Mr Mark Goh (top) was the first patient to organise the 2013 year-end camp run annually by NUS for children with chronic illness. PHOTO: COURTESY OF MARK GOH

Mr Mark Goh endured years of painful treatment for kidney disease until a successful transplant at 18, with a kidney from his mother. Studying medicine with no biology background is tough, but he is determined to make it. ST PHOTO, TIMOTHY DAVID

Dr Wong Kim Hoh
Senior Writer

Mark Goh is relieved, having just finished his final exams as a first-year student at Duke NUS Medical School. "It's been tough," he says of his "Freshman" year at Singapore's First American-style graduate entry medical school.

"All my classmates have degrees in different disciplines but most also have a background in biology. I don't so I have to work harder. I didn't know how tough it was until I got here," says the 26-year-old physics graduate from Nanyang Technological University (NTU).

Although the going is tough, Mr Goh feels he is where he belongs.

"I have been preparing for this job my whole life. When I was 16 I was just making money for other people," says Mr Goh, who worked for several months as a data analyst in a company specialising in diagnostic imaging.

"But when I become a doctor, I will be helping people directly."