

March 30, 2021

Dear member of Schulich Dentistry Class of 2025:

I am delighted to be one of the first to welcome you as a colleague to the Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry at Western University. You are embarking on a journey filled with opportunity, collaboration, and intense learning experiences. You will be embracing lifelong learning with your peers and teachers. I can assure you that by the time you graduate, you will be transformed into a care giver and patient advocate. Your teachers and colleagues are honoured to be your companions in this journey.

You are entering into a unique learning experience, different from any you have had before. You will find great support from your teachers and peers. You will grow as an individual and as a scholar. You will find a student body empowered to help us make our program the best we can be. You will find dedicated teachers working alongside the students to make your student experience stimulating and fulfilling. You will discover the amazing clinical innovations that in spite of COVID 19, we have been able to make to ensure a successful and timely completion of all of the competencies needed to be a wholesome dentist. You will also have the opportunity to grow as a researcher through a number of student-targeted initiatives and our rapidly growing research-intensive faculty with a major focus on population and public oral health.

These are very exciting times for our school as we begin the planning of the new School of Dentistry Building with state-of-the-art technology and patient-centered clinics. You will also find a climate where issues of respect, mentorship and student support are expected and valued. The introduction of an office on Equity, Diversity and Inclusion at Schulich and at Western signals a strong direction toward ensuring that students, faculty and staff are given equitable opportunities and supports while addressing any issues of racism and discrimination.

You, like your predecessors, will find the next four years challenging but I can assure you that you will have easy access to academic and personal support as needed. The peer to peer mentorship program currently under development will no doubt facilitate your rapid integration to the school.

The donning of your white coat symbolizes the beginning of your journey to become a dentist. I am looking forward to meeting you at the White Coat Ceremony where we invite your parents, partners and friends to celebrate this unique tradition with us. Due to the ongoing Covid-19 restrictions, dates and logistics are still being worked out. Detailed information will be communicated to you by the Admission Office as it becomes available.

Your academic year will begin with our orientation program which you will find very informative. Please take some time to read the information and documentation posted on the [Post-Admissions web page](#). Your first scheduled class for dental kit orientation is mandatory as you will be issued equipment and dental instruments.

Schulich Dentistry has an active student dental society called UWODSS (UWO Dental Student Society) and I encourage you to get involved. Once classes begin, the 2021-2022 President will be in contact with you and your classmates to choose your own Class of 2025 President and inform you more about UWODSS.

On behalf of our faculty and staff, welcome and congratulations on your acceptance into Schulich Dentistry. We are confident in your success and wish you a very stimulating career in dentistry.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Bertha Mispireta Garcia', with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

Bertha Mispireta Garcia, MD, MEd, FRCPC (C)
Vice Dean and Executive Director of Dentistry (Acting)
Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry, Western University