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Message from Executive Dean, Medical School, University of Nicosia

A Graduation and a Commencement

Today marks an important transition in your lives as newly-qualified doctors, and also in the life of your Medical School. Together, we celebrate your success and we commemorate the first graduation of medical students in Cyprus during the modern era.

In keeping with the rich history and traditions of Cyprus, which sits at the crossroads of three continents, you have received an innovative and world-class education, and have gained important international experiences in the delivery of healthcare in Cyprus, Israel and the USA, which we hope will inform and guide your career. Your graduation with the MBBS degree of St George's, University of London, marks the commencement of an exciting career in delivering competent and compassionate care, in undertaking research, and in finding new methods to extend and improve the lives of your patients around the world.

This is also the commencement of a new four-year cycle in the life of your Medical School. We will complement our experiences in the delivery of high-quality undergraduate and postgraduate medical education with a strategy for further enhancing our research activity and international presence, through synergies with our local and international partners. The Medical School's vision is to assist in the implementation of the new National Health Insurance Scheme by the Government of Cyprus through the provision of postgraduate education in family medicine, and informing healthcare policies through population health research.

During your time as medical students, you had the privilege of being supported by two Universities.



As graduates now, both institutions and their affiliated partners take a keen interest in your future career and achievements; we encourage you to stay in close contact with us. It is our hope that you have grown to love the communities that embraced you in Nicosia, Tel Aviv and Chicago and that you will continue to visit us in the years to come.

On behalf of the faculty and staff, our Warm Congratulations to you for your achievement, and to your families and friends who have supported you through the many challenges of being a medical student.

Professor Andreas Charalambous
Executive Dean
Medical School, University of Nicosia

Message from Principal, St George's, University of London

To begin!

Sincere congratulations on behalf of St George's, University of London. We all share the delight and pride in your graduation.

This is an exciting and challenging time to be entering the world of medicine. You join a profession that is addressing exciting challenges that result from a better understanding of the mechanisms that cause illness. The application of this knowledge is leading to exciting new advances in treatments and policies for prevention. Nevertheless, new diseases continue to emerge.

Your time at the University of Nicosia will have prepared you for vibrant and changing health scenarios. Your education and training on the St George's MBBS programme has emphasised the importance of up-to-date knowledge of medical sciences and the practical application of clinical skills, medical ethics and law.

The rapidity of scientific advances means that doctors are continuously in the spotlight and drawn into discussions about the ethics surrounding medical treatment and scientific advances. One of the excitements that follow graduation is the realisation that you have only just begun to learn - every week of your subsequent career will provide new knowledge and greater experiences.

The qualification to practise as a doctor is a privilege for a lifetime. It opens doors to a vast array of careers that include hospital practice in its many diverse forms, laboratory sciences, public health, family and community practice,



health services management and health policy. It additionally will require you to lead by example. Never forget the privilege of your education and training, and place respect for others in your future professional role. Finally, always ensure that safe patient care is your priority.

Please keep in touch as an alumnus of St George's - we are very interested in your future!

Professor Mike Spyer, Chair of the St George's Council joins me in wishing you every success and happiness for the future.

Professor Peter Kopelman
Principal
St George's, University of London

Message from Rector, University of Nicosia

Our first graduates

First of all I would like to express my sincere congratulations for your graduation and your acquisition of the qualification to practice as a doctor. The academic community of the University of Nicosia warmly congratulates you for this achievement.

We are specially proud of you as you are the first graduates of the SGUL programme at the University of Nicosia, and the programme is the first medical programme to be delivered in Cyprus. You are the first doctors to graduate in Cyprus for centuries, even assuming that there was a medical school here in antiquity.

The establishment of the first Medical School in modern Cyprus was part of a long term vision of the predecessor organization of the University of Nicosia, Intercollege. It began in 1997 with the running of the first health science programmes. This initiated and then established a faculty body and research in the area of health sciences.

The partnership with SGUL was a certain recipe for the success of the first Medical School in Cyprus, as rather than start from zero, the University of Nicosia started in partnership with one of the most well established and reputable medical schools of the United Kingdom.

The Medical School is offering undergraduate and postgraduate programmes which aim to make us a centre of excellence in medical education.

And you, the first graduates have experience not only in Cyprus, but you have clinical experience of a global reach. You are also a very international group of people, indicating that the programme that you have graduated from supports an



important aim of the tertiary educational system of Cyprus to develop as an international education centre attracting high quality students from around the world.

Please keep in touch with the University of Nicosia in the future. We are very interested in the successes which we are sure await you.

Again, on behalf of the University of Nicosia I congratulate you and wish you every success in the future.

Professor Michalis Attalides
Rector
University of Nicosia

Message from the Founders

An impressive achievement

You are graduating today from a Medical School which is the dream of international collaboration between institutions in the Republic of Cyprus, the State of Israel, The United Kingdom and the United States of America.

As our School Mission indicates we seek to help students become educated individuals, achieve their academic and professional goals and assume responsible roles in a changing world of European cooperation and global interdependence.

I feel deeply honored to have the privilege to congratulate you, our first and new graduates. It is truly an impressive achievement. You deserve respect and admiration and will always be an important part of the history of this University.

You have clearly succeeded, even excelled, in this exceptionally dynamic and demanding academic environment.

Medical school challenges the best and the brightest minds to learn the science of medicine, and the art of compassionate care. I know that for decades to come you will save lives, solve medical mysteries, and invent technological wonders, building on what you have learned and accomplished here.

I would like for each and every one of you to take with you this message; You are not only graduates of a Medical School, but have the privilege to graduate from an International Medical School, with an MBBS degree from St George's, University of London, ranked among the world's top 200 Universities. Our Medical School is open to all people without prejudice and bestows in addition to Medicine, values of tolerance, love for another, and peace among all. Keep this message in your hearts wherever life takes you.



Today, The University of Nicosia is the leading independent university in Cyprus; the result of solid and systematic work by all, administration, faculty and staff. It is the culmination of an ongoing journey, which began over 30 years ago, and has established this University as a leading tertiary education provider in Cyprus.

We pride ourselves with you as future prestigious alumni who will go on to hold important positions in world-renowned institutions, and conduct cutting-edge research in both private industry and the public sector. As partners in this university's research and education mission, you are important to our future and our mutual success.

Good luck and God bless each and every one of you.

Professor Zeev Rotstein
CEO, Sheba Medical Center, Israel



St George's, University of London MBBS programme Delivered in Cyprus by the University of Nicosia Medical School 2015 Presentation Ceremony

The State Theatre, Nicosia, Cyprus
Friday 15 May 2015

18.00 All graduands and guests are requested to be seated in the Theatre Hall

18.30 - The audience is requested to stand as the Academic Procession enters the Hall

- Opening remarks and welcome by Professor Andreas Charalambous, Medical School Executive Dean
- Keynote speech by His Excellency the President of the Republic of Cyprus, Mr Nicos Anastasiades
- Address by Professor Peter Kopelman, Principal, St George's, University of London
- Address by Professor Michalis Attalides, Rector of the University of Nicosia
- Address on the Founding of the School by Professor Zeev Rotstein, CEO, Sheba Medical Center
- Address by Dr Adonis Ioannides, Course Director
- The MBBS Graduands will be presented
 - Introductions by Professor Sean Hilton, Dean of Clinical Education
 - Nicosia General Hospital and Makarios III Hospital by Mr Vassilis Hadjianastassiou, Academic Lead
 - Sheba Medical Center, Tel Hashomer, Israel, by Prof Anat Achiron, Associate Clinical Dean
 - Swedish Covenant Hospital, Chicago, USA, by Dr Derek Kelly, Associate Clinical Dean
- The Postgraduate Certificate Graduands will be presented by Professor Peter McCrorie, Dean of Medical Education
- Message of Congratulations from the Faculty by Professor Efthymoulos Anastassiades, Chair of Department of Internal Medicine
- The Hippocratic Oath will be recited by graduands of the MBBS programme led by Professor Peter Kopelman
- The audience is requested to stand as the Academic Procession leaves the Hall
- A drinks reception will be held in the foyer of the State Theatre immediately after the ceremony

Message from Dean of Medical Education Medical School, University of Nicosia

Wow!

Wow! I can hardly believe you are at the end of your final year. Just think. Four years ago, you came to a brand new medical school to embark on your preparation for a career in medicine. Most of the staff who taught you were new to the game in Cyprus. They had been trained for hours and hours by St George's staff. You would be hard-pressed to find anyone more enthusiastic to teach than the staff here. And how lucky you were to have so much of your teaching led by consultants. In most schools consultants only make guest appearances during the early years of a medical programme. But here, they're a key part of your teaching throughout the four years of the programme. Add to that carefully selected scientists, pure and behavioural, and you have a great experience.

I hope you agree that, though it was hard work, it was fun. And whatever anyone says, I truly believe the approach to learning - PBL, clinical and communication skills, learning in context, early clinical experience - is just what you needed to prepare yourselves for your clinical years.

It is a great joy to see you graduate, having followed your progress carefully throughout the four years, in all three countries. We have shared lots of experiences - some happy, some stressful.

Congratulations! I am so proud of you all.

Good luck in your careers, wherever they take place.

Professor Peter McCrorie
Dean of Medical Education
Medical School, University of Nicosia



And a word to the graduates of the Postgraduate Certificate in Healthcare and Biomedical Education (PgCert)

As well as delivering teaching in a brand new medical course, somehow you have found the time to undertake your own personal development in the form of the PgCert. You have put so much effort into the course, particularly those arduous written assignments, and the painstaking detail that went into your portfolios. The commitment you've shown is highly commendable.

But I hope you feel it has been worth it and that you have learnt a lot from it. It has been a pleasure to be involved with many of the workshops and to watch you growing in medical education expertise and understanding every week.

Heartiest congratulations to you all in gaining your certificates. I hope it influences your thinking for the foreseeable future.

Message from Dean of Clinical Education Medical School, University of Nicosia

A notable achievement

Firstly, many congratulations. This is a very special day - the culmination of years of aspiration and effort, and the start of your career as a doctor. As an alumnus of St. George's, I also feel delighted on your behalf. It has been an arduous four years mixed, I hope, with good times along the way to balance the stress of assessments and exams periods. It is a particularly notable achievement for you, as the first cohort to graduate from a new medical school, and you should also be proud of the part you have played in establishing the first Medical School in Cyprus - no mean feat. As the trailblazers for the St. George's programme in Nicosia, you have come up against many additional challenges - as have your teachers and staff. You have had to show persistence, resilience and commitment. These are all qualities that will be needed for the career you are now embarking upon.

A former Dean of St. George's used to refer to our graduates as 'totipotential iatroblasts'. Even if it sounds a little impersonal, it was a term of affection. You may know already what branch or specialty you wish to pursue, but one of the great excitements of qualifying in medicine is the large number of doors that now will open up for you. Some of them may be well into the future, and at this stage you will have no idea of them. Indeed it is not uncommon for doctors to have several mini-careers within a working life in healthcare. Even if you are set on a particular specialty or path, the openings within that - sub-specialisation, education, research, location - are multiple.

At this point, after four years of accumulating knowledge and skills at high speed you are probably approaching the maximum of your knowledge base. However, you are still near the beginning of that long process of gaining the practical wisdom required for



successful and high quality medical practice. Those onerous and numerous DaP assessments you have completed throughout your course are put there with this in mind. We are aiming to instill the good habits of reflection, teamwork and lifelong learning that you will require.

You are now well placed to translate your knowledge towards wisdom. William Cowper, the 18th century poet, made the distinction:

***Knowledge is proud that he knows so much
Wisdom is humble that he knows not more***

You can be proud, rightly, of your achievements in graduating MBBS, but stay humble, eager to learn from your patients and colleagues, and avoid hubris. I wish you good luck and happy times through your lives and careers,

Professor Sean Hilton
Dean of Clinical Education
Medical School, University of Nicosia

Message from Course Director Medical School, University of Nicosia

A leap forward

Congratulations on reaching that all-important milestone in the life of a doctor! Though a career in medicine is one of lifelong learning, there is something truly unique to the transition between the life of a medical student and that of a qualified doctor. This has been a hard-fought and well-deserved achievement and you are well equipped to make this leap forward.

You have completed an innovative and prestigious programme enjoying an outstanding international reputation. When you joined the School, you had already pursued a wide range of studies and career pathways, gained a wealth of experience and been exposed to a rich diversity of ideas. You were able to adapt to the intensity of the course and benefited greatly from its problem-based learning curriculum. You thrived on this integrated approach to medical education and its emphasis on contextual learning and early clinical exposure. The logic of such an approach is exemplified by William Osler, one of the fathers of medical education, who pointed out that this is a lifelong process and that our role as teachers is to 'instill principles and the skills to discern between the essential and non-essential'.

Your clinical training particularly stands you in good stead. You learned the principles of clinical medicine well and went on to apply them during clerkships in hospitals in Nicosia, Tel Aviv and Chicago. In doing so you understood the value of differing approaches in implementing guidelines in diverse clinical settings and further developed your critical thinking skills. You did so always maintaining your professionalism and the patient-centredness of your conduct and approach.



You personify the international perspective of medicine in the 21st century and there is no doubt in my mind that you will make excellent doctors applying the very latest that science has to offer to the care of your patients doing so with confidence, compassion and humility.

You are more than ready to embark on the next long stage of your career and I trust you will represent your School in the best possible way. You are true pioneers and I wish you the very best for the future!

Dr Adonis Ioannides
Course Director
Medical School, University of Nicosia

MBBS Graduands

ARIF Saqba
CALE Keren Hannah
CHAN Kenrick Kai Chi
CIPPARRONE Michael Antonio
D' ARDENNE Nicholas Michael
DUFFY Edmund
EL SALLOUKH Adonis
FRANTZIS Irene A
JEYARAJAH Jasmine Janany
JOHNSON Paul
KOMPOGIORGAS Steven
KORSAVVA Sofia
LAGAH Sunil Kumar
MACLEOD Natalie
MARAGOUTHAKIS Danae
MEREDITH Joel William
OBODOZIE John Chuma
OKOCHA Michael Ifeanyichukwu
PATEL Kamal
PERDIOS Nectarios Philippos
RAMANA Anoop Sai
RAMANATHAN Dharshana
SAAD Rami Marios
TIWARI Kishan Kumar
VERGEER Aaron John
WALLIS Carlyn Rachel
WRIGHT Matthew Liam

Postgraduate Certificate Graduands

CONSTANTINOU Costas
ECONOMOU Panos
NICOLAOU Persoulla
NICOLAOU Stella

