

# FACULTY OF HEALTH AND MEDICINE



Dr Susan Lim and Mr Deepak Sharma

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Dear Dr Lim and Mr Sharma,

As the Head of School for the University's School of Medicine and Public Health, I would like to thank you very much for your recent gift to the Dr Susan Lim Endowment for Education and Research and your ongoing generosity in creating and supporting the Dr Susan Lim Scholarship in Medicine.

It is truly inspiring to see the far-reaching impact of your generosity, and to recognise the unprecedented difference the Dr Susan Lim Scholarship in Medicine is making in the lives of our recipients and their families.

Thank you for enabling our University's medical students to become the best doctors possible and for providing our communities with high-calibre healthcare professionals. You have set a standard of selflessness that many of your scholarship recipients now aspire to emulate.

One such recipient is Molly Ratcliffe who is currently in her final year of medicine. As you know, Molly battled with working to support herself and finding enough time to study. Prior to receiving a Dr Susan Lim Scholarship in Medicine, her part-time job made it a struggle to attend important seminars and workshops, and to maintain a healthy lifestyle. The news of becoming a scholarship recipient was met with her deepest gratitude and a commitment to help others in the future.

"I can't adequately express how excited I am at the idea of my future career in medicine," said Molly. "I've been working towards this goal for as long as I can remember, as pursuing a career that I can be continually challenged in, while also helping people and improving their quality of life has always seemed like the easiest decision in the world."

**"Thank you again for your generosity. I appreciate how much this scholarship has contributed to me completing my degree with more time to apply myself. I hope to pay it forward by finding ways in which I can support other medical students to pursue their dream degrees and careers."**

The challenges many of our medical students face are vast — not only in being accepted into the medical discipline, but in making it through to graduation with all the knowledge and skills they need. Another Dr Susan Lim Scholarship in Medicine recipient, second-year student Sally Groat, overcame the difficulties of a rural upbringing to gain a place in medical school. You may recall that Sally had no choice but to move 10 hours away from home to study, which placed huge emotional and financial strain on herself and her family. Receiving your support was a crucial win.

"I would like to sincerely thank you for offering me such a generous amount of money through such an honourable scholarship," said Sally. "It will make a huge difference in my medical schooling and hopefully allow me to work to the best of my capacity to become the absolute best doctor I can be. It has already provided huge relief to me and my family, and I hope I will be able to do you proud."

Final-year student, Angus McClelland, also grew up rurally and frequently travelled five hours home on weekends to care for his ailing dad. The financial and emotional pressures were great, but one saving grace was his scholarship.

**Angus wanted to give you this message, “Thank you for the support that you have shown throughout the most difficult part of my degree. Coming to the last six months of study before graduating, I have had some time to reflect on my student experience and, in particular, how amazingly lucky I was to receive support such as the Dr Susan Lim Scholarship in Medicine to help me get through my student life and overcome financial hardship.”**

“Be assured I will forever be grateful and, upon graduating this year, will attest to provide support to students in my own way in the years to come.”

Susan and Deepak, your generosity has addressed the very real financial burdens of medical students. Just as significant, though, is the hope and encouragement you offer. The Dr Susan Lim Scholarship in Medicine has bolstered our students’ enthusiasm and perseverance, freed them up to focus on their studies, and sowed in them a new determination to succeed and save lives.

Of the ten students supported by a scholarship to date, we feel incredibly proud that three are members of our Indigenous community. You may remember Callan Gibbs, a final-year student with an abiding passion for equity in healthcare that stems from witnessing the inequality Indigenous people in Australia face. Callan is an Indigenous Representative on the University’s Medical Society committee. He acknowledges the importance of your generosity in achieving his dream,

**“Because of you, I have been able to focus on my goals and now I’m one step closer to graduating and living my dream of being a doctor. Thank you for your support — this wouldn’t be possible without you.”**

Thank you, Susan and Deepak, for your philanthropic endeavour. You are shaping the students of today, and the healthcare workforce and communities of tomorrow. You are radically transforming lives, as second-year student, Bonnie Sommers, attests,

“It is extremely difficult to put into words how enormously grateful and honoured I feel being a successful recipient of your generous scholarship. When I told my family the news, I remember saying how this scholarship offer was ‘life-changing’, and it truly is! I am currently in my second year of medicine at the University of Newcastle, and I am loving every minute of it.

**“I have gone from thinking I would never be able to get into medicine, to feeling like I am exactly where I am meant to be in life. This scholarship has lifted a huge burden from my shoulders, and I will forever be grateful for the financial support I have received.”**

Susan and Deepak, we are sincerely grateful for all you do to help safeguard the aspirations of so many medical students, the hopes of their families and the future and quality of medical care in our communities. Your generosity is not only making a difference now but will continue to do so for generations to come.

Thank you.

Warm regards,



**Professor Brian Kelly**

Head of School

School of Medicine and Public Health