Who I Am & What I Stand For

My name is Allison and I want to be part of transforming women's health. My personal why for serving women is the compilation of three women's stories; my biological mother's, my mother who raised me, and my own.

My Biological Mother's Story:

I was three days old when I was delivered to an orphanage in Fujian, China. I have often been asked how it felt knowing my mother "abandoned" me. It always rubbed me wrong because I've only ever felt grateful. She made the hardest decision to let me go in the hope I could have a better life. I imagine she carried and delivered me under a highly shameful context. I expect she felt very alone in those decisions. Her suffering reminds me of the story of millions of women who navigate major health events alone, from puberty to mental health to motherhood. **I want to be part of making sure no woman feels alone.**

The Story of My Mother Who Raised Me:

My mom stayed home to raise 4 children over 41 years. She lived her life sacrificially from waking up early to prepare our lunches to joining every game and staying up late for every dance. Yet, time was not the only element she gave. My mother gave her best even when her own body was screaming in pain from an accident that compressed spinal discs. For a decade she stifled the pain of every step from plantar fasciitis. Recently, she swallowed the tears of loneliness when her home emptied. Like so many mothers, my mother bravely bore emotional and physical pain silently. **I want to bring voice to all mothers and honor their daily sacrifices.**

My Story:

I have dealt with chronic ailments that affect both my daily life and plans for family building. Like many women, I have spent years using quick fixes or learning to navigate my life around the issues because "finding the answer(s) is simply not worth the struggle." At the same time, I have experienced a transformation in outcome from receiving integrative, women-centric care. I want to provide women with holistic solutions that treat the whole of them.

My work in education has further informed my vision. Having worked with over 400+ students of different backgrounds, I have learned failure in outcomes is often rooted in poor delivery. Consider how most medical informational sheets assume high patient literacy and offer translations to navigate cultural differences. This is not enough. I hope to apply my knowledge in informational delivery and accessible learning to **develop impactful resources that resonate with patients.** By increasing accessibility, we simultaneously improve patient engagement and address health equity all while reducing cost. Additionally, my current work as program coordinator for <u>Center of Analytics and Technology in Society</u> and <u>Hui International</u> has expanded my view on technology's role in improving perinatal health equity. Collectively these experiences have developed a repertoire of skills that I can employ:

a) Prioritization of Objectivesc) Resource Coordinatione) Relationship Building & Collaboration

b) Schedule Managementd) Concept Simplification & Deliveryf) Equitable Framing

I am excited to join organizations that share this vision for health equity and be a part of transforming the health experience of every woman. Thank you for hearing my story and I look forward to connecting.

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