June 1, 2010

Dear Member, Incoming Class of 2010

I am delighted you have decided to come to Penn State’s College of Medicine this August. I think you will be very pleased with the educational program and environment here, and I encourage you to fully participate in your education.

In 1996, we initiated a White Coat ceremony for first-year medical students as a means to welcome you into the profession, and to renew your commitment to professionalism and humanism in the practice of medicine. We plan to continue this ceremony this year and have set Friday, August 6, 2010, aside so your parents, friends, family members, and significant others can attend.

During the White Coat Ceremony, you will be presented and “cloaked” with your white coat by a distinguished faculty member. We will also recite the Oath of Modern Hippocrates together during the ceremony. There will be a reception afterward which all who attend will be invited.

Please complete the online White Coat Ceremony Response Form on our website: http://www.pennstatehershey.org/web/md/home/accepted/orientation and return it by no later than July 9, 2010 so we can order a coat for you. It will also be helpful if you provide a phonetic spelling of your name. Please indicate which syllables should be emphasized.

Lastly, please be sure to invite your parents, family, friends and significant others to join us on Friday, August 6, 2010, at 4:00 p.m. at the Hershey Lodge in the Great American Hall for your White Coat Ceremony and official welcome to the medical profession.

Sincerely,

Richard J. Simons, M.D.
Vice Dean for Educational Affairs
Professor of Medicine

RJS/tk