**CONFERENCE SPEECH**

**FOR**

**RICHARD SAAD**

Hello everyone! It is a privilege to be a part of the European University Medical School and it is an honor to be here today to participate in the very first Cyprus Annual Medical Students Meeting. History is being made today and a legacy has been initiated. As I look around the room and I see so many vital, distinguished and respected participants, I am humbled to be a part of this occasion. (If you want to thank or acknowledge anyone in particular you can do that here). ***I would like to thank our Dean Dr. George Marcoullis who so generously shares his knowledge, patience and wisdom, our school rector professor Dr. Kostas Gouliamos for his guidance and expertise, ~~and my fellow colleagues for allowing me this opportunity to say a few words~~. ~~I would also like to further acknowledge Dean Professor Dr. George Marcoullis for sharing his knowledge, patience and wisdom.~~  and I would also like to recognize all of my fellow students for expressing such passion for practicing medicine.***

William Osler, one of the four founding “fathers” of the great Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore, Maryland said this about our field, “Observe, record, tabulate, communicate. Use your five senses. Learn to see, learn to hear, learn to feel, learn to smell, and know that by practice alone you can become expert.” For those of us that study medicine At the European University, we are aware of the infinite opportunities we have to observe, record, and do all that Osler suggests. The initiation of this conference acts as a vehicle to take all of that practice to new and fascinating levels. Even in these technologically sophisticated times, there is no substitute for direct communication, the kind in which we will engage here- the content and context of which will spark inspiration, light fires within us, and drive us to question our practice…. search… and discover solutions to our questions… as even newer questions are revealed.

The desire for world-class caliber medical education served to guide us to this school. The opportunity to engage in constructive discourse involving classic medical knowledge enhanced with state of the art technology and research findings is, for lack of a better term (Do you want to have any humor? If so, you can say,), mind-blowing…. I sincerely hope the neurology department is on standby! (Wait for the laugh). (If you prefer instead to not use humor, you can say instead) [The opportunity to engage in constructive discourse involving classic medical knowledge enhanced with state of the art technology and research findings is one of the main reasons I chose to study here at the European University. It is an opportunity like this conference that sets this school apart from the rest. At this session we intend to, as Osler states, listen, learn, observe, absorb.

In a world in which technology has become such an integral component in every aspect of our lives and education, the prospect of working with our faculty of respected scientists and renowned doctors as they explore applications for new methods of detection, diagnosis and treatment through the use of various forms of high tech gear and methodologies including virtual reality, simulators, and other state of the art techniques, is more powerful and fascinating than even I can express.  ***I have been interested in medicine*** ~~and in particular the field of Neurology~~ ***since I was 10 years old and the field of neurology has been an area of particular focus. To actually be here, at this conference is one of the highlights of my educational career. (***I see the instructions mention if you want to add a bit about your experience as a med student and if you want add one or two sentences and want me to organize that for you, let me know, send it along, and I will place it here)***. In speaking with fellow medical students from around the world I find that a common theme is one of stress and course overload. What's interesting to me is that I've observed that even though we all may have the same coursework, the stress... So far... Is manageable. I attribute that difference to the supportive relationships we've nurtured and to a productive and encouraging environment in which we find ourselves. The sense of family and willingness to aid a fellow student that flourishes on this campus is invaluable as we work to become the healers for future generations.*** ~~I would like to mention that every speaking to other colleagues around the world at different medical schools keep expressing the overwhelming overload of work and how they only themselves to help them out of that work load. But here I have come to realize we also have the exact same workload but somehow the stress and overwhelming feeling is not the same as they explain it. An this is due to the close “family” relationship we have with each other here, everyone is ready to assist each other at all times no matter how tough the situation really is. (Please if you could phrase it a little better and with a better choice of words. Also if you believe this experience does not flow with the speech then I would exclude it)~~

We live in very exciting times. Advancements in science and medicine are unprecedented but we must never lose sight of the reason why we do what we do. Osler also said, “He who studies medicine without books sails an uncharted sea, but he who studies medicine without patients does not go to sea at all.” I am sure that I speak for all of my fellow students when I express gratitude for the opportunity to attend this conference. At the same time, I want to acknowledge all of the patients who inspire us to do what we do. Sometimes we can get so caught up in the data and minutia of our study and practice, but we must never lose sight of the humanity required for every phase of medicine. To have the opportunity to participate in this symposium invokes respect for humanity- for the teachers and the students; the doctors and the patients; the scientists and the disenfranchised. Everyone is entitled to the gift of wellness. I know that this conference will make its mark on us. It will leave a permanent impression and act as inspiration to encourage us to work together to research, remedy, and heal. Thank you all!