

## **Remarks on the Occasion of Naming of the Thomas P. Duffy Service June 1, 2016**

It is a rare moment in the history of a department that we name a medical service after a faculty member, and it is entirely fitting that we do so this evening. The decision to name a service signals broadly that a particular faculty member epitomizes the ideals we aspire to as trainees and colleagues. Tom Duffy embodies these ideals.

My earliest memory of Tom dates to the 1990s when I was junior faculty member in the Medical Intensive Care Unit and we were struggling to care for a young woman with disseminated meningococcus and purpura fulminans, which led to multiple organ failure and ischemic necrosis of her digits. Tom suggested that we use heparin to arrest her uncontrolled clotting, which was an idea that had not occurred to me. His contribution highlighted Tom's mastery of medical science, his devotion to thinking creatively in the midst of crises, and the value of his presence, which has served as a beacon of hope in countless dark and chaotic situations over decades at Yale.

I cherish the enormous breadth of Tom's interests and contributions. As editor of the New England Journal's Clinical Reasoning Series, Tom set the standard for delineating how internists should approach diagnostic dilemmas and, in doing so, illuminated and deconstructed the challenges and pitfalls of this essential process. Tom's contributions to the humanities at Yale enriches our careers and communicates the crucial message that we must support the humanities if we are to fully realize our mission as physicians.

Beyond Tom's monumental contributions as a physician and scientist, I most profoundly value what he means to our residency family. Despite his "retirement," Tom attends morning report and medical grand rounds without fail and the value of his insights is unparalleled. He is

unwaveringly kind and generous to students and residents. Moreover, with all the effort we devote now to developing trainees' communication skills it is essential to note that in this sphere, Tom is the best. He is compassionate, an exceptional listener, and an unwavering advocate for patients. We could effectively teach these communication skills to our trainees by simply asking them to watch how Tom conducts himself, and how he listens to and reassures the most frightened and vulnerable patients.

Tom's love for our residency is unbounded and his gifts will be felt for ages. I am thrilled that we have the opportunity today to enshrine his name alongside his peers in the Yale medical pantheon, including Klatskin, Peters, Donaldson, Cooney, and Beeson. Tom is truly a living legend and there is no one more deserving of the enormous honor that we bestow upon him today.