



April 15, 2020

Esteemed MMBIO graduates,

On behalf of all of the faculty and staff in the Department of Microbiology and Molecular Biology, I extend whole-hearted congratulations to you on the completion of your degree requirements and your graduation from BYU.

To graduate from the MMBIO department takes commitment and persistence. As graduates from any of our majors, Microbiology, Molecular Biology, and Medical Laboratory Science, you have learned important principles and you will continue to gain life-long skills and reservoirs of knowledge that will be beneficial throughout your lives. Many of you will go on to become major contributors in medical, dental, research, and other important fields. No matter what course you pursue in your chosen field of work, you can use your deductive reasoning, communication abilities, and research skills to accomplish any task presented you. I fully expect you will find yourself among the best prepared among your peers.

No one expected we would suffer a pandemic of such global proportions. We mourn with those that have experienced the loss of a loved one. We pray for those that are sick or are suffering in any way. We hope that all individuals that are struggling with maintaining or obtaining employment will find stable, substantial, and meaningful work. Yet in spite of all the negative, we have high hopes for the future. In great part, our hopes are high because we are sending the class of 2020 MMBIO students out into the world to make it a better place.

MMBIO graduates will be the professionals to develop the next vaccines, prepare more efficient cures, and eventually bring new hope to those that suffer from cancers, diseases, and other ailments. Our graduates are at the forefront of cutting-edge research and are always in high demand within the workforce due to the incredible skills they have acquired at BYU.

As you embark on your future endeavors, we ask that you always remember the BYU aims. You should strive to live lives that are: (1) spiritually strengthening, (2) intellectually enlarging, and (3) character building, leading to (4) lifelong learning and service. You will be blessed for the hard work you've put in while at BYU, and you'll be further blessed as you continue to make spiritual and intellectual growth a priority in your life. Many exciting opportunities await you, and we wish you every success and professional fulfillment. May God bless you as you strive to follow the example of His Son and always represent BYU well.

Sincerely,

Richard A. Robison, Ph.D.
Professor and Chair
Director, Biosafety Level-3 Laboratory