

# Dalhousie Graduates First Three Students from Malaysia's IMC

*connection* Convocation 1998

<http://communications.medicine.dal.ca/connection/convocation1998/malaysia.htm>



*Back to front: Ee-Sze Lim, Kar-Huei Cha and Soo-Chin Teo pictured here on the Halifax Waterfront when they first arrived at Dalhousie two years ago.*

This year's convocation was a milestone for every MD graduate, but it also marked the success of a monumental change in medical education at Dalhousie as its first three students from Malaysia's International Medical College (IMC) graduated from the MD program.

**Ee-Sze Lim, Soo-Chin Teo** and **Kar-Huei Cha** were the first IMC students to earn their MDs from Dalhousie. Students at the IMC complete three years of medical school in Malaysia and then go to a partner school in North America, the United Kingdom, Ireland or New Zealand to complete their clinical studies and earn their doctor of medicine degrees.

Dalhousie was the first university in North America to join this global education initiative after the IMC was established in 1992. Now there are seven partner schools across the continent.

"We are very proud of our Malaysian students and what they've accomplished here," says **Dr. John Ruedy**, Dean of the Medical School. "They faced tremendous challenges in relocating to a new country and studying medicine in a second language, but they have met those challenges. I believe Dalhousie has also met a challenge in integrating international students into the medical program, and our school has benefitted a great deal from that."

IMC students arrive at Dalhousie six months before their clerkship begins. For Ee-Sze and Cha, that means over two years since they were last home; Soo-Chin returned for a brief visit last year.

Cha will be staying in North America next year to take part in the preliminary general surgery program at Massachusetts General in Boston. Ee-Sze and Soo-Chin are both returning to

Malaysia for one-year rotating internships, but Soo-Chin will be taking her time getting there—she plans to take a cross-Canada tour by train, stopping in Quebec City, Montreal, Toronto, Calgary, Edmonton and Vancouver, and catching her flight home from the west coast.

Soo-Chin says she may apply for further studies in North America in surgery, radiology or emergency medicine after her internship, but Ee-Sze says he will be happy to stay at home for his residency.

Since Ee-Sze, Soo-Chin and Cha arrived over two years ago, the Medical School has welcomed 10 more students from the IMC—five last year and five this spring who will enter clerkship with the Class of 2000 in September.