

Inspiring Messages of Encouragement from White Coat Campaign 2011

“I believe medicine is the best profession you could ever possibly enter. The opportunity and encouragement for lifelong learning is unsurpassed. Your contribution to society and to individuals is beyond anything else you can do with your life. Good Luck.”

—*Donald R. Gore, MD*

“Congratulations on your admission to medical school. You have joined a profession that will challenge you, but will also allow some great opportunities to you. Please remember and thank those who have helped you get to this point in your life. Keep things in perspective as you become engrossed in your studies and clinical rotations. Make time to have fun and enjoy your neighborhood and city. Don't be intimidated by your professors and attendings; they were once in your shoes. Find time and opportunities to teach as you continue to learn. Remember that your classmates are not really your competitors, but your future colleagues. Your patients will be depending upon you to be the best physician you are capable of being. Get involved in organized medicine and community groups – it will be your best opportunity to be the voice for your patients and colleagues to those who may have an impact on the practice of medicine. Take care of yourself, your family and your friends. You may even be taking care of me someday. Best wishes.”

—*Clarence Chou, MD*

“Congratulations on starting medical school. It is great to be able to write a note to you as you start your medical career. I have been practicing for 26 years now and have witnessed a lot of change in health care. You will witness even more. It has been a privilege to get to know my patients over the years, their families and the situation in which they live. You will be amazed at how much folks will trust you and tell you just because you are their physician. Take it seriously, it is a great honor. It is a wonderful thing to be a physician. Your journey will be phenomenal.

—*Robin T. Price, MD*

“Albert Einstein stated, ‘The ideals which have lighted my way, and time after time have given me new courage to face life cheerfully, have been kindness, beauty and truth.’ May these same ideals light your way through your medical journey.”

—*Lee A. Hofer, MD*

“Welcome to the world of medicine. You have chosen the most fulfilling and rewarding career imaginable. You will be transformed by your studies into a healer, a teacher and a better human being. There are challenges ahead that you are more than ready to face. You will gain much by your sacrifice. Never stop learning and persevering. Know that support and encouragement are readily available and how much your success is desired as you progress through your training.”

—*Alysia Townsend, MD*

“Welcome to Medicine and perhaps the greatest and most fulfilling endeavor of your life. At times you will be overwhelmed and overworked. At other times you will experience highs and a sense of worthiness and fulfillment that are unbelievable. Above all else, remember that the practice of medicine is an honor and a privilege. Treat your patients and colleagues with respect, humility, and truthfulness. I wish you every success.”

—*Paul H. Steingraeber, MD*

“Congratulations. Don’t forget the pride you feel today, but also don’t let it get in your way. Listen to your patients, remain humble and open-minded. Enjoy but don’t stop earning the position you have obtained. Welcome to the greatest profession.”

—*Rick F. Papandrea, MD*

“You are at the beginning of a great adventure that will challenge you, but can be the most gratifying experience you have ever had. Being a physician is a calling and you have the chance to change lives, one at a time.”

—*Rose Campise-Luther, MD*

“Dear Colleague (yes you’re a colleague now), Welcome to the most rewarding profession in the world. Just think about it, every day in the future your job will be to make someone’s life better. There isn’t a better feeling out there. Although you are about to learn more than you could ever imagine, and probably work harder than you have ever worked, just remember how rewarding your life is going to be in the future. Also remember that you will never be alone in this future journey. All of us who have gone down this road before you are here to support you. Your success will be our success. Welcome to the family and remember to have fun along the way! Never hesitate to call or write if you ever need a little encouragement.”

—*Ashok Rai, MD, President/CEO, Prevea Health*