

SOCIETY OF ST. LUKE INDUCTION SPEECH

Congratulate Dr.'s F. Ahmed, Michael Linz, for their induction.

I would like to take this opportunity to say that I am truly humbled and appreciative of this great honor that has been bestowed upon me. I would like to wholeheartedly thank the selection and nominating committees for my induction into this prestigious society. The mission of the Society of St. Luke is one of great importance because it reminds those of us who practice medicine that we must be keenly aware of the responsibility and immense power that result from our held positions as physicians in society. Through the example of St. Luke, we are reminded that every decision we make as it relates to the patient has a

consequence. Most of us wholly engaged in the profession of medicine deal in the currency of life and death on a daily basis and we have immense power to influence medical outcomes for better or worse. Furthermore, St. Luke's legacy serves as a poignant reminder of the importance of physicians' continually striving to keep compassion in the forefront, and all of the competing daily demands upon our time and finite resources secondary to treating and advising our patients.

A little more than 30 years ago, I took an oath to tread with care in matters of life, to remember that I do not treat a fever chart, a cancerous growth, but a sick human being, whose illness may affect the person's family and economic

stability. My responsibility includes these related problems, if I am to care adequately for the sick. For more than three decades, I have taken my role as physician to heart. As a young boy growing up more than 6,000 miles beyond the nearest U.S. shoreline, I recognized that there was a great demand for skilled, competent and compassionate physicians in Nigeria. I became aware of the many complications women confront during their child bearing years, pregnancy and upon menopause through direct observation and interaction with my aunts and other female relatives. This keen awareness and appreciation for one of life's greatest miracles led me to pursue the specialties of Internal Medicine and OB/GYN.

I consider myself extremely fortunate to be able to pursue my passions of medicine and providing compassionate, patient-centered care every day. I have fully committed myself to serving my community to the best of my ability—one patient, one mother, one child, one daughter, one aunt, one grandmother, one cousin, one neighbor, one colleague, one student, one resident, one friend and one family member at a time. It has always been my belief that every human being regardless of any extraneous factor deserves to be treated with dignity and respect. Each day, I strive for excellence in my field by always doing more than what is minimally required not

because I am going to reap the benefit of some tangible reward, but instead because it is the right thing to do.

Strict adherence to this simple mantra has played an integral role in my professional success. I can honestly say that I have been truly blessed and my cup runs over 100 fold. It has been my absolute privilege and pleasure to serve Mercy Medical Center and the greater Canton community over the years. I have tried to the best of my abilities and conscience to provide mindful, compassionate care for those who fall into categories of: the impoverished; those who lack the ability and or education to make informed decisions affecting their individual realities; the overlooked; the dis enfranchised;

the dis empowered; the bankrupt; the displaced; the abused, neglected and mistreated and those outcasts who have been give their last chance 100 times over. I relish in the reality of knowing that my efforts to elevate the practice of medicine have not been in vain.

I have enjoyed countless days in the sun and now the sun shines on my back. However, I remain fully committed to providing guidance and mentor ship for the next generation of physicians. It is my sincere hope that those young physicians coming behind me create their own distinct footprints in terms of elevating the compassionate practice of medicine. I unequivocally believe that physicians must use their talents: some God-given, others

genetically transcribed and mostly acquired and refined through practice and repetition over time to go beyond what is minimally required. This is simply because it is the right thing to do and we as physicians must hold ourselves and each other to a higher standard.

Lastly, I would like to recognize my many mentors who helped me become the physician I am today, Dr's. Chitra, Ahmed, Zeigler, King, Bazzoli and many more. I would like to thank my wife, Rosie for her unconditional love and support from the beginning of my journey before I was a physician. I would like to thank my daughters: Jessica, Stephanie, Angela, Miranda, Ebony and Brandi for their love and sacrifice so that I could answer the call of

duty regardless of when or where it beacons. Also, I have a great team of dedicated medical support extraordinaires who have allowed me to be more efficient in managing finite resources so that I can provide high quality of care to the masses and I am grateful for their support and loyalty over the years.

To my special Friends of many years, I salute you and thank you so dearly.

Living Life

Life is not a race – but indeed a journey. Be honest, work hard, Be Choosy,. Say “thank you”, “I love you”, and “great job” to someone each day. Go to Church, Mosque,

Temple, Synagogue , take time for prayer. The Lord giveth and the Lord taketh. Let your handshake mean more than pen and paper. Love your life and what you have been given; it is not accidental – search for your purpose and do it as best you can. Dreaming does matter. It allows you to become that which you aspire to be. Laugh often. Appreciate the little things in life and enjoy them. Some of the best things really are free. Do not worry , less wrinkles are more becoming. Forgive, it frees the soul. Take time for yourself – plan for longevity. Recognize the special people you've been blessed to know, Live life for today, enjoy the moment. Thank you all for coming to celebrate with us. We are truly blessed and grateful. Bonnie L. Mohr

Again, I would like to thank you for bestowing this great honor on me and recognizing my contributions to the field of medicine, the greater Canton community, and Mercy Medical Center

God Bless us All.