

**Drexel University College of Medicine
Commencement Remarks
May 16, 2014**

**Daniel V. Schidlow, MD
Walter H. and Leonore Annenberg Dean
Senior Vice President of Medical Affairs**

Good morning graduates and faculty. Welcome to friends and proud family members. And special greetings to the 50-Year Alumni!

I could speak for hours about the accomplishments of the graduates sitting before us. But instead of talking about what they have done, I would like to tell you about who they are.

I take great pride in the student culture of our school. Our students are inspired by a vocation. They truly have a vocation of service and inquiry. They seem to be moved, perhaps more deeply than they are given credit for, by the issues of society, by the personal plight of patients, and by science as a means to make this world better.

As faculty and administrators, we feel very strongly that the students are always at the center of our thought process. We are committed to them as the unifying element of all of our efforts — whenever we do something, whenever we plan something, whenever we grow, we are taking that action to result in a better student experience.

Our students are people who are aware, and I like to think they came to this school because they saw a certain way of doing things, a certain culture, a certain spirit. While they worked toward their degrees, they also gave eagerly of themselves, not only to Drexel and their colleagues, but to the larger community — tutoring youngsters, mentoring high school students, judging science fairs, singing for charity, volunteering, even in other countries.

To the master's, doctoral and medical graduates: As your faculty and mentors, we feel privileged to have shared in your lives while you are forming as professionals. We have been privileged to learn about you as individuals. I believe that our school wants and fosters personal expression within the realm of social interaction, awareness and commitment. We appreciate the people you are and who you are becoming.

If we have done our job, you know by now that medicine and biomedical science are a team sport. The participants are like members of a soccer team, in which everyone has a clear role. They all work together to advance the ball, but the individual performance is very important, and so is the personality on the field.

Part of the self-expression that we prize in you and hope to see continue is the expression of your personal values, cultural and ethical, as they have manifested themselves in your studies and activities here, and will later as you enter your field of interest. Although we have been preparing you for a team sport, we still believe that the emergence of who you are as individuals is a priority worthy of note.

And we shall miss each of you.

Yet the time has come to bid you a “so long and good luck — see you again sometime, don't be a stranger, keep in touch.” We cherish the years we spent together as a community of learning, and now we wish you success, good health, and happiness.