July 6, 2017

The Class of Meds 2021
Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry
Western University
London, ON.

Welcome!

On behalf of the Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry Doctor of Medicine (MD) Program leaders, staff and faculty we extend our congratulations for and wish you a warm welcome for entering Year 1 studies this fall in our London or Windsor campuses.

We look forward to meeting you at our August White Coat Ceremony and working with your class over the next four years of an academic career at Western University. Our program visions providing you with the competence to succeed as a physician in your chosen career path while meeting our social mandate of advancing health care in Ontario, Canada and beyond. Your time at Western will be foundational across your career— no matter what specialty or patient care model you embrace.

Medicine is a rewarding yet demanding profession. We uphold a profession that is grounded in centuries of tradition and professional values. Medicine draws from an ever-expanding base of knowledge, to deliver on a commitment to work with others in teams to meet the health needs of our society. Patients and families trust physicians. That trust is sacred and worthy of none other than a sincere commitment to deliver on personal integrity and continual professional improvement.

Medicine is a team-based profession. You will, while progressing through four years of study, have an opportunity to work with and learn from a variety of patients, families, educators, health professionals and colleagues. Each will have a role in shaping your professional identity.

In August, at our White Coat Ceremony, you will embark on a journey of lifelong learning with new peers who will be a key part of your lifelong success – your Meds 2021 colleagues. Learning with your new class, you will nurture relationships and networks that will traverse your career. They will support your professional career and personal life. Students speak highly of the team nature of the class culture in our school. Take each opportunity to advance that in your class. The rewards will last a lifetime!

Our curriculum is created and improved yearly to support you with a combination of experiential learning, individual elective study, small group, lecture and team based study leading to extensive clinical immersion in Year 3 and 4. Through your journey, you will grow to see the integration of foundational biologic and social sciences, systems, cultural and social competency with the knowledge and skills to deliver comprehensive clinical care. Each will frame your approach to future patient encounters. Effective patient care is complex and ever changing. We aim to ground you in a career of success.
Our school faculty is available to you as a mentor, educator, tutor, and facilitator in your growth and learning. However, it is you that will be delivering on your career as an active life long learner. Our over 800 faculty spread throughout our London, Windsor and many Distributed Education campuses will support your development as a professional, clinician, scientist and leader. They have a genuine commitment to nurture and challenge you on your journey. Our aim is to graduate strong, evidence based clinical decision makers in Canadian and international health care.

We are indebted to the many patients, families and other health professionals you will learn with and from over your career. Each learning moment provides a unique opportunity to shape your knowledge and skills. Take time to thank them and appreciate the deep commitment they give to our school in allowing us into their lives while receiving care in our partner hospitals and clinics.

Medical school and practice is more than study. Success demands a well-rounded physician. Developing your resiliency through attention to personal physical and mental wellness and a close network of family and friends translates success in meeting the rigors and challenges you will face. Our school is proud of the rich tradition in student led clubs and activities in addition as support to your wellness through our university facilities and Learner Equity and Wellness Office. Through these, you will be able to develop your strengths and deliver back to peers and our communities.

You will be exposed to many learning models in London, Windsor, across our Distributed Education Network campuses and in international and global experiences. You are encouraged to understand the richness of learning in a variety of care centres. You will be a better physician by embracing the diversity in our region and country - seeing first-hand how social, cultural and family values impact patients’ journey.

Starting in September, you will be a member of one class distributed between two campuses – London and Windsor. We are one program in many learning sites. Your learning opportunities are local, distributed, national and international. Grow from all.

Schulich Medicine is known for being student centered and providing excellent academic and personal support across all years of study into residency and your career. Get involved but, if you need help at any time, reach out. We are here for you. Your success is our goal!

Each program staff, faculty educator and scientist, course chairs, faculty and staff support, other student and resident educational colleagues and decanal leaders are looking forward to working and learning with and from you.

Our doors are always open, please stop by and introduce yourself.

Welcome to our medical school and Western University.

Sincerely,

Gary Tithecott MD MBA FRCP (C).
Associate Dean
Undergraduate Medical Education