The memory is mostly fuzzy - but the bright lights and the emotions aren't. I remember seeing my mom barely responsive on the floor. From the simulations we had done, she had taught me 911 was the emergency phone number I should use if anything ever happened. When the bright lights arrived they assured me she would be ok, but if I hadn't acted so quickly at just five years old, she wouldn't have been. I've always helped my mom as much as I felt I could with her type 1 diabetes. I had always pestered my mother with questions like "why do you have a pump working for one of your organs" as I had a rudimentary understanding of her affliction. Why was she the spontaneous mutation in her family - the only one with type 1 diabetes? Why did her body attack her pancreas at 25 years old with perfect health prior? My interest in genetics began here, at home, where I watched my mom have to stab her stomach for every meal and prick herself dozens of times per day.

In 2022 I took one of my yearly visits to Argentina with my mom and brothers to visit family. We only stayed for ten days, but on one of the days my aunt took me to her close friend's laboratories for his PhD dissertation at UBA (University of Buenos Aires). Here he showed me the disease labs for BSL 1-3 diseases, and allowed me to inspect mouse tumor cells under a microscope. This was before I graduated high school, and it helped me realize I wanted to work in a lab, with diseases or genetics. This experience opened my eyes up to this as more than just a curiosity, but also a career goal. I didn't want to pursue a PhD like him, but I wanted to work in a lab and learn more about science, and I decided I would be ok with starting at any entry level lab position.

The following year in Fall 2023 I started at UCF as an undeclared major. This was a deliberate choice for adaptability; I wanted to ensure that my transition into the hard sciences was guided not by obligation, but by curiosity. By keeping the undeclared major, I allowed myself room to test my aptitude across various disciplines before committing fully to Biomedical Sciences. Then the same month college started, my grandma was diagnosed with Alzheimer's Disease. Then 2 years later in 2025 they found she had a brain tumor, both devastating blows to my family. This furthered my drive in wanting to finish my degree early, as I am doing now by taking classes every summer and difficult course loads, along with my passion for genetics. Through being pensive in how and why these cruel diseases occur in my classes, as well as labs, I can understand them and accelerate my path in a career towards a genetics, blood, or pharmaceutical lab.

In said labs I truly fell in love with the idea of working in a larger laboratory. Through this I cultivated my skills and passions harmoniously due to how much I was enjoying working with antigen testing, DNA extraction, chromatography, NMR, and even micropipetting has been fun to me. These are just a handful of the skills that I've picked up along the path to fulfilling my curiosity of science and there are many more to come. Many more skills are yet to be nurtured and field experience in an industrial or hospital work-setting lab is necessary and the next step. My immediate goal is to work as a laboratory technician in a clinical, diagnostic, or pharmaceutical setting to see where I can apply my foundation in biomedical sciences to real-world problems and helping patients.

I strive to maintain my passions outside of science to keep up my drive for learning. I believe it is necessary to be adaptable under pressure and find more pursuits than just academic ones to do this - I love to ski, scuba dive, and train mixed martial arts - all of which allow me to feel free while thinking and acting under pressure. When deep underwater one must know not to surface quickly, it has to be done slowly and carefully unless one wishes to get nitrogen in their bloodstream. In sparring, timing has to be just right while under physical and mental stress to land any punch, kick, or takedown. In skiing one must control their body very finely at high speeds to avoid serious injury. Just as I stay methodical managing ascent rates and remaining air supply while diving, I use the same dedicated calmness when performing NMRs, DNA extractions, and micropipetting; just as I would in a lab or hospital job. Being adaptable doesn't just apply to the sciences and medicine, it's applied in my hobbies and life. Throughout my journeys in all of my hobbies and in my undergraduate degree, what I've learned most is that we must persevere through all trials, learn from the mistakes, and continue to move forward no matter the pace.

After my undergraduate degree I can continue to develop the lab skills I'm lacking and utilize the ones I've learnt in an industrial, hospital, or pharmaceutical lab. I strive for a future where I continue striving to learn, no matter the lab position. The undergraduate degree is not where learning stops because it never stops. I will be a lifelong student to my passions and curiosities as I always have been, and push myself for others and for me. As I keep climbing up the ladder I envision heading a research project, or proposing one myself, or I may even go back to school and get a PhD. I will keep using my skills and developing new ones, all while listening to my heart, following my passions, and never giving up on being a lifelong student.