

December 11, 2018

To our esteemed faculty –Chancellor Carmencita Padilla, Dean Charlotte Chiong, PGH Director Gerardo Legaspi, and all the faculty and staff of the college joining us today, as well as to my colleagues, good morning.

First, I would like to congratulate the successful examinees of the recent September 2018 Physician Licensure Examination, as well as the faculty and staff that made such an achievement possible. Congratulations!

I consider it a great accomplishment to have been admitted to this prestigious college, and it was an even more arduous journey to make it out in one piece. The UP-PGH experience was nothing short of eventful. Beyond consuming books and hunkering down for long hours, we've had our fair share of desperation, inspiration, and everything in between. I'm sure we've all become better because of it. I still believe it's a valuable skill to find reasons to keep moving forward when all circumstances seem hell-bent on making you quit. It's amazing to find joy in a pastry, when you're seconds away from falling asleep on your feet. And it's beautiful, when after a long hard day's work, you feel overwhelmed just by hearing the words "thank you" from a patient. Truly, the privilege to be in UP-PGH has given us knowledge, skills, and so much more – all irreplaceable.

Now, we can proudly say we've made it. But, fortunately (or unfortunately) we stand once again at a precipice. Like we stood in these halls years ago, anxious, and maybe even a little uncertain at the beginning of medical school, we stand here once more to respond to a challenge. How will we use our newly-gained status and skills from here on out? But, for all of us this is just rhetoric. Our journey has made it clear that we are best put to use in the service of the very people who paved our way to this moment. To our faculty and staff, to the PGH, to our family and friends, and most of all to our patients, we extend our deepest thanks. Our success is yours.

Dedicating ourselves to lives of learning, compassion, and love for human life, we will continue to strive for the health of the Filipino people wherever we may end up. This is so we can pave the way for others the way you have paved the way for us. Truly we stand at a precipice. We stand on the shoulders of giants. Thank you.

Ma. Sergia Fatima P. Sucaldito, MD
UPCM Class of 2018