

THAAALITHA Naidu Suranthiran Naidu may come from a small town in Sungai Petani but she believes in big dreams – a trait instilled in her by her parents since young. Thaalitha's biggest dream is to save lives.

In 2011, she was awarded the UCSI University Presidential Award for her academic and co-curricular achievements.

During UCSI University's 27th Convocation Ceremony that was held earlier this month, she graduated not only with her Doctor of Medicine degree but also as the valedictorian of the graduating class.

With her feet firmly planted on the ground, she acknowledged the hard work and sacrifice of the 1,508 graduates and the support of their parents and lecturers.

Thaalitha is thankful that her three clinical years at the Terengganu campus have given her the opportunity to attend to and learn from the locals. This is part of UCSI's efforts in providing its medical students with as much hands-on experience as possible.

Pursuing her dreams



Valedictorian Thaalitha Naidu Suranthiran Naidu thanking her parents for helping her realise her dreams of becoming a doctor.

The aim is to ensure a smooth transition from being a university student to a houseman, medical officer and finally to an effective and well-trained doctor.

"We were lucky to be there as we were given the chance to practise supervised procedures as opposed to being in hospitals in major cities that usually have many medical students," she says.

Studying in the Terengganu Campus also gave Thaalitha and her classmates the advantage of being away from the distractions of city life.

As medicine is a programme that requires plenty of focus and determination, the quiet and serene location helped them stay focused on their studies.

In addition to the hospital-based clinical trainings, students are able to gain further practice by using the facilities available in the Clinical

Skills Lab that is located on campus during the weekends.

The Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences at the university has also subscribed to First Consult and Clinical Keys, which are online clinical decision support resources that make searching for clinical information from respected medical textbooks or journals easier and faster.

Students are able to use both resources for free. The university's library is also fully electronic and students are able to access a vast range of international medical textbooks and journals.

The faculty's research standing is well respected, both locally and internationally. This year, it received research grants amounting to more than RM200,000 from the Ministry

of Education for its notable work.

On the international front, the faculty has hosted and supervised a student from the University Medical Centre of Groningen (UMCG), The Netherlands for a five-month research attachment.

UMCG is one of the largest hospitals in the Netherlands and its medical programme is ranked third best in The Netherlands by the Consumer Guide to Higher Education.

Thaalitha looks forward to making a difference in the lives of her patients by becoming a capable, unwavering and compassionate doctor.

■ For more information, call 03-9101 8882 or visit www.ucsiuniversity.edu.my/onlineenquiry