

## A Selfless Gift

By Carol Chiu

I believe the most meaningful gifts are the ones that become a part of us. They are the ones we let into our minds and our hearts that in turn, mold us and change us. For example, a gift of *travel* can change us with a new world view. A gift of *laughter* can lift our spirits when we feel low. A gift of *wisdom* can steer us to make better decisions. These gifts that become a part of us help us grow, they become weaved into the fabric of who we are, and they become the kind of treasure that never wastes away.

Your loved ones who have so graciously donated their bodies have given us many such gifts.

Your loved ones have given us the gift of **knowledge**, which is so powerful. This knowledge will comprise the foundation for our future education, and it will serve us as we hope to serve others.

Your loved ones have given us **the thrill of discovery**. In lab, we called them Eureka moments – a time where you felt enlightened by the things you saw. Most of the times, these moments involved seeing simple things that we had heard about or read about for so long but never really knew what they looked like.

Your loved ones have given us new eyes **to appreciate the human body** as an amazing piece of machinery. Though I may not be able to fully appreciate cars the way some people can, I have a new appreciation for the way I can flex my fingers and toes.

Your loved ones have given us a **model of generosity** to which we can aspire. Our bodies are the most personal possessions we have, and to say, “Take my most personal possession. Use it and learn” is an incredible act of selflessness. Being entrusted with something so precious has taught us about privilege and the responsibility we as future physicians must have in accepting such privilege.

Please be encouraged by all your loved ones have given us – gifts of knowledge, discovery, appreciation, and selflessness. Their gifts have been a keystone in our education, and your loved ones have left us with a legacy of learning and selflessness for which my colleagues and I are incredibly grateful.

Thank you.