

Speech for Medical Dinner

on 3 July 2007

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Pharmacy Class of 2007



A very good evening to everyone! It is my privilege and honor to represent my Pharmacy class to speak to all of you on this joyous occasion.

I'm sure many of us had good and bad experiences in school. My four years in Pharmacy have been enriching and unforgettable. I am grateful for the broad-based education provided by the NUS Pharmacy course, which not only equips us with the knowledge necessary to be competent pharmacists but also enables us to venture into other career options such as Academics and Research, Manufacturing and Production. Many a times during our four years of education in NUS, I remember my classmates and me rushing for morning lectures, complaining of the endless assignments, projects and tests and having fun making capsules, emulsions and suppositories in practical sessions.

Of course, our memories are not limited to events within the classroom. Many of us participated in activities such as the Freshmen Orientation Camp, Sports Carnival, and of course our very first Pharmacy Rag performance just last year. Strong friendships were forged, much fun and laughter were shared, and all these have become an important part of our memories.

When I was in Year 2, I was given the opportunity to attend an overseas congress in Germany. In my interactions with fellow pharmacy students, my eyes were opened to the varying roles of pharmacists in the international arena. It made me realize that we should seek not only to perform well in our duties but also to be good role models and to work with other healthcare professionals in the care of our patients.

Through our united efforts as a student body, we have learnt to take any challenges in our stride. For example, when we made our debut performance during Rag 2006, we were faced with many difficulties. We fought hard to seek approval from NUSSU and Faculty of Science to give a performance on our own, in the name of Pharmacy. We were inexperienced. We were working within a very tight schedule and budget. Many doubted that we could pull it off. But I am proud to say that we did. It could not be achieved without the support of the Pharmacy department and the determination and perseverance of the Pharmacy students.

This success was borne out of our initiative to realize our ambitions. Similarly, the Pharmacy profession in Singapore has progressed to what it is today due to the hard work put in by our pioneers. For instance, pharmacists in the retail pharmacies and polyclinics have expanded their services from dispensing medications to providing specialized counseling such as smoking cessation, medication review and weight management. Our colleagues in the hospitals have initiated the running of specialized clinics such as anticoagulation clinics, asthma clinics, diabetic clinics and renal transplant clinics etc.

We are lucky to have such dedicated faculty and alumni who have taken an active role in promoting and advancing pharmacy practice in Singapore. Now it is our turn to continue this passionate endeavor. In addition, it is also my wish to encourage greater collaboration between pharmacists and other healthcare professionals such as doctors, dentists and nurses, working towards a common goal of providing quality healthcare to our patients. **Let us not think of our future career as an individual pursuit, but as a collective push towards excellence for the healthcare profession.** Thank you!

(Note : The Medical Dinner is held annually on 3rd of July each year to commemorate the early beginnings of Medical Education in Singapore and to welcome our most recent graduates in Medicine, Dentistry and Pharmacy into the fold.)