

FACULTY OF MEDICINE AND SURGERY

**DEAN'S RECEPTION FOR THE ACADEMIC MEMBERS OF
THE FACULTY OF MEDICINE & SURGERY**

SAN ANTON PALACE

TUESDAY 17TH JUNE, 2014

Excellencies,

Distinguished Guests,

It is with great pleasure and satisfaction that I welcome you today at San Anton Palace.

The Medical School of Malta has been building its reputation and earning international acclaim and respect for the past three centuries.

I am sure you agree that the splendid reputation and the international respect that our medical school have, are very well earned.

The Faculty of Medicine and Surgery of the University of Malta demands high standards of its students, and it is rigorous and extremely demanding.

Only students with the best qualifications are accepted for its courses and then, many years of study, research, training and practical experience make sure that only the very best and the truly dedicated make it to the end.

So, I cannot but congratulate all the new graduates on achieving the goal of your endeavours and naturally, I have to say thank you and congratulate your professors and lecturers for their efforts and their commitment.

You have managed not only to mould the new graduates into great doctors, but you have integrated the students in the current reality of health and illness.

Here, I would like to bring to your attention that health and wellbeing are not only grounded in the medical model you so endearingly embrace.

The health and wellbeing of individuals are also embedded in the social reality that people find themselves in.

You yourselves realise that the so-called social determinants of health play an important role in a person's wellbeing, so I encourage you to join forces with other professionals, so that you may care for a person holistically.

Both graduates and professors are the heirs of a great tradition. The Malta Medical School has a three century history of excellence in the field of medical education.

The tradition for the Faculty to host a yearly reception during exam time in June is excellent. It is a splendid gesture of thanks to all the members of the Faculty and foreign examiners as well as other distinguished guests who have contributed significantly to the running of the Medical School and all its activities.

I cannot end my address without taking note of Professor LaFerla's commitment and dedication. Furthermore, I wish to thank him for his initiative in using this gathering to raise funds for a truly worthy cause.

I thank you all for this kind gesture. Your donations will serve to help those most in need, the more vulnerable amongst us. It is a show of solidarity that brings unity amongst all people living in our country.

I wish you all splendid careers in being of service to all of us.