



May 14, 2018

Dear Class of Dentistry 2022:

Let me take this opportunity to be amongst the first to welcome you as colleagues to the Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry at The University of Western Ontario. You will very quickly learn that you are about to embark on one of the most thrilling & intense learning experiences that a student can have, an experience that will continue across your life. You will graduate from our School as a different person, one whose life will be dedicated to the care of others. It is our pleasure and honour to join you on this first phase of your career.

While we will ensure that your educational experience is an enriching one, you will rapidly discover that the experience of becoming part of our School of Dentistry is equally enriching through the many activities that you will take on as students. You are entering into an intense learning experience for which you will find a faculty that is highly supportive of you. You are joining our School of Dentistry at a pivotal time in its history with a renewed goal of becoming a leading dental education program. To begin to achieve this, we have made major investments in advanced simulation facilities, an electronic medical record system and digital imaging – all of which will be available to you beginning this year. Our curriculum is being renewed to have a greater focus on the continuity of care and to provide you with greater opportunities to experience a dental practice in the community. All of this aligns with the vision of the Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry to become a leader in sustaining health across the lifecycle, on promoting scholarship in all aspects of what we do, and to do so in a leading Canadian research intensive centre of higher learning.

You will find dental school to be challenging. Remember always that there are resources available to you at all times, either directly through the Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry office or through the University.

We will provide as many opportunities as possible for interactions between all members of the Dentistry Class of 2022, enriching your ability to develop new friendships and experiences. Your academic year will begin with our orientation program. On the first day, we promise an informative and exciting day as you meet your classmates and find out what is in store for you over the course of the next four years. The highlight of this day, and indeed of your time with us, will be the White Coat Ceremony. We invite your parents, partners and friends to celebrate this unique tradition with us, a tradition in which we formally welcome you to the beginning of your journey to becoming a physician. I look forward to meeting you and your loved ones on this special day.

Your lectures will begin on Tuesday, September 4th. All students will receive detailed curriculum information the first week of classes.

On a personal note, there are few positions within academia that are as exciting as being a Dean of a Medical and Dental School. And I think none so exciting as being here at the Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry. I find myself constantly in awe of the accomplishments of our students and of the deep sense of community that they engender. I know that you too will soon feel this great sense of pride. Enjoy it, relish it – for it is truly unique.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Strong', enclosed within a large, loopy oval shape.

Michael J. Strong, MD, FRCP(C), FCAHS, FAAN
Dean, Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry
Distinguished University Professor
Arthur J. Hudson Chair in ALS Research
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