

Whenever I had feelings of doubt in this program, I would constantly remind myself why I started. Many things have propelled me into this career, one of them being my cousin. My cousins and I are very close, so close that we would see each other almost every day each summer. The summer of 2008 was when my family got the news. My cousin was diagnosed with Leukemia. I was nine and my cousin was seven. At that age, I did have a small understanding of what cancer was which terrified me. Nobody knew what the future would look like so we took it day by day as that is all we could do. I remember going to visit my cousin at the Children's Hospital and interacting with all the great nurses. No matter how bad of a day my cousin was having, the nurses would always put a smile on his face. They would go out of their way just to help him feel comfortable with his stay. This experience had impacted me and pushed me forward into pursuing this career. I had a vision of helping others at such a young age. To this day, my cousin still sees the beauty in this world. No matter what day or how I am feeling he can make me smile from ear to ear. My cousin is now cancer free, healthy and happier than ever. This program is not easy as there are so many challenges to face. Whether that is staying up late studying for a major test or even preparing yourself for the long clinical day ahead. I am glad I challenged myself daily. I am ready to meet great people and listen to their stories of life. I am ready to put a smile on people's faces when they need it most. Whenever you have feelings of doubt and feel like the world is against you, remember why you started.- Ashley Cotter, Year 4 Nursing (class of 2021)