

Professor's Commencement Address
Speaker: Professor Lee, Mei-Hsuan
2021 National Yang Ming Chiao Tung University College of Medicine
Commencement Ceremony



Firstly, the Class of 2021, congratulation on your graduation!

This graduation ceremony also marks the first year of the merger of two universities. Due to the COVID-19 epidemic, we held this ceremony in this special way. At this very moment of the epidemic, we are so lucky to hold the ceremony and give our best wishes to all the graduates. We have to extend our gratitude to the College of Medicine and the University.

We also gained important enlightenment during the COVID epidemic. That is the most critical weapons to fight against the virus or human diseases are scientific evidence, cross-field close collaborations, and mutual respect and understanding. All of you have received medical professional training and you are equipped with the professional knowledge of basic medical science, public health, and clinical medicine. I also encourage everyone to strengthen your professional skills ceaselessly, thereby creating and broadening a new horizon of science with open-mindedness to collaborate with each other.

As the epidemic is spreading, we, as an individual sharing one life on this island—Taiwan, seem to be small and insignificant, but small can be mighty when facing the unexpected. What can we do to prevent and contain diseases? I believe tolerance and kindness are the cornerstones to bolster the world in addition to professional scientific knowledge. Therefore, I hope all of you can be kind to each other, support each other, and help the disadvantaged. The disadvantaged refers to those who suffer from inability, mental disability, financial difficulty, low-socioeconomic status, or limited health awareness. If we can respect the differences and individual values, and care the disadvantaged more, we can create a fairer, safer, and healthier society.

Graduating is not just an end, but the beginning of another new stage. I hope all of you are well-prepared for the next journey. No matter what you want to do next like continuing research study, starting a business, or going abroad, you have to know yourselves more, about your strength and weakness before pursuing your dream. Normally, social pressure would become your biggest enemy. If you always follow the social norms, it would be difficult to find your own path. However, if you can follow your passion and your heart to pursue your dreams

fearlessly, you will gain a sense of achievement and finally make it even though the road taken is not the safest one or could be a challenging one. Here, I would like to share what Louis Pasteur said with you. "Will, work and wait are the pyramidal cornerstones for success."

However, life is hard and demanding. It always asks us to do more than what we are willing to give. During the whole life, we must come across many difficulties and things don't go as expected. Actually, failures and difficulties are blessings in disguise. The movie, Hidden Figures, describes a group of female African-American mathematicians who make a huge contribution to NASA during the Space Race in the 1960s and how they overcome gender and racial barriers. They are responsible for exploring any possible courses/routes in space and calculating the most important and sophisticated orbital elements/parameters, allowing astronauts to successfully orbit the earth and safely return to earth. In that era without computers, they are called "the computer wearing a skirt". These African-American women have lived in an unfair environment and have been treated unfairly since their childhood. Because of Racial segregation, they work at the most important core position, but receive the minimum salary and minimum standard of treatment. But they keep the faith and spare no effort to make contributions to their profession. Finally, with their outstanding and excellent performances, they successfully break down the barriers between genders and races. Sharing this story is to encourage you. Life is not a bed of roses but full of frustrations, restrictions, failures, and dilemmas. We should build the mindset like what Ernest Hemingway said in The Old Man and the Sea, "Now is no time to think of what you do not have. Think of what you can do with what there is".Friedrich Nietzsche said: "We should consider every day lost on which we have not danced at least once." "Life isn't about waiting for the storm to pass, it's about learning how to dance in the rain." May all of you can feel more ease and comfortable in your life during the epidemic. Moreover, respect and treat others with tolerance, and be kind to each other. As for your career and work, just pursue your dreams without fears and be a solid dream builder. May all of you always be kind and good. Strive for what you pursue and always be content with your life full of mental enlightenment and abundant knowledge. Congratulations! Thank you!

2021/6/12