July 23, 2018

To the incoming class of the College of Medicine:

Welcome to the State University of New York Downstate Medical Center! You are about to embark on a momentous journey in preparation for a career in medicine. Coupled with the prestige and privilege of studying medicine, you have selected one of this country’s premier academic medical centers—one that is affectionately referred to as “Downstate”. Downstate’s mission is to provide outstanding education, which will manifest in the work you will engage alongside our distinguished faculty, health professionals, and researchers.

As I am sure you have already aware, Downstate is located in the borough of Brooklyn, one of the most diverse and interesting places to study medicine. Our connection to this community offers a broad range of experiences both within and outside of clinical settings. Our rich history includes being the first institution in the state of New York to perform open-heart surgery (second in the nation), we boast the invention of magnetic resonance imaging (MRI), and Dr. Robert Furchgott, one of our many researchers, who received the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine in 1998.

Upon completing your education, a rewarding and bright future awaits you as part of a select group of individuals who have worked diligently and earned the privilege to study medicine. Dean Pato, his staff, the faculty in the College of Medicine, and the entire Downstate Community will exceed your expectations in providing a welcoming and supportive environment.

Again, welcome to Downstate and congratulations as you begin an enriching and life-changing journey in medicine.

Best Regards,

Wayne J. Riley