



IMU CONVOCATION JUNE 2019

29 June 2019, Saturday

Auditorium, 4th Floor, IMU Bukit Jalil, Kuala Lumpur

**Address by YBhg Dato' Dr Gan Ee Kiang
Chancellor, International Medical University (IMU)**

Ladies and Gentlemen,

- On behalf of IMU, welcome to our June 2019 convocation. I am thrilled to see so many happy faces today where we have all come together to witness this very important milestone for our Class of 2019 graduates.
- The university is proud to present our new graduating students of medical practitioners and health sciences professionals. These are the new faces of healthcare whom I am certain will make waves in the industry. I would like to congratulate both our graduates and their families on your success and support throughout this journey.
- For all our graduates, take this moment to cherish your achievements. You came to us as young students with dreams and aspirations to become healthcare professionals and today, you leave us as respectful individuals who will go out there and make a difference.
- On behalf of IMU, I want to thank you for choosing us as your teachers to prepare you for what I guarantee you will be the most exciting yet trying times of your lives.
- Before I continue with the rest of my speech, I would like to take a moment to acknowledge our co-founder – Dr Mei Ling Young – and congratulate her for being conferred with the Honorary Doctor of Medical Education today.
- Dr Young has been highly instrumental in the success of IMU, making today's event possible for many of our hopeful graduates. Thanks to her efforts and many who have tirelessly work towards IMU's vision to be a leading private



Asian health educator that creates value through integrating education, healthcare and research, this year we are proud to celebrate the 20th anniversary of our Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery (MBBS) programme. We have come a long way and we don't intend to rest on our laurels. Congratulations and thank you Dr Young.

- I would also like to share with all of you the progress of the IMU Hospital. Since celebrating our ground breaking ceremony in 2017, we have made strides with the development of our Hospital. Currently, we are in the first phase of our building works, getting ready for the hospital to be up and running by 2021.
- The IMU Hospital will be the first hospital in the Bukit Jalil area whereby we aim to set new standards in healthcare delivery. Aside from providing outstanding primary care, there will also be supporting services to offer our patients better health outcomes. This is all part of our 360-degree approach to give our patients integrated care.
- We are very excited with this progress and look forward to the day where we will share news of our hospital launching and it is our hope that you will join us in another landmark milestone.
- The reason why we have decided to embark on this project is for us to have an avenue to give back to the community that has supported us. Through the hospital, we aim to provide our patients with access to the latest equipment and facilities as well as the best care possible.
- Without the community's support, IMU would not be where it is today.
- In fact, the role of a healthcare professional is all about giving back. We do this via quality care as a healthcare provider, and more so through compassion as well as kindness as a human being.
- Often times, medical professionals have forgotten how to practice the "human element" of being a doctor. It's disheartening to read and hear of so many stories where patients feel neglected by their doctors and providers; that as

healthcare professionals we only know how to do the professional part but not the human part.

- More so now with technology playing a huge role in healthcare innovations. Undeniably the advancement of technology has made processes seamless and more effective in revolutionising healthcare but we must not forget – what makes us who we really are. It is the human element in healthcare; not the robots. There has never been a time more important than now for us to put the “human” back in human-focused healthcare.
- Let us not neglect to take into account the human aspect of our job that technology can never replicate – compassion. Would you leave it up to a robot to deliver news to your patients? Would technology be able to offer the crying shoulder a grieving family member needs?
- As Prof Abdul Aziz Baba mentioned in his speech earlier, an act of kindness goes a long way. And in healthcare, it is this act of kindness that will make all the difference to your patients.
- Which is why my dear graduates, I urge each and every one of you to remember the human element of being a healthcare provider. Let us not get caught up in the moment; let us take time to remember why we are here in the first place – which is for our patients to have a kind and caring pillar of support and expertise to help them navigate this trying times in their lives.
- Yes, your patients look to you first for care and you will most certainly provide them with this at the best of your capability. But I also want to remind you to take the extra mile and show them compassion as well.
- It is not just the science of medicine that should guide you in this new journey of yours; it is also the art of being human that should lead the way for you.
- As the Father of Clinical Medicine, Hippocrates said: “Wherever the art of Medicine is loved, there is also a love of Humanity.”



- Wear your white coat with pride – it is an honour to serve the public as a healthcare provider. Always remember that it is your privilege to be your patient’s provider, not your patient’s privilege that you are their care provider.
- I won’t lie to you – there will be days where you will go through many challenges and despair. But always remember that you now have the opportunity to do a lot of good as well.
- Support from your fellow colleagues will help you get through the tough times and at the same time, acknowledgement from the industry will remind you why you would do it in the first place.
- Therefore, I urge you to stay connected with the IMU Alumni to foster a friendship with your fellow colleagues. At present, we have over 11,000 members in our alumni, all ready and eager to lend you support and a helping hand whenever you need it. You will always be part of the IMU family.
- Once again, congratulations graduates. I know you will make us proud and I look forward to hearing great news about you.