

Speech by Dr John Sinclair – Chair of the NZCCM Council

It's an honour to attend this graduation, to congratulate the graduating students on their years of hard work and to acknowledge the love and support of the families and friends represented here. Learning is a joint effort and I'm sure the students are deeply appreciative of those who have helped them in this journey that concludes today.

I am Chair of the Council, but also bring greetings from Dane Naida Glavish, chair of the Advisory Board, and Dr Willem Fourie, chair of the Academic Board. We collectively form a group of people with expertise in education, health care, business, and leadership, and we are proud to stand behind the work of the College's owners, managers and staff. As graduates you are the product of many skilled people who bring their time and talents to the challenging task of delivering a high-quality professional education.

Today may mark the end of your studies (but we do hope you will consider progressing onto further qualifications, such as our Masters Programme), however, it marks the beginning of a professional career in which lifelong learning is very important. If the government confirms its intention to regulate Chinese medicine, then continuing education will likely be a requirement for practitioners in order to retain a practicing certificate. But it is important nevertheless to keep your skills sharp and look for new areas to take your training. The next 30 years or so will no doubt bring many changes and many opportunities, and it may be that the future for Chinese medicine in New Zealand is beyond our current imagination. It will be practitioners such as you who become the visionaries who can join this ancient tradition of wisdom with new social, scientific, and commercial opportunities.

We look forward to seeing what you are able to achieve, building on the foundation of your learning at NZCCM.