Dear Future Colleague,

The Merriam-Webster dictionary defines bravery as “the quality or state of having or showing mental or moral strength to face danger, fear, or difficulty.”

It seems unimaginable that a crisis like this could occur so swiftly and turn many lives upside-down. Suffering through the long days, feeling depleted and often with needs unattended, you have no choice but to continue to fight through the physical and emotional pain you endure to make someone else’s a little but more tolerable. Most of the world will not see or understand your tears and broken heartedness, your missed life events and separation from families, and the fear you have in the pit of your stomach when you risk your safety on the frontlines. Despite this, I truly hope you can find some sort of comfort knowing that there are still equally as many people who cannot put into words their sincere gratitude and empathy. Even if there are days you do not feel like a worthy hero, please know that you are shaping history as the backbone in this tragic pandemic. Brave is an understatement to describe yourself.

I’m extending out a sincere thank you. I’m a real person, a student in pharmacy school watching on the side lines. I too have family, plans, dreams, and relationships. I couldn’t imagine how heavy a sacrifice it is to put this all on hold. Please know that I see you. I see you as a person with a family, plans, dreams, and relationships. Most of all, I see your bravery.

With endless appreciation,

A Future Colleague