



Commencement Ceremony C13 Valedictorian: Mr Lim Dah Wei BSc (Pharmacy) with Honours

Mr. Stephen Ooi Hong Liang, Senior Executive Advisor, Zimmer Biomet, Distinguished Guests, Fellow Graduates, Ladies and Gentlemen, it is a tremendous honour for me to stand before you today to deliver this valediction. Prior to starting my lengthy speech, there are a few people that I must thank, because, without them, I would not have had the opportunity to deliver this lengthy speech in the first place. Thank you, *papa* and *mama*, for being my role models. Your unwavering support throughout the years has taught me what unconditional love truly means. Also, on behalf of the Class of 2017, I would like to extend our sincerest gratitude to everyone from the Pharmacy Department, whose teachings have gone beyond the lecture notes. They have equipped us with drug knowledge and professional skills, inspiring us to give hope where there is none. Finally, my friends from the graduating class of 2017, thank you for electing me to be your class representative four years ago. Let me represent you, one last time.

Class, how lucid are your memories of school? Do you still recall how to calculate hepatic clearance? How about the Henderson-Hasselbach Equation? If you still remember those, good for you! For the rest of us, like myself, where information has a short half-life, perhaps we remember instead, how our lives were made different by the waves of change that hit Pharmacy school. For instance, the major revamp in the Pharmacy curriculum, making us the final legacy of the old curriculum. Our lab sessions. They were changed to be conducted in the pristine labs in MD1, making us treasure even more the rainbow-coloured capsules that were born from S4A. The new emphasis on self-directed learning projects, where we always rejoiced when we were grouped with the workaholics of the class. Just kidding, everyone in Pharmacy works hard, and today is the testament to all our efforts over the years. Today, we graduate as a class that has learnt to embrace change, to adapt to change, and to rise above change.

This class, is the one that has led the overhaul in how Pharmacy Freshmen Orientation Camp is conducted. This class is also the class that has introduced the house system to Pharmacy, bringing academic staff and students closer. We have brought about change that is here to stay. Our secret? We started small. We changed others' lives in our own very special, little ways. Recording 8am lectures for our friends who unfortunately could not resist snoozing their alarms. Coming together as a class

to create a drug list which, despite us not having the time to refer to it during exam, now serves as a future reference. Clearing our friends' microbiology agar plates, printing notes for those who have forgotten to do so, sharing lecturers' exam hints on which doses to memorise; the list is endless. Placing others above self, this class has made a difference.

Of course, without a doubt, we have had our role models to thank. You might remember Ms. Tan Mui Ling continuously encouraging you as you compounded your medications. *"Doing well!"* You might remember Mei Yin, greeting you with her brightest smile, despite your lethargic, emotionless, lab-dreading face. How is it that we still remember? How is it that we still remember Dr. Perry Lim's uncanny ability with names? How is it that we still remember Professor Chan Sui Yung exclaiming, *"my trolley is leaving, my trolley is leaving!"* We still remember these precious moments in university because of how people changed our lives by simply being there for us. Such is the power of doing small things with great heart. At this point, Dr. Perry Lim will probably ask, *"Makes sense? Makes perfect sense."*

As we graduate today, it marks the end of our university journey, but the start of our life as professionals. We are venturing into an industry that is witnessing a revolution. Automated packing robots are now a reality in pharmacies. The role of pharmacists has become increasingly complex. Even drugs that were FYI in school are starting to feature in routine care. However, I'm confident that we will hold our ground amidst the changing landscape of the pharmacy profession. Embrace the shifts in treatment paradigms. Ride the imminent silver tsunami. Adapt through constant self-improvement. Rise above change; that's how we were in school, and that's how we are going to be.

While the turbulence ahead may seem unpredictable, I ask that you remain the calm in the storm.

Fly strong, and help others emerge triumphant.

We will change the world by doing small things with great love.

Class of 2017, be fluid, in change.

Thank you, and congratulations to you!

As we remain standing, my fellow graduates, this is a proud day for all of us and for our parents and loved ones, who have supported us in our journey here.

Therefore, before we leave this hall, let us take this opportunity to show our appreciation for our family and friends with a round of applause.

Please join me in this gesture. Thank you.