



**Speech by Mr Lim Chuan Poh
Chairman, LKCMedicine Governing Board
LKCMedicine Homecoming & Graduation Dinner 2023**

**16 June 2023, 7pm
CSB Plaza, 11 Mandalay Road**

Professor Joseph Sung, fellow Governing Board member, distinguished guests, graduands and alumni, and friends and colleagues,

Good evening and a warm welcome to the LKCMedicine Homecoming and Graduation Dinner of 2023.

Let me first extend my heartiest congratulations to the graduating Class of 2023.

You have worked hard and persevered and have shown unwavering commitment and dedication during the pandemic. While that period had been extremely challenging, I have no doubt it has toughened you and added further meaning and significance to your new role as doctors.

As you complete an intensive phase of training and education, you have just embarked on the next journey of lifelong learning and service.

The School has equipped you well for the journey ahead.

Over time, I am confident each one of you will touch the lives of your patients and their families as well as contribute to the betterment of our society.

Class of 2023, as we celebrate your graduation, we are also welcoming you as the latest cohort of alumni to the School – the sixth cohort. In this regard, we are also celebrating our Homecoming, which will be done annually.

To all of you, our very distinguished alumni, you have really been integral to what LKCMedicine has been, is and will be, both internally and externally. You are truly the ambassadors.

Decades from now, where you are and what you do in the healthcare system and wider society will speak volumes of what LKCMedicine stands for. More accurately, you are already doing so.

Within the School, your MedSoc celebrates its 10th anniversary and a very rich legacy. Since 2013, you have undertaken many initiatives.

These include 29 community projects benefitting the less fortunate in society and neighbouring countries; 17 Student Interest Groups (SIGs) that link clinician-mentors with the students; and numerous other activities to make student life richer and more vibrant, and, very importantly, to build *esprit de corps* within the student body. You can feel the *esprit de corps* present tonight.

You have also created several signature events such as the Anatomy Challenge, now in its 6th year, which attracted close to 400 science students from all JCs and polytechnics this year compared to 150 students when it first started in 2017. It has really grown and grown very fast.

You also organised the annual freshmen orientation camps, including virtual ones during the pandemic, to ensure each incoming cohort is warmly welcomed into the LKCMedicine family.

Another highlight is the much-anticipated career workshops, where consultants and senior consultants are invited to share about their work and their journeys to help you think about your own future pathways.

But, perhaps, your most significant legacy is the Senior-Junior teaching culture that was established since 2014 where seniors were involved in teaching the junior batches including running Mock OSCEs and exams. I am sure notes were also passed down, and over time there will be some notes that will be considered the 'best' among the different cohorts.

For all these, we have the pioneer cohort to thank for blazing the trail.

Allow me to highlight the contributions of Dr Leon Tan from the pioneer Class of 2018 who served as the 1st LKCMedicine Alumni Association President. Leon is now a Junior Resident in Paediatric Medicine with Singhealth and is unfortunately caught up tonight.

As the first Alumni President, among many initiatives created, one of the most notable was the MBBS final year examination tutorial system for the juniors where School alumni were recruited to tutor the year 5 students, to prepare them for the final examinations.

This is valuable because the system is still in place today.

The next Alumni President Dr Ken Chua is just as active and engaged.

During COVID, he was the medical officer in charge of Tuas Naval Base Medical Centre up to 2022.

Like Leon, he was always involved in teaching the junior batches, running Mock OSCEs and MBBS till today, as an examiner and tutor, and vetting scripts for the stations, including the Simulated Patients scripts for stations in junior mock OSCEs.

Ken is currently still the Alumni President.

Tonight, we also celebrate the achievements of our alumni especially the hospital recognition they have won over the years.

To start with, our pioneer cohort in their first year as PGY1s won four out of 10 teaching awards by the National Healthcare Group. We should remember that the pioneer cohort was also the smallest at 52 graduates.

Dr Tan Xuan How, Dr Joseph Wong, Dr Jean Chiew and Dr Joey Wong were recognised for their contributions in coaching and mentoring medical students, in addition to their primary focus of delivering patient care.

They won through votes by medical students whom they had guided and mentored during their postings in Tan Tock Seng Hospital (TTSH) and Khoo Teck Puat (KTPH) Hospital.

Last year, Dr Elsa Wee (Graduating Class of 2020) won the Ministry of Health's National Outstanding Post-Graduate Year 1 (PGY1) Award.

Elsa was our very first, and I'm sure, the start of many more to come.

This award recognises doctors who had demonstrated consistent outstanding performance throughout their PGY1 training in the areas of patient care and medical knowledge, and displayed desirable attributes of a doctor such as leadership, professionalism, communication skills, and, very importantly, teamwork.

We are also very proud of our residency success rates, despite being a young medical school, averaging 60% across the cohorts. I was told that the national average is said to be between 40 – 60%.

Our class of 2018 for instance has a residency placement rate of 90%! Probably not one that can be easily repeated.

While it shows the capabilities of these individual doctors, perhaps it also shows how the School has equipped them for practice.

Besides achievements in the profession, we also have other achievements to celebrate. Let me highlight a few:

- One is Noah Lim winning Singapore's first gold in the Jiu-Jitsu event at this year's SEA Games
- The other is Jonathan Au Eong winning Singapore's first fencing gold in last year's SEA Games

A third and meaningful achievement is our students' crucial contribution to the national Mask Sewn with Love project at the height of COVID in 2020.

Alumnus Dr Gabriel Tan led his friends to sew and distribute thousands of reusable masks for vulnerable groups, namely the elderly and frontline workers.

Tonight, we are not only celebrating the accomplishments of our graduating students and past graduates but also honouring the legacy and impact of LKCMedicine.

Over the years, this institution has grown from strength to strength, and our alumni have been at the centre of everything that we do. For this precise reason, we continue to attract and welcome esteemed partners and donors to help us journey forward.

I am extremely pleased that this evening, we are announcing new medals and awards for our outstanding graduates. Adding to those by the Academy of Medicine, College of Family Physicians, College of Physicians Internal Medicine, and the Singapore Medical Association, we will be awarding:

1. The Chay Oh Moh Prize for Outstanding Achievement in Paediatrics
2. The College of Ophthalmologists National Ophthalmology Research Prize
3. The Ho Tew Hong Prize in Obstetrics and Gynaecology
4. The Kanwaljit Soin Prize in Orthopaedics
5. And The Society of Infectious Disease (Singapore) Prize

My heartiest congratulations to the award and prize winners. At the same time, my deepest appreciation to the donors. I am confident our alumni will make you proud, as they have done for the School.

LKCMedicine's accomplishments would not have been possible without the steadfast support of our generous benefactors, partners, and the wider community. Your belief in our mission and commitment to medical education and research have played a pivotal role in our growth and success.

We look forward to forging even stronger partnerships with you in the years to come.

To the graduating class, remember that as you step into the profession, you are not alone. You are part of a vibrant and supportive alumni community that is always ready to extend a helping hand, provide guidance, and create opportunities. So, please stay connected, stay engaged, and continue to give back to your alma mater and the wider medical community.

To all of you, our alumni, you are now poised to making outstanding contributions in the field of medicine and the healthcare sector, as well as to push the boundaries of healthcare innovation and medical sciences.

You have brought honour to LKCMedicine and are an inspiration to the future generations that follow.

In conclusion, I would like to congratulate the graduating class of 2023 once again for reaching this significant milestone.

To all present here tonight, thank you for joining us at this Homecoming event.

Please join me in a toast to the graduating class of 2023, to our esteemed alumni, and to the future of LKCMedicine.

Cheers.

Thank you very much.