

Good afternoon, distinguished faculty, family, friends, and the remarkable graduating class of 2023. Today we celebrate not just your achievements in the field of medicine, but the journey you are about to embark upon--a journey that requires more than just knowledge and skill. It demands empathy.

As you step into the world as healthcare professionals, remember that medicine is as much about healing hearts as it is about healing bodies. Empathy will be your most powerful tool. It will guide your interactions and decisions, reminding you that every patient is a person with their own story.

When a patient sits before you, overwhelmed by a diagnosis, empathy allows you to connect, to offer comfort that transcends the physical. It empowers you to listen, to truly understand what your patients are experiencing, and to treat them with dignity and compassion.

As you go forward, never underestimate the power of a kind word or a listening ear. These moments, though they may seem small, can transform the healthcare experience for both you and your patients.

In a world where technology is rapidly advancing, let us not forget the irreplaceable value of human connection. Let empathy be the common thread that binds your exceptional skills and knowledge. By doing so, you will not only become exceptional healthcare providers but also touch lives in profound ways.

Congratulations, Class of 2023. The future of medicine is in your capable and compassionate hands. Thank you.