

A NEW HOPE

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I would first like to thank the many people who have helped us to get to this day. To our spouses, family, and friends who have supported us as we put the other parts of our lives on hold to be here – Thank you for your unwavering support. I would like to thank Dr. Fogarty, the administration, faculty and staff here at the College of Medicine for providing us with an excellent medical education. I would also like to thank Sen. and Dr. Durell Peaden and the others who believed in this model of medical education. Thank you for following through to its establishment. We have been so fortunate to train at a program that truly puts the education of its students first.

As new first-year medical students, we hoped to gain the basic science knowledge needed to be physicians. We hoped to make it through anatomy without getting queasy while dissecting and to make it through pathology without confusing the seemingly endless rare diseases that we may one day need to diagnose. Upon entering our clinical years, we hoped to finish pre-rounding before our attending physician arrived and to learn enough on each rotation to succeed on the shelf exam. We hoped to choose the right specialty and to make it through Match Day and to graduation. We are now at that point. We are now physicians about to begin our residencies with new hopes.

As I have, I'm sure you all have heard that people can change during residency. That the many hours, the time away from family and friends, and the sometimes frustrating situations can lead to a blunting of emotion. I hope we can remember the importance of the physician-patient relationship and that we are able to preserve the compassion we now have. I hope we continue to listen to our patients. I hope we can find the right words to say and the right actions to take in their times of need.

As we progress through our residencies and into our careers, I hope we remain loyal to our commitment to lifelong learning. The things we have learned and will learn during residency will change. New technologies will emerge, and we all know that new medications will be formulated. I encourage you not to become complacent in your practice and to strive to stay “Up To Date.”

Most of all, I hope we love what we do. I know there will be early mornings or late nights when we are frustrated and want nothing more than to go home. I know that when we hear our pagers beep for the 30th time, we might groan and wish we had just 5 minutes of rest. But I hope that we remember and continue to appreciate what a privilege it is to be part of a profession that serves others. What an honor it is to be a physician and to practice the art of medicine.

To my classmates – I want you all to know how proud I am to be graduating with such a talented group of individuals. I know you all will find success no matter what field of medicine eventually may find you. I consider myself very fortunate to no longer call you my classmates but now my colleagues. I wish you all the best. Congratulations and good luck!