

From Good to Great and Towards Being Significant

Mohd Zamrin Dimon

Faculty of Medicine, Universiti Teknologi MARA, Sungai Buloh, Selangor, Malaysia

Once again, I would like to express my gratitude to members of the editorial board of the Journal of Clinical & Health Sciences (JCHS) for this opportunity to pen some of my thoughts on the future of this faculty. I would also like to congratulate them on their hard work and relentless effort that has resulted in the achievement of a significant milestone for JCHS, which has been indexed at Myjournal Malaysian Citation Centre; MyCite. This is in addition to being indexed in Google Scholar, MYJMS, CABI, COPERNICUS and UiTM PTAR Repository. I am certain that the journal will soon receive more recognition from other well-established indexing agencies.

I would also like to extend my appreciation to UiTM University Management for the trust given to me as the Dean of Faculty of Medicine UiTM for the second term. It is indeed a huge responsibility for me to drive the faculty towards greater heights, especially in the face of many challenges, not only at faculty level, which included the transition to our much-anticipated teaching hospital, but also at the university level.

We all have our own dreams and aspirations in what kind of institution we would like to devote our efforts and dwell our life in. Most of us look for a clear vision and direction of the institution and its ability to sustain through the uncertain future. Thus, how and what do we foresee our academic institution in the forthcoming 10 years? Most of us would dream and aspire that WE will be part of the GREAT working place.

But of course, that is very ambiguous. What is GREAT? What aspect do we want to be GREAT at? Who and what are we? Something that the Institution really need to ponder, think, and strategize about.

However, I believe it is not only ONE man's responsibility. It is not only the Dean or CEO. I believe being GREAT is about 'US'. The keyword is WE, and it starts with every individual.

A lecturer excitedly expressed her vision to work in a vibrant and happy environment. Where the place is abuzz with teaching and research, teeming with academic discourse and creativity, humming with enthusiasm and vigour. A Noah's Ark full of hope and passion, on a journey heading towards a common dream, a vessel that everyone watching would find irresistible and would want to be a part of. Yes, that is indeed an extremely exciting image to pursue. However, a famous quote says, 'Every small step in the right direction becomes the start of something amazing'. Thus, for us to reach that goal, to achieve our aim and vision, we must set specific smaller goals, milestones along the way, that will allow us to keep ourselves on the right path and avoid getting lost.

I strongly believe that the fundamental element in achieving GREATNESS from being good, is the emphasis on the people [1]. The fundamental role of a university is to produce great students or staff. However, it is the achievements of the students and staff that form the basic structure of an institution, the inertia for progress and inevitably the cause for destruction. I have made it my purpose to convince my staff that all members of the faculty are important key players in this endeavour towards greater success for the faculty. That everyone should have focus on the clarity of the functions, be objective in executing their tasks and innovative in adding values to our institution that will allow us to be distinct from other similar entities. [2].



Another important point to consider is not a matter of how long it will take to be a great institution, but more so to how far we can go and how much we can achieve. This is the question that all of US should be asking ourselves now, and that will provide us the direction. Therefore, I truly believe that as an institution, the best investment we could and should make is on the members of the team i.e. the staff. Not only in bringing in highly qualified, experienced academicians but also to ensure adequate training for young lecturers so that they could attain their highest expertise and deliver their greatest potential. The more energy we have to work with, the greater our achievements, and the higher we soar.

But let me express my opinion here that life is NOT just about achieving greatness. It is about arriving at being SIGNIFICANT. Being significant is how one is perceived by others, the basis of which, is the long-lasting impact and the legacy that one leaves behind. When the focus is no longer on individual achievement but rather on others, way beyond one's existence and presence in any place or institution [3].

The fundamental question to ask in one's pursuit of Significance is: What do you want in life? I believe that deep down, almost every one of us want the same thing. We want our life to matter, to have meaning, to have some significance, to our family, our friends, our colleagues and may be to our nation and the world. We could have had our own reasons and purposes when we decided to be part of this potentially great institution. Partly if not completely, to serve and build an institution that we would be proud to call our own. These reasons and purposes may have changed or evolved over time, modified by challenges, adapted to differing circumstances. However, I believe that the initial reasons and purposes are still embedded in each one of us, especially among the clinicians. There is no wrong in being driven by wealth, luxury and fame. But those achievements do not necessarily precede being Significant. With continuous challenges and changing circumstances surrounding us, we are easily distracted and disheartened. To continually pursue our purpose, we therefore must be focussed and resilient, courageous to venture out of our comfort zones, tolerant to make and accept changes, wise to admit failure, professional to assume responsibilities and humble to seek advice.

Because everyone begins with imperfection but one continues living with constant personal growth and improvement. Cultivate the attitude of doing, rather than will do, or thinking to do. Action rather than just planning. This attitude will lead us to the things we were meant to do. At the end of the day, when we die, we cannot take with us what we have, but we can live in others by what we have imparted to others [3]. All we have to do is to do our very best in whatever we have to do, have an impact on others whenever we do it, with whatever resources we have, every day of our lives, every single opportunity that crosses our paths until the time comes for our eternal rest.

This is the real meaning of a Significant life. It is all about what we have given to others. It is our legacy. That is the deeper meaning of our existence in any potentially great institution. *Nothing in life has any meaning except the meaning we give it. Tony Robbins.*

Finally, a question that is in most minds- What are the characteristics of an academician? I believe those would be the characteristics that will propel one to reach the summit, i.e. to achieve the recognition of being an academic Professor.

How?

Start with Your One Thing, your unique capability within your niche area (3). I strongly believe that everyone has at least one thing, one strength, one super power, a gem that they possess, or could do better than anything else, over anyone else. Find your strength – Your One Thing- stay with it and grow around it. Every single one of us could undeniably do one thing exceptionally well, being the best at it, above and beyond any other in the world. Consequently, excellence comes from consistency in using that strength, that super power. That very excellence is something significant that we can leave as our legacy in our beloved institution.

So, let me pose the same question- How do WE see our academic institution in 10 years' time?

An academic institution that have highly qualified and reputable Professors and Associate Professors- buzzing with quality teaching and research,

overflowing with academic discourse and creativity, pulsating with enthusiasm and vigour. A working place that is the envy of many and the desire of many more. Will you be part of its continuing journey?

REFERENCES

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2. Scot McKain. Create Distinction: What to do when 'great' isn't good enough to grow your business. Greenleaf Group LLC, TX. 2012.
3. John C Maxwell. The power of significant: How purpose changes your life. Center Street, NY. 2017