Metropolitan University Medical School with a strong aspiration to pursue a career as a physician.

**How EDI aligns with my values and institution’s vision**

* Equity, diversity, and inclusion (EDI) are fundamental principles that align deeply with my personal and professional values.
* As a second-generation South Asian woman, I have experienced firsthand the importance of creating spaces where individuals from all backgrounds feel represented and valued.
* EDI embodies the belief that everyone, regardless of their identity, deserves equitable opportunities to thrive, a belief I hold at my core.
* Toronto Metropolitan University’s vision of addressing systemic inequities in healthcare and fostering community-centered education mirrors my dedication to creating inclusive environments.
	+ My research on early diagnostic gaps in Alzheimer’s disease directly supports this vision by highlighting and addressing barriers rooted in socio-economic status, race, ethnicity, culture, and language.
	+ By prioritizing health equity and inclusive practices, I hope to contribute to TMU’s mandate of building a healthcare system that serves diverse communities effectively and compassionately.

**Contributions to EDI**

* Capstone project
	+ My capstone project integrates culturally sensitive approaches to early Alzheimer’s diagnostics, advocating for equitable diagnostic tools that consider linguistic and cultural nuances.
	+ This work emphasizes the importance of addressing systemic biases in healthcare, particularly those impacting marginalized communities.
* ERAA Hope Foundation
	+ Addressed unmet needs of vulnerable seniors in Sri Lanka.
	+ Provided food, water, shelter, and healthcare to underserved populations.
	+ Organized fundraisers and raised awareness to secure resources.
	+ Advocated for a marginalized group often overlooked in policies.
	+ Promoted equity by ensuring access to basic necessities.
* Banana Leaf Mealkit
	+ Provided meals for the homeless in downtown Toronto.
	+ Addressed food insecurity as a systemic barrier.
	+ Promoted inclusivity through culturally diverse meal offerings.
	+ Fostered community connections and supported vulnerable populations.
* Value Mobile
	+ Led the Senior Mobile Campaign to provide tech support and digital literacy training for seniors.
	+ Addressed the digital divide and reduced social isolation among older adults.
	+ Empowered seniors to access essential services and opportunities.
	+ Promoted equity by ensuring seniors could participate equally in a digital society.

**Future plans related to inclusivity**

* As a future healthcare professional, I aspire to continue championing EDI in both clinical practice and medical education.
* I plan to advocate for curriculum changes that emphasize cultural competence and health equity, ensuring that future medical professionals are equipped to serve diverse populations.
* Additionally, I aim to mentor students from underrepresented backgrounds, fostering diversity within the healthcare workforce and creating a ripple effect of inclusivity.