

**CONVOCATION SPEECH (JUNE 2016)**  
**BY PROF ABDUL AZIZ, VICE-CHANCELLOR**  
**25 JUNE 2016, AUDITORIUM, IMU BUKIT JALIL CAMPUS**

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1. Yang Berbahagia Dato' Dr Amir Abbas,  
Chancellor of the International Medical University
2. Yang Berbahagia Dato' Prof Gan Ee Kiang,  
Pro Chancellor of International Medical University
3. Yang Berbahagia Tan Sri Dato' Dr Yahya Awang,  
Chairman of the Board of Governors
4. Yang Berbahagia Tan Sri Abu Bakar Suleiman,  
President of IMU Group
5. Members of the Board of Governors
6. Members of the Senate
7. Tan Sri – Tan Sri, Puan Sri – Puan Sri
8. Dato' – Dato', Datin – Datin
9. Distinguished guests
10. Graduates
11. Ladies and gentleman

A warm welcome to the IMU Convocation of 2016.

It gives me great pleasure to welcome all of you to IMU for this momentous occasion. It brings even greater pleasure to me to congratulate all of you here today for your outstanding achievements. I would also like to take this opportunity to give due recognition to your parents, family and friends who have supported you through this journey with their unconditional love and sacrifices.

Today's event marks a significant transition for talented individuals who will advance into the world to develop and establish your careers. Some of you may have already entered the work force. Others will continue to pursue different paths to further your knowledge, skills and experience. Remember this however: whichever the path you take, education does not stop after you graduate. Whether it is a Degree, Masters or even a Doctor in Philosophy (PhD), it is not the end of the road. A life well-lived is characterised by a life filled with learning. What we learn changes the people we will become. It impacts on the professionals we will be. And it should never stop. Everything you have learned from your professors and tutors should underscore one thing: and that is, the more you know, the more you will realise you do not know.

In 1984 the American government began the world's largest collaborative biological undertaking; The Human Genome Project. Their goal was to determine the sequence of chemical base pairs which make up human DNA, and to identify and map all of the genes of the human genome from both a physical and functional standpoint. It was deemed complete in 2004, after 19 years.

But knowing what makes up DNA is only one part of a much larger whole. While it may be true that the fields of Pharmacy, Dentistry, Nursing Post Registration and Chiropractic may not intersect with the field of molecular biology, as much as Medicine will, any doctor, any practitioner of any subcomponent of medicine and wellness, will understand that we are all components assisting in the wellbeing of an amazingly complex ecosystem: the body.

So learn. Keep on learning. Learn things that interest you, even if they may not necessarily correspond to your area of specialty. We live in an increasingly fluid world. Medical norms are challenged yearly.

What we learn is more challenged now by new research, as never before. These are exciting times. Embrace them!

Information on demand has never been more pervasive. Almost everything is accessible, with information at your fingertips or controlled via your mobile phones.

Within the healthcare system itself, you will experience rapid changes. Technology is already playing a part in delivering healthcare to the public. This will naturally evolve with the demands and pressures of patients and society. With this progression, we can also observe the decline of social interaction, humanity and values. While technology is all well and good, what the world needs more than ever are individuals with outstanding values.

Our President, Tan Sri Abu Bakar continuously reminds us, that to be a good Doctor, you need to be a good Human Being. My young friends, do not think that an academic qualification will make you a better healthcare professional than integrity, humility and compassion will. Many of the people you will meet and treat will not be in need of revolutionary, trial-stage drugs or treatment. As doctors and healthcare professionals, we are tasked to treating the physical hurts. But it is the finest among us who can read spiritual and emotional pain, and understand its role in the presenting of physical symptoms. No textbook teaches this. This ability to read a person's inner pain, and co-relate it to physical discomfort is something that can only be accomplished after years of observation. There is no certificate for this, but integrity, trustworthiness, humility, compassion and a heart which seeks to heal are the elements that transform a good doctor into an outstanding one. The practitioner that seeks always to heal is the one that will do the best work.

Medicine and healthcare have always been viewed as a well-respected and honourable profession, but this respect must be earned and not taken for granted. It is important that you be reminded that this profession you have decided to call yours, is all about service to our patients and community. Serving the community doesn't end once you graduate; rather, this practice of service should be something that compels you to go further, and to give more, so that one patient at a time, you contribute to the betterment of society.

After the euphoria and celebration of this ceremony, you may realise one daunting truth: you are now a healthcare professional in your own right. Your professors and lecturers are now a thing of the past. You may feel alone and vulnerable out of the protective shell that was IMU. No matter what challenges life, work, relationships and other social obligations throw at you, the more you must continue with determination, perseverance, hard work and patience.

No-one in this room today has all the answers to life. Perhaps there is no true, definitive answer. So believe me when I tell you that it is okay to feel that you don't know where you're going or how you are going to achieve the success that everyone yearns for. You will fall. Everyone falls sometimes. Your task is to get back on your feet, and learn from your mistakes. Gain strength and wisdom from these experiences to become a wiser and better person.

If you have made the best use of what IMU has to offer, you will be leaving with the contact details of your lecturers and professors. Turn to them for assistance, for you are now a fellow professional.

As IMU turns out yet another promising group of new healthcare professionals, it is my great pleasure to also share some groundbreaking news.

Ladies and gentlemen, IMU has received approval from the IHH Healthcare Board to build our very own IMU Hospital. This visionary hospital will reflect the core values of IMU where the integration of education, healthcare services and research will become the foundation of this academic health centre. It will be an exciting journey for IMU and once the hospital is ready; there will be many opportunities for both our students and our Alumni to play significant roles, and to turn a vision into reality.

Next year the University will also be celebrating its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary with the theme Our Legacy, Our Future. This celebration is about all of you – the heart of IMU: our students, our alumni, parents and supporters, our staff (both academic and corporate) and partners. I would like to take this opportunity to invite all of you here today to join us in the celebrations, even as we continue to evolve and provide the best education in the field of medicine and healthcare.

Before I conclude, let me congratulate our new professionals once again, and wish you a fulfilling career of care ahead. My thanks also go out to the staff and academics of IMU, who have given of their talent, ability and shared experiences in order to prepare our students for life as attentive, dedicated and caring healthcare professionals.

Thank you all for being here today.