

University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences
Investiture of Daniel W. Rahn, M.D.
Recipient of the Harry P. Ward Chancellor's Chair
Remarks of Chancellor Rahn
September 30, 2010

I want to express my sincere thanks to those who have participated in this ceremony today and to everyone else here in attendance. I especially want to recognize Darrell and Barry, both of whom I have had the honor and privilege of working with extensively over a number (not to be counted) of years. I have learned a lot from both of you. I am a better person for knowing you and having you as not just professional colleagues but friends. Men don't make many real friends in life. You are two of mine and I thank you for that.

I have the pleasure of having a number of members of my family here as well to share this moment with me. My big brother, Ned. He will always be my big brother. I patterned myself after Ned. It was only years later—probably about the age of 30 that I was able to understand what a pain I must have been. I looked to him the way many look to their father or mother but he was (and is) only 18 months older than I am. I can't imagine how many times, Ned, you must have wanted to say—look, I don't know what I'm doing, stop idolizing me. But you didn't and I didn't and it has turned out OK. Ned, thank you for being here today. Our sister Jenny and our mother, both of whom are in Stroudsburg, PA were unable to come but I know they are with us in spirit.

Our oldest son, Jason, and his girlfriend, Marlie, and our daughter Becky thank you as well for being great young adults. You don't get to pick your parents. We've tried our best and you have made us proud. Becky's husband, Scott is on duty in the National Guard this weekend and couldn't come but wanted to. Our youngest child/adult, Zack has two new jobs and simply couldn't get time off to

come out here but he was here a few months ago and we know he is thirsting to move to Little Rock.

Lana, my wife and partner in life, thank you for sharing this journey, for putting up with me, for always being an encourager and for your willingness to take the leaps of faith we have taken at times. I am sorry it took me so long to recognize that we belong in Little Rock but we are here now.

I am humbled to be only the second person invested into the Harry Ward Chancellor's Chair. As you have already heard today, Dr. Ward was a man of great vision, intellect and personality. He was the people's chancellor. He was the consummate gentleman, academician, physician, lobbyist and incredible fund-raiser. He was beloved and respected by everyone from faculty, staff and students to community leaders and elected officials.

When he interviewed for the position of chancellor at UAMS in 1979, Dr. Ward said that two of his major priorities would be to strengthen the role of UAMS Medical Center in the state's health-care system and to increase awareness of UAMS in general. And, he did just that. He literally put UAMS on the map.

Dr. Ward helped recruit Dr. Dodd Wilson, the first holder of this chair to UAMS in 1986 to be Dean of the College of Medicine. After Dodd was named chancellor in 2001, he led growth in patient care, education, research and community outreach programs including the addition of two AHECs, and our satellite campus in Northwest Arkansas. Through his efforts UAMS received significant private and public funds to support more than \$425 million worth of major UAMS expansion projects, including the new hospital, the Psychiatric Research Institute and the recently opened expansion to the Winthrop P. Rockefeller Cancer Institute.

On a personal note, I have known and admired Dodd for several years through our work together on various national projects. Lana and I have enjoyed getting

to spend more time with him and Ginger since moving to Arkansas. And, although I didn't know Dr. Ward, Lana and I have also had the privilege of spending time with his wife, Betty Jo. She is great fun. She is traveling with her family in Europe and was unable to be here.

Being the holder of the Harry Ward Chair is an honor and a responsibility. It is my responsibility to see that the assets of this great institution are focused on the public good and that we are directing as much of our resources-- our time, our talents, our fiscal and operational resources--- as possible toward our societal purpose to improve health. UAMS is an asset for the public good, an asset for population health. We are charged to engage in activities that result in better health and better health care. These are social and economic goods. We have a great societal responsibility to lead toward a healthier future for all. It is a privilege and an honor to lead this institution.

We are in both the knowledge business and the health business. Those of you who have heard me previously have heard this before—and you will hear it again-- We conduct research and develop new knowledge in areas relevant to human health and disease. We transmit knowledge to the next generation of health professionals who are the health professions work force of the future. We apply knowledge through the provision of patient care in ways that is not routinely available in community settings. We bring innovation to the care of patients and we translate new research findings into actual improvements in health and healthcare.

Our 1350 faculty advance all areas of our mission supported by some 9000 staff. My job, the job of the Chancellor, is to create an environment that enables all of us working together to advance the mission of the institution. The ultimate measure of our success is better health, less human misery, higher quality of life, greater productivity and economic prosperity. All of these goods are accomplished by faculty and staff and imparted to students for the benefit of

patients. My job is to assure that the circumstances are present to enable them to be successful and to succeed with higher levels of effectiveness than we have in the past. That is always the goal—better tomorrow than today. Our students, our patients and literally everyone in society are the beneficiaries.

I am not going to go through the list of institutional successes but UAMS is a leading institution among leading institutions. You all have helped this institution become what it is today and will help us assure that it is of ever increasing value in the future.

There is great synergy and cross fertilization between the different areas of our mission. The synergy between research and patient care results in innovation, that between research and education results in the transmission of new knowledge to future health professionals and between patient care and education results in technical and technical competency of those in whose hands we will all place our health. This is a virtuous cycle that is self reinforcing. And it is because this, the way that we combine activities in research, education and patient care that there are no greater assets for the future of this state, region and our nation than UAMS and its sister institutions, the nation's academic health centers. I truly believe that. Our country's academic health centers are the envy of the world.

We have accomplished much but there is still much work to be done. If we are to accomplish the goal of better health for all, we not only have to focus squarely on our purpose and our performance but we also have to forge new partnerships. Health care has moved beyond the point in which we can rely on individual excellence—we need a system that performs excellently as well and one which enhances the effectiveness of those of us working within it, rather than serving as a barrier as it does at times today. New skills in team work. A broader understanding of how biology and environmental and social factors interact to affect health. An understanding of how to engage everyone in society to work collaboratively toward better health.

There is still a lot to do. I am not worried about working my way out of a job anytime soon. I thank all of you for sharing in our mission and in this event today. It truly takes all of us. Thanks again.