GRADUATION SPEECH

FOR

MARYAM FAZEL

Hello everyone. Today is a very special day for all of us, and although my journey to achieve my goals for my medical career has been a long one, there have been many people on the way who have given me inspiration, support and guidance. My parents were strong and positive role models throughout my life, and my father's encouragement led me to choose a career in medicine. Although he is not with me, I know he always watches over me with a proud smile, and I want to thank him for his selfless encouragement. I would also like to thank my husband, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and my wonderful son, Ryan, who have given me great support to complete this course. Although they cannot be here today to share this moment, I know they are proud of this accomplishment.

I attended medical school in Iran, and now my path has led me to complete my studies in this wonderful family residency program here at \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (**name the hospital**). The staff and faculty have been there for us and I want to take a moment to thank the people who continue to inspire me.

I would first like to give thanks to our new program director, Dr. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Howard (**include her first name**). As a member of the faculty, Dr. Howard shared her time, knowledge and experiences and her input has been priceless. I will always be inspired by her ability to really listen as well as teach, and I hope to take what I've learned from her to help, heal, and inspire others. I would also like to acknowledge our previous program director, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

To Dr. Jack Yu, thank you for doing such a fine job as our advisor.  Your kindness and consideration motivated all of the residents in this program and we will all be more effective in caring for others because of the care you took to advise us. Dr. Ghazarian, even though you were in attending part time, your caring nature motivated me, and whether you know it or not, your guidance helped me tremendously throughout this course.

There are so many people to acknowledge-people like Dr. Khanoyan, who was always so pleasant and Dr’s Swaris and Cornell, both of you were so friendly and helpful. Your good spirits and positive attitudes definitely made working on weekends far more pleasant than it sounds, and working rounds on those weekend shifts went smoothly. I know we can all acknowledge both of you for that!!

Dr. Churg, I want to thank you and let you know that although your manner is more “focused on the patient,” you have been an excellent teacher when it came to inpatient attending and we appreciate your contribution to each one of us as we worked to complete this program. The care you demonstrate to every aspect of the patients’ lives has inspired us and we appreciate the knowledge you have shared with us, learned and earned through your long and successful medical career.

We definitely could have not completed this course so smoothly without having the benefit of the skills and efficiency of our program coordinators, Maureen and Amanda. Both of you have been so helpful with scheduling, reminding the residents about events, and keeping in contact with us to make sure we were all in the right place at the right time! You both knew how to find us-by any means possible-whether it was by messages in our mailboxes, texts, emails, calls to our cell phones, thanks to both of you, we were right where we had to be!

Dr. Wu, it has been a privilege to observe you and work with you. As someone who I consider to be a really good doctor, I have learned so much from watching you work. It is wonderful to observe as you deliver new life into this world. It is no surprise that you are considered one of the best OB/GYN doctors in this hospital. Your long and productive career inspires each one of us and we thank you for your encouragement.

To all of the nursing staff, hospital staff, cafeteria and food service employees, and especially to all of the janitors, I know that as support staff you may not hear “Thank you” very often, so I will say it now. Thank you for all that you do. We would not be able to care for our patients without all of the work you do to prepare us for the challenges we face every day.

This has been a wonderful experience and I look forward to the day when I may have the opportunity and privilege of inspiring future residents in this program in the same way that I have been inspired by all of you. Thank you all!