

EDITORIAL

THE RESPONSIBILITY OF MEDICAL SCHOOLS

If Medical Schools are to pursue their commitment and assume their important role in the progress of medicine in our country, their responsibility to strive for and maintain quality basic medical education is of paramount concern. The maximum of efforts must be exerted continuously to provide Medical Schools with a competent faculty, adequate facilities for laboratories and research, and a well organized training hospital. An academic environment must exist and be preserved. It is probably because of these existing factors that medical students become more motivated, eventually successful graduates and grateful as well as loyal alumni. These alumni as a potent body may in turn contribute voluntarily and generously to support and further improve the Medical Schools. It is a well known fact, that institutions of higher learning such as Medical Schools abroad particularly in the advanced countries, are fortunate recipients of substantial funding and aid from their alumni, philanthropists, and foundations who are truly and fully convinced of the schools' excellence and undoubted role in the progress and leadership of their country. Their own governments also contribute generously in this partnership.

The future professional career of medical students is to a great extent dependent on the quality of basic medical education he had undergone. Inadequate basic education simply leads to mediocrity. It is not the few who become successful, but, the greatest number who are.

The faculty must be well chosen and encouraged, for the quality of medical education is dependent on the quality of its faculty. This is a critical and serious problem in our country. It cannot be overemphasized that the backbone of any institution of learning is its faculty. A medical school or any institution for that matter is only as good as its faculty. There is no substitute for a competent, responsive, and progressive faculty.

In the not distant future, the standard of medical service and health care delivery will reflect the effects of what basic medical education our present undergraduates had. Whatever it maybe, our Medical Schools must provide the answer.

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