May 14, 2019

Dear Class of Medicine 2023:

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 and 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 is equally enriching through the many activities that you will take on as students. You will find a faculty that not only marvels at the tremendous sense of social responsibility that our students embody, but who are highly supportive of you in all aspects of your development. You are also joining our School that is intent on its course of becoming a global leader in sustaining health across the lifecycle, on promoting scholarship in all aspects of what we do, and on a leading Canadian research intensive centre of higher learning. All of this is based on a solid foundation of excellence in teaching that is integrated across all of Southwestern Ontario, including our two main campuses and our academies. You will be integral participants in a unique new curriculum that embodies the foundational principles of competency based medical education in preparing you with the knowledge, skills, values, and attitudes necessary to be a capable and caring physician in a demanding health care environment. You will be the generation of physicians who will be affected most directly by our aging population and the constraints of our health care resources. Learning to balance the objectives of compassion and health care delivery with social responsibility will be a difficult, but richly rewarding challenge – one which we will help you with during this phase of your career.

You will find medical 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, located on campus, or at our participating hospitals.

Many of you will be aware that we have two campuses, one program. We will provide as many opportunities as possible for interactions between all members of the Meds Class of 2023, 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 3rd. All students will receive detailed curriculum information the first week of classes. During the introduction to medicine and first week of classes, you will be given advice and instruction from both students and members of faculty regarding books, instruments, etc. We would strongly suggest that you wait and speak to these individuals before making any purchases.

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,

Davy Cheng, MD MSc FRCP C FCAHS CCPE
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