

# Constant Motivation

**MATT HARTWELL, FROM BRIGHTON,** Michigan, is in his second year of medical studies at the U-M. In 2004, his younger brother, Eric, died at Mott Children's Hospital from a rare form of leukemia. Eric was 9 years old.

INTERVIEW BY WHITLEY HILL  
PHOTO BY J. ADRIAN WYLIE

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**WHEN ERIC WAS IN THE HOSPITAL,** Dr. [Gregory] Yanik would come to do a blood draw and Eric would charge him a quarter. Dr. Yanik would just take it out and give it to him. We thought that was a really cool gesture.

“A few years after Eric died, I asked Dr. Yanik if I could shadow him for a day. I was pretty young. He hesitated to show me all these heartbreaking cases, but he agreed. That morning he talked to me about Eric's case and how it affected him and how it's hard when you get to know the patients and their families. But by the end of that day I was really excited and started looking for colleges that would be a good launch pad.

“This summer, I'll be doing research with a couple bone marrow transplant doctors. I have my own love of science, but Eric's death is a constant source of motivation to keep studying. ”

—MATT HARTWELL

