October 2026

Hello Mr. Feisal Patel, Dr. Ameen Patel, and each person who drives the Julie Patel Foundation forward,

Thank you immensely for selecting me as the recipient of the Dr. PJ Devereaux award. What this award represents is deeply meaningful, and I cannot express my gratitude enough for being chosen. My name is - I am a first-year medical student at the Cape Breton Medical Campus and have my roots in Yarmouth, Nova Scotia, which is about as far as you can get from Sydney! Growing up rurally, the need for comprehensive primary care for those under served was made painfully apparent early on, from witnessing doctors making the decision between an ER shift or their child's graduation to a family doctor's retirement leaving hundreds without a healthcare provider. Being chosen for an award that recognizes the value of diverse physicians, particularly in rural areas is very motivating. My journey is one that lies on the shoulders of those who have worked tirelessly to facilitate my dream of becoming a physician. Reading Julie's story and how her legacy has impacted countless lives has reaffirmed the role each of us has in enacting positive change within our own communities. Representing the innumerable immigrants who may not have the privilege to advocate for themselves within healthcare spaces, being awarded this scholarship allows me to be a physician that works in the margins, for the marginalized. I also had the pleasure of meeting Dr. Devereaux briefly when he visited campus prior to the lecture he delivered and gleaned immense value from his insights on how to tactfully provide tailored care. I hope to embody his example as a pillar of patient-centred service within my own career, and I look forward to seeing how the Foundation continues to inspire the next generation of change makers - thank you, sincerely, once again.

Kindest regards,

Class of 2030Cape Breton Medical Campus