Wow! We finally did it! Nearly 100 years after Atlanta Medical College became part of Emory, the School of Medicine has a permanent home for students, faculty, and alumni. I love everything about our new building. It is a beautiful and inviting place where the past and the future reside together in traditional and wi-fi style. It is a visible sign—locally and nationally—that we have never been more committed to medical education nor more determined to be a model for training the very best physicians.

The building is an architectural gem. A new central wing connects the anatomy and physiology buildings, which first opened in 1917. Almost four times the size of the historic buildings, the enlarged complex allows us to grow our student body and make our newly minted curriculum come to life.

Several years in the making, the curriculum emphasizes active learning to create physicians who embrace healing and discovery in new and different ways to address the complex issues surrounding patients, families, and communities. Instead of focusing on large classroom lectures, the new curriculum places greater emphasis on small-group learning and interaction between students and their faculty mentors who grow and learn together during all four years of medical school. Students learn the fundamentals of science within clinical settings and are immersed in clinical experiences from the very beginning. They also benefit from experiential learning through high-tech simulation labs, realistic patient exam rooms, a dissection facility equipped with computers for instant access to information and imaging, and much more.

Given the rigors of medical education, we hope our students will feel at home in the new building, which is open to them 24/7. As they study late into the night, they just might hear the voices of students past who once serenaded the entering class from the steps of the physiology building. The time has come to raise our voices again, as we celebrate and define the future of medicine.

Sincerely,

Thomas J. Lawley, MD
Dean