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18 December 1990

The Dean of the Graduate School in 2014  
Medical College of Ohio  
Toledo, Ohio 43699

Dear Dean:

When it was first suggested that I write you a letter to be opened in the year 2014 it was, as you might envision, something I had never been asked to do before. In fact, I sat and looked at a blank screen for some time before I could think of anything to write. The only way I can relate to 25 years into the future is to look back over the changes I have seen during the past 25 years. Twenty-five years ago I was still a graduate student. The pride and joy of my university was a computer which took up the major part of an entire building. That computer was less powerful and less versatile than the personal computer I use to write this letter. As a student of biochemistry, I marveled at the then, recent accomplishment of the sequencing of the first enzyme. I would not have believed that 25 years later the number of proteins with known sequence would be in the thousands and that each issue of the Journal of Biological Chemistry would contain several more. Even the thought of being able to sequence DNA was still a dream; 25 years later there is a national debate, not on whether we should sequence the complete human genome, but on how rapidly we should proceed. Today those of us in biomedical research sense that we are on the verge of a "biomedical revolution." We can only dream of the advances of the next 25 years where progress in molecular genetics, cell biology, and immunology will make practical applications of such techniques as gene splicing and cloning conventional.

Where does the Medical College of Ohio fit into this picture, both past and present? I am fortunate to be one of a small number of the original faculty who has "grown-up" with this institution, going from an assistant professor looking forward to his first lecture, setting-up his own research laboratory, establishing a research program which consistently earned recognition and funding, and finally becoming the Dean of the Graduate School in a position to help others advance their careers in education and research. I remember the excitement of sitting under a big tent in front of the old William Roche Hospital when Governor Rhoades told the first faculty and the first class of medical students about the great things that lay in the future for the Medical College of Ohio. I remember the first meeting of the "Committee on Graduate Studies" in the early 1970s where a group of faculty members

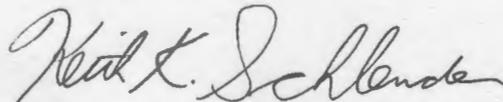
To: Dean of the Graduate School 2014  
Date: 18 December 1990  
page: 2

discussed the feasibility of establishing a Graduate School at the Medical College of Ohio. After many hours of hard work (and I might add a few disagreements), we were able to submit a proposal for a Ph.D. degree in Medical Sciences to the Ohio Board of Regents. This proposal was approved in 1975 and the first Ph.D. degree was awarded in June 1978. The Master of Science in Nursing was approved in 1980 and the first students were graduated in 1982. The Master of Science in Industrial Hygiene was approved in 1985 and the first student was graduated in 1988. Currently 37% of the student body (over 300 students) are in the Graduate School.

During the next 25 years, I believe that the Graduate School of the Medical College of Ohio will become the largest school by expanding in two areas. One is professional education at the Master's level. With the increasing complexity of health related professions, more students will receive their basic science training at the undergraduate level and then go on to professional training at the Master's level in the various health related fields. We will be the major educational institution for training health professions at the graduate level in this region. The other area in which we hope to become a leader is in the training of Ph.D. level biomedical researchers. The "biomedical revolution" will happen. The only question is to what extent the Medical College of Ohio will be a participant. The present academic leadership is committed to making the Medical College of Ohio an integral part of this revolution. You will be the judge of how successful we were. I only hope that I am present at the opening of the time capsule to hear your verdict.

I feel compelled to close this letter, not as a scientist, but as a member of the human race. I wish, more than anything else, that over the next 25 years we, as a people, will have learned to live together in peace, harmony, and mutual respect. I wish you well as you prepare for your next 25 years.

Sincerely,



Keith K. Schlender, Ph.D.  
Interim Dean of the Graduate School  
(Dean - Effective 01 January 1991)

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