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A Mother, a Researcher, a Doctor

Dr. Angela Bradbury is an oncologist I had the privilege of working with in the summer of 2008 after my first year of college. This was my second experience working with a physician, and the first time the physician was a female. I walked in that first day to find a woman in her thirties with a comforting smile and an expertise beyond her years. She was making a name for herself in the medical ethics of genetic testing as the Director of the Margaret Dyson Family Risk Assessment Program at Fox Chase Cancer Center. She also had given birth to her fourth child just weeks earlier. As I worked alongside her day-to-day, I looked on in awe as she conducted clinical research studies, cared for breast cancer patients, and walked down the hall to the daycare center to nurse her newborn baby.

I watched as Dr. Bradbury expertly guided a young woman, not much older than me, who had just found out she tested positive for a BRCA1 gene mutation, putting her at greater than 55% risk of developing breast cancer. This woman started out at the beginning of the interview nervous about the future for herself and her two young children, and by the end of her appointment with Dr. Bradbury the young woman left confident that she had made the right decision for herself and her family. I would like to think that Dr. Bradbury had the same effect on me. I started out as a nervous pre-medical student aspiring to be a doctor, and I left my internship feeling confident that with hard work I could indeed have it all.

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In a nutshell, Dr. Bradbury captures the physician and the woman I aspire to be. She is a woman who cares for patients with empathy while also guiding them to make hard medical decisions with the help of her extensive knowledge; a woman who goes beyond caring for the patients by contributing to cutting-edge research and touching many more patients for generations to come; a woman who cares for and invests in her own family. Having Dr. Bradbury as a role model and mentor showed me the gift it is to be a physician in every aspect of life, both professional and personal. Her mentorship set

me on the path to more research experiences in oncology, all the way to landing a coveted job in a National Institutes of Health pediatric oncogenomics laboratory after I graduated from college.

Now that I am in my second year of medical school and am hard at work academically and in the clinic, I am grateful to have had Dr. Bradbury as a mentor to model my life and future career around. Ultimately, I have confidence because of her personal story that

I can indeed pursue all of my life goals and dreams of contributing to the field of medicine in unique ways and in cutting-edge fields like genomics. I look forward to the day that I too can have young female students in my office seeing pictures of my children, watching me care for patients, and getting their first paper published in a medical journal. I hope to instill in the next generation of female students what Dr. Bradbury gave to me, an exceptional example of what it means to be a female physician.