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Dear Graduates,

It is a true privilege to celebrate this milestone with you. Today marks not only the completion of your time at Drexel University College of Medicine, but the beginning of all that you will contribute to the world beyond it.



Throughout your journey, you have shown extraordinary dedication, compassion and curiosity. You have cared for others, advanced discovery and supported one another through challenges that demanded both strength and adaptability. Those experiences have shaped you into the kind of professionals our world needs — thoughtful, skilled and deeply committed to making a difference.

As you move forward, I hope you carry with you a sense of pride in all you have accomplished and confidence in all you are capable of achieving. Whether you are caring for patients, pursuing research or breaking new ground in your field, your work will matter and it will touch lives in ways you may never fully see.

You leave Drexel as graduates, but you become part of a global alumni community. I encourage you to stay connected and serve as ambassadors of the College of Medicine. The contributions you have made here have helped define our institution, and all that you achieve moving forward will continue to build upon that legacy.

With pride and great optimism, I congratulate you and wish you purpose, fulfillment and success in all that lies ahead.

Sincerely,

Antonio Merlo, PhD  
President

*As a courtesy to our graduates and guests, please silence all phones and electronic devices during the Commencement ceremony.*

### *Academic Procession*

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Pomp and Circumstance March No. 1  
*Edward Elgar*

### *National Anthem*

---

Star-Spangled Banner  
*Francis Scott Key*

### *Opening Remarks*

---

Leon McCrea II, MD, MPH  
*Deborah J. Tuttle, MD and John P. Piper, MD Vice Dean  
for Educational Affairs  
Associate Professor of Family, Community and  
Preventive Medicine*

### *Remarks by the Dean*

---

Charles B. Cairns, MD  
*Walter H. and Leonore Annenberg Dean, College of Medicine  
Senior Vice President of Medical Affairs and Senior Vice  
President of Drexel Health Operations, Drexel University  
Professor of Medicine and Emergency Medicine*

### *Welcome*

---

Antonio Merlo, PhD  
*President, Drexel University*

### *Greetings*

---

Stan Silverman '69, '74  
*Vice Chair, Drexel University Board of Trustees*

### *Recognition of Academic and Teaching Awards*

---

Charles B. Cairns

### *Citation of Fifty-Year Graduates 1976-2026*

---

Charles B. Cairns

### *Conferring of Honorary Degree*

---

Antonio Merlo  
Charles B. Cairns

### *Doctor of Science*

---

Katalin Karikó, PhD

### *Commencement Address*

---

Katalin Karikó

### *Charge to the Graduates*

---

Charles B. Cairns

### *Conferring of Graduate Degrees*

---

Antonio Merlo  
Elisabeth J. Van Bockstaele, PhD  
*Senior Vice Provost, Graduate Education, Enrollment and  
Strategy, Office of Graduate Studies, Provost Office,  
Drexel University  
Dean Emeritus, Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences  
and Professional Studies  
Professor of Pharmacology and Physiology*

Jed Shumsky, PhD  
*Senior Associate Dean of Educational and Academic  
Affairs, Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences  
and Professional Studies  
Professor of Neurobiology and Anatomy*

### *Investiture*

---

Anita L. Gaurnier-Hausser, PhD  
*Director, Interdisciplinary Health Sciences Program  
Assistant Professor, Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences and  
Professional Studies*

Michael R. Nonnemacher, PhD  
*Director, Division of Biomedical Science Programs, Graduate  
School of Biomedical Sciences and Professional Studies  
Professor of Microbiology and Immunology*

Robert C. Sterling, PhD  
*Director, Division of Interdisciplinary and Career-Oriented  
Programs, Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences and  
Professional Studies  
Director, Clinical Research Programs, Graduate School of  
Biomedical Sciences and Professional Studies  
Professor of Pharmacology and Physiology*

### *Administration of the Graduate Student Oath*

---

Elisabeth J. Van Bockstaele

### *Conferring of the Doctor of Medicine Degrees*

---

Antonio Merlo  
Charles B. Cairns  
Leon McCrea II  
Bisan A. Salhi, MD, PhD  
*Senior Associate Dean for Student Affairs  
Associate Professor of Emergency Medicine*  
Amy C. Fuchs, MD  
*Associate Dean of Student Affairs for Career Advising  
Associate Professor of Medicine*  
Stacy B. Ellen, DO  
*Assistant Dean for Student Affairs  
Associate Professor of Clinical Pediatrics*  
Mary Lynn Sealey, MD  
*Assistant Dean for Student Affairs  
Professor of Clinical Medicine*

*Investiture*

Pollianne Ward Bianchi, MD '10

*Clinical Assistant Professor of Emergency Medicine*

Anthony A. Donato Jr., MD, MHPE

*Professor of Medicine*

*Regional Assistant Dean, College of Medicine at Tower Health*

Wei Du, MD

*Professor and Academic Chair of Psychiatry*

*Senior Vice President, Academic Affairs, Tower Health*

Dana C. Farabaugh, MD '03

*Senior Associate Dean, Undergraduate Medical Education*

*Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology*

Erum N. Ilyas, MD '01, MBE

*Associate Professor and Interim Academic Chair of Dermatology*

Lorenzo Rafer, MD

*Assistant Professor of Anesthesiology and Perioperative Medicine*

*Administration of the Physician's Pledge*

Seema Baranwal, MD

*William Maul Measey Chair in Medical Education*

*Vice Dean of Institutional Effectiveness*

*Professor of Clinical Medicine*

*Military Oath for MD Officers*

Richard J. Hamilton, MD '87, MBA

*Professor and Academic Chair of Emergency Medicine*

*Induction Into the Alumni Association*

Edward Siegel, MD '12, MBA

*Former President, Alumni Association*

*Graduate Remarks*

Aboli Asman Kesbhat, MD

*Class of 2026*

*Farewell*

Bisan A. Salhi

*Recessional*

Selected Works

*Macebearer*

Robert L. Rosenberg, PhD

*Professor of Pharmacology and Physiology*

*Faculty Marshals*

Homaira Azim, MD, PhD

*Associate Professor of Neurobiology and Anatomy*

Bill Frank, DC

*Associate Professor of Neurobiology and Anatomy*

Kathryn Veazey, PhD, MS

*Assistant Professor of Neurobiology and Anatomy*

Anh-Thu N. Vu, MD, MS

*Associate Professor of Neurology*

*Student Marshals*

Immanuelle Azebe-Osime

Annie Curran

Eimile Cusenza

Ishani Doddupla

Nikki Holmes

Esther Kwarteng

Jaclyn Lo

Michael Rogan

Rachel Safo

Albert Tran

*All degrees awarded at this Commencement  
carry an official conferral date of **May 8, 2026**.*

## Graduate Student Oath

I will represent my profession honorably by conducting myself and my professional endeavors in a manner that is above reproach. I pledge never to allow financial gain or ambition to cloud my judgment. I will pursue truth and create knowledge for the greater good, but never to the detriment of others. I will maintain scientific integrity in all my work.

I will acknowledge and honor the contributions of those who have preceded me and will commit myself to lifelong learning. I will show compassion, embrace diversity and uphold excellence so that I become a worthy role model deserving of respect by all.

## World Medical Association Declaration of Geneva

### **The Physician's Pledge**

AS A MEMBER OF THE MEDICAL PROFESSION:

I SOLEMNLY PLEDGE to dedicate my life to the service of humanity;

THE HEALTH AND WELL-BEING OF MY PATIENT will be my first consideration;

I WILL RESPECT the autonomy and dignity of my patient;

I WILL MAINTAIN the utmost respect for human life;

I WILL NOT PERMIT considerations of age, disease or disability, creed, ethnic origin, gender, nationality, political affiliation, race, sexual orientation, social standing, or any other factor to intervene between my duty and my patient;

I WILL RESPECT the secrets that are confided in me, even after the patient has died;

I WILL PRACTICE my profession with conscience and dignity and in accordance with good medical practice;

I WILL FOSTER the honor and noble traditions of the medical profession;

I WILL GIVE to my teachers, colleagues, and students the respect and gratitude that is their due;

I WILL SHARE my medical knowledge for the benefit of the patient and the advancement of healthcare;

I WILL ATTEND TO my own health, well-being, and abilities in order to provide care of the highest standard;

I WILL NOT USE my medical knowledge to violate human rights and civil liberties, even under threat;

I MAKE THESE PROMISES solemnly, freely, and upon my honor.



## Citation of College of Medicine Fifty-Year Graduates, 1976-2026

### Hahnemann Medical College

#### Class of 1976

Jay Lawrence Adler, MD  
Richard Adler, MD  
Richard William Albert, MD  
Sharon A. Ashley, MD  
John S. Aumiller, MD  
Mehdi Balakhani, MD  
Suhail M.K. Banister, MD  
Robert F. Barnes, MD \*  
Steven Jon Barrer, MD  
Sara T. Beatrice, PhD  
Stuart Howard Berezin, MD  
Steven Block, MD  
Franklin A. Bontempo, MD  
Laura E. Boyd, MD  
Richard Jeffrey Brauer, MD  
Toby Judith Briskin, MD  
David G. Burkett, MD \*  
Rachel C. Callaghan, MD  
Thomas H. Cawthern, MD \*  
Richard L. Chalal, MD  
Richard A. Chazkel, MD  
James D. Chepko, MD  
Roman W. Chornodolsky, MD  
Thomas J. Ciotola, MD  
Ken Eugene Crider, MD  
Mark S. Davis, MD  
Olivia T. DiMaggio, MD  
David John Dula, MD  
Amy Early, MD  
William C. Eckroat, MD \*  
Joel K. Edelstein, MD  
Arnold Ellis, MD \*  
David T. Estroff, MD  
Barry Joel Evans, MD  
Ella S. Feldman, MD  
Jeffrey N. Feldman, MD  
Rose Fitchett, MD \*  
Arthur D. Forman, MD  
Martin L. Fox, MD  
Jamison K. Francis, MD \*  
Robert Alan Fried, MD  
Bart J. Friedman, MD  
Albert Gerald Frost, MD  
James P. Fullin, MD \*  
Kathleen M. Gekowski, MD  
Anthony M. Giordano Jr., MD  
Joseph A. Giordano, MD  
Larry H. Goldberg, MD  
William J. Goldman, MD  
Mark R. Goldstein, MD  
Robert C. Goldszer, MD  
George B. Goodman, MD  
Keith E. Grau, MD  
Charles S. Greenberg, MD  
Michael E. Greer, MD  
Pamela J. Greer, MD  
Paul T. Gross, MD  
Kevin C. Hails, MD  
Roger Charles Hall, MD  
Kenneth R. Harm Jr., MD  
Christopher F. Harris, MD  
Dena Ellen Harris, MD

Charles H. Hewitt Jr., MD \*  
R. Scott Hoffer, MD  
Eric D. Hoover, MD  
John T. Hopkins, MD \*  
Richard Mark Houck, MD  
Patricia Lee Irving, MD  
Fred D. Jacks Jr., MD \*  
Melvin L. Jackson, MD \*  
Timothy F. Jenkins, MD  
Mariell Jessup, MD  
William F. Kilpatrick, MD  
Lynn Darden Kramer, MD  
Joseph W. Krotec II, MD  
Francis L. Lally Jr., MD  
Linda S. Lavin-Leska, MD  
David F. Lawless, MD  
James D. Lebedda, MD  
William E. Lehner, MD  
Norbert W. Leska, MD  
Michael Alan Levine, MD  
Dennis M. Manning, MD \*  
R. Donald McAfee, MD  
Jeffrey J. McCartney, MD  
Deborah K. McCurdy, MD  
Gerald Erb Miller, MD  
Ivan Leroy Miller Jr., MD \*  
Neil S. Mogil, MD \*  
Frank J. Mondschein, MD  
Robert F. Mowery, MD  
Lawrence S. Nagle, MD  
Louis M. Nardella, MD \*  
Richard Netsky, MD  
Anthony Nicassio, MD \*  
James A. Nudelman, MD  
John James O'Hara Jr., MD  
Andrew James Olex, MD  
Robin Levine Pack, MS  
Artist Lesley Parker, MD \*  
Thomas C. Perry, MD  
Randolph R. Peto, MD, MPH  
Robert C. Petrucelli, MD  
William W. Phillips, MD  
Leonard M. Pogach, MD  
William J. Pogoda, MD  
John A. Price, MD  
Roger G. Rank, PhD  
Jeffrey D. Raub, MD \*  
David M. Ritchie, PhD  
Paul Ivan Roda, MD \*  
Robert J. Rosen, MD  
Robert A. Rosensweig, MD  
Gerald W. Rothacker Jr., MD  
Rosemary Ryan, MD  
Anthony C. Santopolo, MD  
Anne L. Saris, MD  
Franklin H. Scarlett, MD  
Eric Alan Schaff, MD  
Charles S. Scharf, MD \*  
Gary F. Schell, MD  
Stephen M. Schleicher, MD  
Donald R. Schowalter, MD  
Harvey Joel Schwartz, MD  
Thomas F. Scotton, MD  
Stephen B. Seager, MD  
Nestor Ivan Sendzik, MD

William M. Shapiro, MD  
Bahman Sholevar, MD  
Margaret M. Simcox, MD  
Michael S. Slanina, MD  
John Paul Slovak Jr., MD  
Albert T. Smith Jr., MD  
Arnold James Solof, MD  
Joseph L. Spadoni, MD  
Janet S. Specter, MD  
Terry L. Stake, MD  
Alfred N. Stanford, MD  
Arthur L. Stokes, MD  
Jonathon C. Sullum, MD  
William Z. Sun, MD  
Edmund T. Suski, MD  
Frederick R. Taylor Jr., MD \*  
Bram Joseph Trauner, MD  
Lindsley D. Van Der Veer Jr., MD  
Mark Ford Victor, MD  
Dominick Vitolo, MD  
James Daniel Walders, MD  
Pamela C. Walders, MD  
Marsha T. Wallace, MD  
Ronald J. Weber, MD  
Joseph T. West, MD  
Alan Wexlar, MD  
J. Michael Whitaker, MD \*  
David G. Williams, MD  
Barbara L. Wolfhope, MD  
Larry Allen Wolk, MD  
James Arthur Young, MD  
Paul W. Zarutskie, MD

### Medical College of Pennsylvania

#### Class of 1976

Laila Walji Alidina, MD, PhD \*  
Thomas Edward Aretz, MD  
Richard Neal Ash, MD \*  
Allan Francis Avbel, MS, MD  
Frances Jane Barton, MD  
Dagmara Elga Bastiks, MD, JD  
Richard E. Berger, MD  
Karen Brinton, MD  
Judith Bob Bronstein, MD  
Linda Mildred Brown, MD  
Martha Jo Brumbaugh, MD  
Lawrence J. Carley Jr., MD \*  
Daniel Emmett Cassidy, MD  
Francis V. Cavoto, MD \*  
Jeffrey S. Chase, MD  
Frank Louis D'Amelio, MD  
Anna Theresa De Novellis, MD \*  
Karen Lipinski Deasey, MD  
Nicholas C. DiDomenico Jr., MD \*  
Constance Kohn Dougherty, MD  
Janet Mattie Dowis, MD  
Charlotta Lois Eaton, MD \*  
Wendy S. Edwards, MD  
Gail Eisenberg, MD  
Mitchell Eisenberg, MD  
Stephen Brent Feinberg, MD \*  
Mary Sarah Ferguson, MD  
Robert Alan Figlin, MD  
Alan Lanier Gabbard, MD  
Stuart Scott Genser, MD  
Carol R. Gerson, MD  
Eileen Goldman, MD  
Marjorie Ann Green, MD  
Dennis Joseph Grous, MD \*  
Edward A. Hackie Jr., MD  
William Roy Hearter Jr., MD  
Sandra Hullett, MD \*  
Sharon Elizabeth Isaacs, MD  
Mary Ann E. Keenan, MD  
William Thomas Kelley, MD  
Gale Greeley Kempner, MD  
Marianne Klugheit, MD  
Deborah Kay Konietzko, MD  
Kenneth S. Kosik, MA, MD  
John Joseph Ladden, MD \*  
Marc William Levin, MD  
Sanan Levin, MD  
George W. Lighty Jr., MD, PhD \*  
Kenneth W. Lilik, MD  
Carol Ann Ludolph, MD  
James Jeffrey Malatack, MD  
Cynthia Glover McCormick, MD  
Hope Hayden Meo, MD \*  
Helayne Gail Merkin, MD \*  
Melody Ann Morrow, MD  
Jeffrey Allan Naiditch, MD  
Stuart Allan Narrod, MD, PhD \*  
Marcia R. Nisenbaum, MD  
Joseph C. Petrini, MD  
Nancy J. Pickering, MD  
Barbara Cohen Polinsky, MD  
Sharon Polsky, MS  
Dennis Peter Price, MD  
Jude Damian Rotherth, MD  
Christopher Scandinaro, MD  
Pamela Phyllis Scott, MD  
Adrienne M. Smith, MD  
Maria B. Smith, MD  
Patricia A. Southworth, MD \*  
Marjorie E. Starkman, MD  
Susan Deborah Stein, MD  
Mark Edward Steinman, MD \*  
Katrina Streiff, MD \*  
Angela Stupi, MD  
Ellen L. Sullivan, MD  
John Charles Timmes, MD  
Dorothy M. Turnbull, MD  
Marguerite Vigliani, MD  
Glenn H. Weissman, MD  
Ilene Ceil Weitz, MD  
Kathlene White, MD  
Karen A. Williams, MD  
Margaret M. Wolak, MD  
Albert T. Yenchick, MD  
Arlene J. Zaloznik, MD  
Ann Clarice Zaydon, MD

DOCTOR OF SCIENCE

---

**Katalin Karikó, PhD***Groundbreaking biochemist and Nobel laureate*

Photo courtesy of István Sahin-Tóth

**F**or four decades, Katalin Karikó's research has focused on RNA-mediated mechanisms with the ultimate goal of developing in vitro-transcribed mRNA for protein therapy. She investigated RNA-mediated immune activation and co-discovered that nucleoside modifications suppress immunogenicity of RNA, which widened the therapeutic potentials of mRNA. She is a co-inventor on mRNA-related patents for application of non-immunogenic, nucleoside-modified RNA for vaccines and therapies, 22 of which are granted by the United States.

In 2006, Dr. Karikó co-founded RNARx, a company dedicated to the development of nucleoside-modified mRNA for therapy, serving as CEO from 2006 to 2013. Her patent, co-invented with Drew Weissman, MD, PhD, was used to create the FDA-approved COVID-19 mRNA vaccines by BioNTech/Pfizer and Moderna. From 2013 to 2022, she served as vice president and then senior vice president of BioNTech SE.

Dr. Karikó currently serves as a professor at the University of Szeged, Hungary, where she received her PhD in biochemistry in 1982. She is also an adjunct professor at the Perelman School of Medicine of the University of Pennsylvania, where she worked for 24 years.

Her pioneering achievements have earned Dr. Karikó many prestigious awards, including the Japan Prize for outstanding achievements in science and technology, the Louisa Gross Horwitz Prize from Columbia University, the Tang Prize in Biopharmaceutical Science, the Paul Ehrlich and Ludwig Darmstaedter Prize for research in medicine, the Canada Gairdner Award for outstanding discoveries or contributions to medical science, the Breakthrough Prize in Life Sciences, the Lasker-DeBakey Clinical Medical Research Award, and the 2023 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine. Her daughter, Susan Francia, is a two-time Olympic champion rower.

For her vast contributions to the field of biochemistry, Drexel is proud to confer upon Katalin Karikó, PhD, the degree of Doctor of Science, *honoris causa*.

## DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY DEGREES

*(The graduate's dissertation title and mentor are indicated.)***Lindsay Nicole Barger**

“Dissecting the Tumor-Immune Landscape of Melanoma in People Living With HIV: Insights Into Myeloid-T Cell Crosstalk and Immune Suppression”

*Mentor: Gabriele Romano, PhD*

MICROBIOLOGY AND IMMUNOLOGY

**Rachel Elizabeth Berman**

“Defining Novel Cas:sgRNA Pairings Most Effective at Targeting the Integrated HIV-1 Genome”

*Mentor: Brian Wigdahl, PhD*

MOLECULAR AND CELL BIOLOGY AND GENETICS

**Emily Nicole Bitsko**

“Improving Vaccine Efficacy in Aging: Adenosine Deaminase Reverses Age-Related Immune Dysfunction in a *Clostridioides difficile* Vaccination and Challenge Model”

*Mentor: Michele Kutzler, PhD*

MICROBIOLOGY AND IMMUNOLOGY

**Alexis Brantly**

“Establishing a Model of HIV Infection in Macrophages to Assess HIV/HBV Co-infection Driven Liver Disease”

*Mentor: Michael R. Nonnemacher, PhD*

MICROBIOLOGY AND IMMUNOLOGY

**Brody Allen Carpenter**

“The PACAP System and Its Effects on Ethanol Consumption: Changes Between Non-dependent and Dependent States”

*Mentor: Jessica R. Barson, PhD*

NEUROSCIENCE

**Kendra L. Case**

“Dissecting Cellular Models and Tau Etiology in Gulf War Illness”

*Mentor: Peter W. Baas, PhD*

NEUROSCIENCE

**Mackenzie Collins**

“Near Full-Length HIV-1 Provirus Analysis for Characterizing Intactness and Variability in the Viral Reservoir”

*Mentor: Michael R. Nonnemacher, PhD*

MICROBIOLOGY AND IMMUNOLOGY

**Christina Marie Curran-Alfaro**

“The Effects of Low-Dose Ethanol Exposure on Reward-Value Guided Behavior”

*Mentor: Jacqueline Barker, PhD*

NEUROSCIENCE

**Elizabeth Josephine D’Lauro**

“The Vancomycin Sensing Mechanisms of VanS Proteins in Vancomycin-Resistant *Enterococci*”

*Mentor: Patrick J. Loll, PhD*

BIOCHEMISTRY OF HEALTH AND DISEASE

**Olivia Sumaya El Naggari**

“Exploiting Tumor Microenvironment-Mediated Mechanisms of Therapeutic Resistance in Ras/MAPK-Altered Solid Cancers”

*Mentor: Gabriele Romano, PhD*

MOLECULAR AND CELL BIOLOGY AND GENETICS

**Julia Kathleen Farnan**

“Investigating the Role of Astrocyte Reactivity in Melanoma Brain Metastasis”

*Mentor: Joshua Jackson, PhD*

PHARMACOLOGY AND PHYSIOLOGY

**Simran Kaur Gill**

“Ischemia-Induced Ubiquitination of GLT-1 Mediates Aberrant Trafficking and Impaired Glutamate Uptake”

*Mentor: Andréia C.K. Mortensen, PhD*

PHARMACOLOGY AND PHYSIOLOGY

**Adam Aaron Hall**

“Long-Term Connectivity Between Spinal Cord Tissue Transplants and the Injured Phrenic Motor Network”

*Mentor: Liang Oscar Qiang, MD, PhD*

NEUROSCIENCE

**Arron Franklin Hall**

“Cortical-Hippocampal Dynamics During Sharp-Wave Ripples Evolve Across Learning”

*Mentor: Dong Wang, PhD*

NEUROSCIENCE

**Benjamin Samuel Haslund-Gourley §**

“Glycosylation of Immunoglobulins: Characterizing Functional Responses to Bacterial and Viral Infections in Humans”

*Mentor: Mary Ann Comunale, EdD*

MICROBIOLOGY AND IMMUNOLOGY

**Brianna Grace Jarboe**

“Analysis and Prediction of E2 Enzyme-E3 Ligase Pairings Using AlphaFold-Modeled Ternary Complex Structures”

*Mentor: Roland L. Dunbrack Jr., PhD*

MOLECULAR AND CELL BIOLOGY AND GENETICS

**Geena K. John**

“Calcium Signaling and CREB Coordinate Astrocyte Metabolism”

*Mentor: Joshua Jackson, PhD*

PHARMACOLOGY AND PHYSIOLOGY

**Kenneth Min Kim**

“Immune Checkpoint-Presenting Granular Hydrogels for T Cell Immune Modulation”

*Mentor: Christopher B. Rodell, PhD*

MICROBIOLOGY AND IMMUNOLOGY

**Andrew Braden Lockhart**

“Investigating Long Proprioceptive Neurons and Circuit Reorganization Post Spinal Cord Injury Using Neurorobotics”

*Mentor: Simon Danner, PhD*

NEUROSCIENCE

**Jenna Rose McGrath**

“Medial Deep Dorsal Glycinergic Interneurons as a Target for Improving Locomotion Following Spinal Cord Injury”

*Mentor: Kimberly Dougherty, PhD*

NEUROSCIENCE

**Victoria Marie Mischley §**

“Rational Design of Molecular Glue Degraders via Computational Prediction of E3 Ligase Interactions”

*Mentor: John Karanicolas, PhD*

MOLECULAR AND CELL BIOLOGY AND GENETICS

**Alyssa Bree Monteleone-Haught**

“BAP1 Deficiency Supports Selenoprotein-Mediated Survival in Uveal Melanoma Liver Metastases”

*Mentor: Edward Hartsough, PhD*

MOLECULAR AND CELL BIOLOGY AND GENETICS

**Anthony Moreno-Sanchez**

“Dendritic Integration of Spatial and Object Features in a *Drosophila* Sensorimotor Circuit”

*Mentors: Jessica Ausborn, PhD, and Catherine von Reyn, PhD*

NEUROSCIENCE

**Theodore T. Nguyen**

“Improving the Use of AURKA and WEE1 Inhibitors in Head and Neck Squamous Cell Carcinoma”

*Mentor: Erica Golemis, PhD*

MOLECULAR AND CELL BIOLOGY AND GENETICS

**Ikechukwu Chidiebere Nwankwo**

“Polyphosphate and Pyrophosphate Metabolism in *Plasmodium falciparum*”

*Mentor: Hangjun Ke, PhD*

MICROBIOLOGY AND IMMUNOLOGY

**Ijeoma Chiamaka Precious Okoye**

“Exploring the Native Mitochondrial Structural Landscape With Functional Characterization of a Critical Mitochondrial Complex in Malaria-Causing Parasites”

*Mentor: Akhil B. Vaidya, PhD*

MICROBIOLOGY AND IMMUNOLOGY

**Abigail Patricia Onufer**

“The Differential Roles of Type I and Type III Interferon Signaling in the Neonatal Response to Influenza Virus Infection”

*Mentor: Alison J. Carey, MD*

MICROBIOLOGY AND IMMUNOLOGY

**Oluwatofunmi Oteju**

“Defining Cellular and Molecular Mechanisms Driving Cocaine-Mediated Modulation of HIV Replication in Human iPSC-Derived CNS Macrophage Models”

*Mentor: Peter J. Gaskill, PhD*

PHARMACOLOGY AND PHYSIOLOGY

**Yetunde Eburnlomo Oyende**

“Mechanistic Insights Into the Regulation of Pro-metastatic IL-1 $\beta$  Expression by Androgen Receptor in Prostate Cancer Cells”

*Mentor: Alessandro Fatatis, MD, PhD*

PHARMACOLOGY AND PHYSIOLOGY

**Julie McCulley Quinlan**

“Lived Experiences of Parents and Caregivers of Children With Infantile Torticollis: A Phenomenological Study”

*Mentor: Gregory Benjamin, PhD*

BIOMEDICINE

**Swaksha Rachuri §**

“Mutational Analysis of an Antimalarial Drug Target, PfATP4”

*Mentor: Akhil B. Vaidya, PhD*

MICROBIOLOGY AND IMMUNOLOGY

**Deepa M. Reddy**

“Postoperative Pain Attenuation by Macrophage-Derived Small Extracellular Vesicles Requires Monocyte-Dependent Immunomodulation”

*Mentor: Seena Ajit, PhD*

PHARMACOLOGY AND PHYSIOLOGY

**River Sioux Rell**

“Dual Function of Mitochondrial Complex III in *Plasmodium falciparum*”

*Mentor: Akhil B. Vaidya, PhD*

MOLECULAR AND CELL BIOLOGY AND GENETICS

**Flaviane Nunes da Silva**

“Targeting AURKA to Overcome EGFR Inhibitor Resistance in Head and Neck Squamous Cell Carcinomas”

*Mentor: Erica Golemis, PhD*

MOLECULAR AND CELL BIOLOGY AND GENETICS

**Courtney G. Wallace**

“Exploring Mechanisms of HIV Control and RUNX1 Directed Modulation of Viral Activity in Macrophage Models”

*Mentor: Zachary Klase, PhD*

MOLECULAR AND CELL BIOLOGY AND GENETICS

**Evangeline Morgan Williams**

“Gene Expression Networks and Molecular Pathways Underlying Biofilm Formation in *Haemophilus influenzae*”

*Mentor: Joshua Chang Mell, PhD*

MICROBIOLOGY AND IMMUNOLOGY

**Mariah Jade Wulf**

“The Role of KCC2 in Sympathetic Dysfunction Following High-Level Spinal Cord Injury”

*Mentor: Veronica Tom, PhD*

NEUROSCIENCE

**Ruxu Zhai**

“Mechanistic Role of CX3CR1 Surface Expression in Driving Metastatic Progression of Prostate Cancer”

*Mentor: Alessandro Fatatis, MD, PhD*

PHARMACOLOGY AND PHYSIOLOGY

MASTER'S DEGREES

(The graduate's thesis title and advisor are indicated, if a thesis was required. All degrees are Master of Science, unless otherwise indicated.)

DIVISION OF BIOMEDICAL SCIENCE PROGRAMS

*Biochemistry of Health and Disease*

**Gihan Ossam Loutfi Mohamed**

"Profiling DNA Damage Response in Lymphocytes From BRCA2 Heterozygote Carriers: Implications for Cancer Risk Assessment"  
Mentor: Sanjeevani Arora, PhD

*Cancer Biology*

**Kevin M. Hughley II**

"The Role of SLC7A11 in Regulating Breast Cancer Brain Metastasis"  
Mentor: Mauricio Reginato, PhD

**Vidula Shantilal Jadhav**

"Oncogenic GNAS-Induced Proliferation Is Dependent on MAPK Signaling in Pancreatic Ductal Organoids"  
Mentor: Ridhdhi Desai, PhD

**Susana Angelica Chantal Kontor**

"PSGL-1 Signaling in CD8+ T Cells Is a Key Driver of Impaired Anti-tumor Immunity in Cutaneous Melanoma"  
Mentor: Jenna Hope, PhD

**Olivia Williams**

*Microbiology and Immunology*

**Amanda Danishanko**

"Detecting and Quantifying Reactive Oxygen Species Generated by Non-thermal Plasma Using Colorimetric Indicators"  
Mentor: Fred Krebs, PhD

**Samuel E. Krause**

**Kevin Lu**

**Armoni Alexis Mayes**

*Molecular and Cell Biology and Genetics*

**Temidayo Abosedede Adegbenro**

"Optimization of Electroporation Procedure for OG1RF *E. faecalis* to Study VanRSB Activation Using VanRSB-GFP Reporter Construct"  
Mentor: Patrick J. Loll, PhD

**Allie Morgan Bradley**

"Discovery of Antibiotics From Anaerobic Gut Microbiome Bacteria"  
Mentor: Joris Beld, PhD

**Lorelei Daisy Brown**

"Investigating HIV-1-Driven Immunologic Changes Impacting Comorbid Pancreatic Ductal Adenocarcinoma"  
Mentors: Michael R. Nonnemacher, PhD, and Jenna Hope, PhD

**Zoe Nicole Coutu**

"Elucidating the Mechanism of lncRNA SCHLAP1 in Prostate Cancer"  
Mentor: Srinivas Somarowthu, PhD

**Sabina Knox**

"Developing a Distinct Profile of Senescent Astrocytes"  
Mentor: Christian Sell, PhD

**Christopher Miranda**

"Developing a Nuclear Run-on Assay to Study Transcription-Genome Organization Coupling"  
Mentor: Yu Liu, PhD

**Erik Michael Schubert**

"Modeling the Cooperative Effects of GNASR201C, KRASG12V and TP53R175H in Human Pancreatic Ductal Epithelial Cells"  
Mentor: Ridhdhi Desai, PhD

**Jeel Piyush Shah**

"DDX11 as a Potential Therapeutic Target in Esophageal Cancer via Replication Stress"  
Mentor: Eishi Noguchi, PhD

**Anagha Shringarpure**

"Understanding Oncogenic GNAS-Driven Signaling in Pancreatic Ductal Organoids"  
Mentor: Ridhdhi Desai, PhD

**Nahia Urturi Ortiz**

"Investigating the Impact of CRISPR Editing in Different Cell Types"  
Mentors: Brian Wigdahl, PhD, and Michael R. Nonnemacher, PhD

*Neuroscience*

**Natasha Bukreska**

"Tau Signaling in Injured Spinal Cord"  
Mentor: Tatiana Bezudnaya, PhD

**Arthur Kendall Faunce Burns**

"Glutamate Transporter Modulation in Morphine-Conditioned Place Preference: Implications for Drug-Specific Mechanisms in Substance Use Disorders"  
Mentor: Andréia C.K. Mortensen, PhD

**Sierra Arie Coleman**

**Ashraful Islam**

**Kieran Morrisey**

"Synaptic and Molecular Mechanisms Underlying Depression-Like Behavior in Female Rats Following Repetitive Mild Traumatic Brain Injury"  
Mentor: Ramesh Raghupathi, PhD

**Gabriel Vuotto Paschall**

"Directed Generation and Functional Characterization of Human Locus Coeruleus Organoids"  
Mentor: Liang Oscar Qiang, MD, PhD

**Jana Smuts**

**Akshaya Sridharan**

**Elizaveta Valovatsky**

**Kylie Volksdorf**

"HIV and Cocaine Exposure Disrupt Stress Systems and Cocaine Seeking"  
Mentors: Jacqueline Barker, PhD, and Laura Giacometti, PhD

*Pharmacology and Physiology*

**Christina Besada**

### DIVISION OF INTERDISCIPLINARY AND CAREER-ORIENTED PROGRAMS

#### *Biomedicine and Business*

Kaylia Milan Blocker  
Keturah Iyanlah Marcus  
Trevor Vincent Vidas

#### *Biomedicine and Cell and Gene Therapy*

Massarrat Alkinani  
Michael Stephen Bennett  
Morgan Lesley Clarke  
Kimberly L. Leyzerzon  
Anthony Malkov  
Ramon Montejano  
Elisa Selamaj  
Yuliya Shestovska

#### *Biomedicine and Entrepreneurship*

Darcy Pritchett

#### *Biomedicine and Law*

Larissa Bellamy  
Madison Patricia Mychayliw

#### *Blindness and Vision Impairment*

Lorraine Anne Byer  
Tydajia Z. Hornsby-Carter  
Bryan P. Kugler  
Kimberly L. Marszalek  
Talitha J. Murosky  
Allison Van Etten  
Rosaly A. Washington

#### *Clinical Optometry*

Asmita Adhikari  
Ricardo Delgado  
Patricia Jennyfer Ramirez Rojas  
Akadet Thonhongsak  
Ke Yi  
Tianyue Zhang

#### *Clinical Research Organization and Management*

Caroline Carminati  
Kamela Vidya Chandrika  
Kierra Lauray Couch-Drayton  
DeAndrea Shanta Cunningham  
Taylor Renee Dietrich  
Chelsey Ann Dillon  
Hassnaa Elabasy  
Susan M. Fallon  
Sarah Ellen Fowler  
Alyson Brianna Francis  
Latifa Burnette Gilmore  
Lindsey Ann Hazen  
Alexandra E. Heck  
Stephen Michael Hornsby  
Alan Kai Jin  
Jennie Rose Lagarenne  
Cheyenne Pagan  
Jeel Patel  
Christina Marie Pepe  
Sarah Grace Raybin  
Katherine E. Ribeiro  
Jennifer Anne Robbins  
Lydia Anne Simon  
Zahrah Daliyah Huriyah Surratt  
Dongyu Wei

#### *Drug Discovery and Development*

Ashhad Ahmed  
Grace Laheen Barrett  
Selena Belulaj  
Christopher Alan Carroll  
Lilian Gonzalez  
Darion Marie Graff  
Skyler Mason Grey  
Corinne Nicole Henshaw  
StarMarie Alexandra Johnson  
Aliah Johnice Lewis  
Anina Marie Pincince  
Sai Chaitanya Rajendra Gaekwar  
Brittany Nicole Rotanz  
Jenna Jihan Smallwood  
Kevin Matthew Thomas  
Tia M. Turner  
Melissa Shaji Varghese  
Lynette Chandler Yeich  
Cecily Anne Zecca-Naples

#### *Histotechnology*

Matilda Flood  
Kyu Sang Joeng

#### *Immunology*

Hana Mansoor Aman  
April Aracena  
Leslie Veronica Buehler  
Marley Lashay Burnett  
Monica Salome Cantos  
Katie Mai Cochran  
Ashley Ann Gruber  
Kelly S. Huntington  
Lindsay Nicole Miller  
Evgenii Morgan  
John Joseph Powers  
Daniel Adolfo Rivera Dones Jr.  
Kelsey Diane Shiflett  
Shelby Lynn Sundstrom

#### *Infectious Disease*

Amber Carlucci  
Shanice Ann Cheatham  
Matthew Joseph Goodsell  
Ashley Elizabeth Gregory  
Emily Helms  
Kristen Faith Honhart  
Andrei E. Kasarda  
Camila Massiel Napuri  
Anthony Matthew Previte  
Rachel Reitan  
Ettienne Tatiana Santiago-Cohen  
John Calvin Spurlock III  
Hai Q. Ta

#### *Master of Laboratory Animal Science*

Skyler Accomando  
Megan Kaylor  
Taylor Cassidy Kirby  
Morgan Lim  
Claudia Moore  
Jocelyn Rosado  
Stephanie Leigh Slater  
David R. Thompson  
Kayla Whittaker  
Hillary Anne Wilcox

#### *Molecular Basis of Cancer*

Cassidy Renee Codon  
Brittney M. Cottet  
Jonathan William Hoar  
Amber Marquart  
Joseph Van Nguyen  
Katherine Rodriguez  
Rachana V

*Molecular Medicine*

Richard Collins Beasley  
Jasmine Ebony-Chante Crane  
Kani Dembele  
Krista Marie Golden  
Kevin Michael Lambert  
Christopher Michael Miyake

Kaleb Wayne Shultz  
Yomara Margarette Spahn  
Nekia Brannon Trammell  
Renetta Trotman

*Orientation & Mobility*

Daniel J. Blatt  
Allyson R. Hedlund  
Kymberly N. Hilton  
Brianna A. Marchetti  
Mark F. Moniello  
Schneider Sanon  
Victoria Leigh Schantz  
Samantha J. Weiler  
Jaime Anne Yaworski

*Pathologists' Assistant*

Holden Michael Acosta  
Carline Bien-Aime  
Cameron Elizabeth DeLacey  
Nathan Allan Eshler  
Jeremy Michael Glinski  
Sofia Rose Kaplan  
Taylor Nicole Manske  
Andrew Ji-Hoon Porisch  
Melody Beth Sharp  
Samantha Ann Somers  
Alicia Vo  
Lindsay Nicole Nieto Wallace

*Vision Rehabilitation Therapy*

Kimberly E. Boesenhofer  
Montana Huie  
Rebecca E. Weber

**DIVISION OF PRE-MEDICAL AND PRE-HEALTH PROGRAMS**

*Biomedical Studies*

Dorothy Ruvarashe Katiyo  
Fatoumata Bintu Koita  
Daniel Lim  
Susannah Lim  
Leah-London Marsh  
Mya Malysa Mentor  
Lidya Ocbamichael Minase  
Ugochukwu Okolie  
Lindsey Seidman  
Millenia Wells

*Drexel Pathway to Medical School*

Faina Ablyazova  
Ariana Azumatan  
Hana Bagheri  
Emily Baghranian  
Stacy Cristine Ban  
Yesha Biney  
Rachel Jansey Chau  
Anthony Michael Ciano  
Marissa Faith Dzotsi  
Kimberly Miraya Espinoza  
Britney Swirri Fonmedig  
Nicholas Gaspar  
Julie Shripad Gokhale  
Keanna Olivia Gomez  
Anwar Fadi Hussein Agha  
Ifeoma Iloka  
Brianna Guetude Jean-Baptiste  
Blessed Jimoh

Gabrielle Bridget Johnson  
Joseph Majeed Kesto  
Jeannie Victoria Lee  
Amjot Kaur Malhi  
Zoe Moreland  
Patri-ca Nicole Morgan  
Joanna Vanessa Munoz  
Bryan Nankoo  
Damilola Temitayo Olabisi  
Modesola Shekina Olaniyi

Isabella Osuna  
Harni Patel  
Vanshika Patel  
Briana Nicole Persaud  
Jhané Paige Phanor  
Jaden Samari Queen  
Rebecca Real  
Abaan Singh Saini  
Catherine Isabel Seltzer  
Morgan Taylor Sinkfield  
Logan Stratton  
Maira Suleman  
Shelby Elizabeth Thompson  
Khoa Anh Trinh  
Jaela Elizabeth West-Lewis  
Ciara Morgan Woodburn  
Elisabeth Ashlyne Yeuteuh  
Mennal Zafar

*Intensive Medical Sciences*

Frederick Hyunbin Chang  
Kireeti Phani Devarakonda  
Pranavi Dulam  
DeMarcus Hill  
Kelsey Lin Jian  
Esa Rhee Malik  
Virali Shirish Patel  
Derek Saxman  
Alexandra Noel Sumner  
Yussef Tarek Zaki

*Interdisciplinary Health Sciences*

Sabina Joycelyn Acquaye  
Grace A. Adeleke  
Emmanuela Ageh  
Madison L. Chorlton  
Coya Lynn Cockerham  
Zarina Olaniyi Davies  
Brandon Anthony DeBlois  
Lota Di-ibor  
Kaitlyn B. Feliciano  
Sara Katharine Flynn  
Ayaan Elvan Gill  
Chelsea Theresa Johnson-Nyunda  
Michel L. Kane-Jackson  
Vuochleng Kim  
Stephanie Kosashvili  
Younes Hekmat Labsh Abazid  
Ava L. Laglia  
Amanda Elizabeth McCrossin  
Joshua Moon  
Layhana Grace Mopono  
Andrew Muhr  
Michelle Mainoo Oduro  
LeeOdella Alexandera Sands  
Ojaswee Sapkota  
Owusua Shang  
Hanna Singh  
Chananchida Srikanlaya  
Daisy Toledo  
Imani Lynn Walton

*Medical Science*

Josette Chiara Graves •  
Sanjeev Herr •  
Neeku Salehi •  
Allison Toth •

### DOCTOR OF MEDICINE DEGREES

(The location of the physician's clinical program is indicated.)

#### Rebecca Rose Abbott

Cooper Medical School of  
Rowan University/Cooper  
University Hospital  
Camden, N.J.  
Psychiatry

#### Ehssan Abdolalizadeh

University of Maryland  
Medical Center  
Baltimore, Md.  
Internal Medicine

#### A. Sami Abdul-al »

University of Rochester  
Medical Center  
Rochester, N.Y.  
Psychiatry

#### Kian Abolhoda \*

Temple University Hospital  
Philadelphia, Pa.  
Psychiatry

#### María Claudia Adair

Icahn School of Medicine  
at Mount Sinai  
Morningside-West  
New York, N.Y.  
Internal Medicine

#### Yesenia Aguilar

Abington Memorial Hospital  
Abington, Pa.  
General Surgery

#### Rodaina I. Ahmed \* ∞

Inova Fairfax Medical Campus/  
Inova Children's Hospital  
Falls Church, Va.  
Pediatrics

#### Sanya S. Ailani »

Northwell Health/Manhattan  
Eye, Ear & Throat Hospital  
Great Neck, N.Y.  
Ophthalmology

#### Deeksha Ajeya »

Rutgers Health/Community  
Medical Center  
Toms River, N.J.  
Transitional  
Hospital of the University  
of Pennsylvania  
Philadelphia, Pa.  
Interventional Radiology  
(Integrated)

#### Lana Al Doori †

University of California  
Riverside School of  
Medicine/St. Bernardine  
Medical Center  
San Bernardino, Calif.  
Medicine-Preliminary

University of Southern  
California  
Los Angeles, Calif.  
Radiology-Diagnostic

#### Katherine Albus

University of Pittsburgh  
Medical Center  
Pittsburgh, Pa.  
Internal Medicine/  
Women's Health Track

#### Anderson J. Amador

Southwest Healthcare Medical  
Education Consortium  
Temecula, Calif.  
Transitional

#### University of California San

Diego Medical Center  
San Diego, Calif.  
Anesthesiology

#### Nadim Amin #

Naval Hospital Jacksonville  
Jacksonville, Fla.  
Family Medicine

#### Robert Jack Bradley Armstrong

Thomas Jefferson University  
Philadelphia, Pa.  
Emergency Medicine

#### Angelica Marie Arshoun ♦

University of Pittsburgh  
Medical Center  
Pittsburgh, Pa.  
Physical Medicine and  
Rehabilitation

#### Zagros Asadi

MedStar Georgetown  
University Hospital &  
Washington Hospital Center  
Washington, D.C.  
Emergency Medicine

#### Arveen S. Asghar ♦♦

University of Arizona College  
of Medicine – Phoenix  
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Internal Medicine

#### Jahan Aslami » †

Allegheny General Hospital  
Pittsburgh, Pa.  
Orthopedic Surgery

#### Peter Auteri

Lankenau Medical Center  
Wynnewood, Pa.  
General Surgery

#### Rachael Avidor

WellSpan Health  
Chambersburg Hospital  
Chambersburg, Pa.  
Family Medicine

#### Madhulika Badri

Bassett Medical Center  
Cooperstown, N.Y.  
Surgery-Preliminary

#### Pooja Nilesh Balar \* † ♦

Rutgers Robert Wood  
Johnson Medical School  
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Vascular Surgery

#### Anthony Balolong-Reyes

Santa Barbara Cottage Hospital  
Santa Barbara, Calif.  
Internal Medicine

#### Hanna Blanche Kristin M. Banta

Christiana Care Health System  
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Emergency Medicine

#### Andrea Nam Tran Bao

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Hershey Medical Center  
Hershey, Pa.  
Internal Medicine

#### Katherine Barker ∞ ∞

Lankenau Medical Center  
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Obstetrics-Gynecology

#### Alexander J. Barna ♦

Cleveland Clinic Foundation  
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Otolaryngology

#### Ana María Barrero Barrera \*

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Obstetrics-Gynecology

#### Caitlin C. Barrett »

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Neurological Surgery

#### Navi S. Baskar

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Psychiatry

#### Inthuja Baskaran

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#### Katharine M. Beck »

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Obstetrics-Gynecology

#### Liza Altszuler Becker ∞ ∞

Stanford Health Care/  
O'Connor Hospital  
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Family Medicine

#### Jazmin Nicole Belton » ♦

Mayo Clinic College of  
Medicine and Science –  
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Anesthesiology

#### Lauryn Bender #

University of Pittsburgh  
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Child Neurology

**Benjamin Joseph Berman**

Marian Regional  
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Family Medicine

**Esha Bhandari**

Children's Hospital  
of Philadelphia  
Philadelphia, Pa.  
Pediatrics

**Aileen Christina Bianchi**

Temple University Hospital  
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Emergency Medicine

**Atharva Bidaye**

New York University Grossman  
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Pediatrics

**Nick Blaney**

Advocate Illinois Masonic  
Medical Center  
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Emergency Medicine

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Internal Medicine

**Emma Grace Boyajieff »**

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Anesthesiology

**Ben Boyarko \* ♦**

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Internal Medicine

**Megan J. Bradley »**

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**David Abraham**

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**Nisha Lou Busch**

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**Reilly Eleanor Callahan ∞**

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**Pelagia Graciela Candelas ♦**

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Internal Medicine

**Lauren Catherine Carmody**

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Northwell at Cohen  
Children's Medical Center  
New Hyde Park, N.Y.  
Pediatrics

**Dustin Carr**

Southwest Healthcare Medical  
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Temecula, Calif.  
Emergency Medicine

**Brianna Cattelino \* » ♦ #**

University of Cincinnati  
Medical Center  
Cincinnati, Ohio  
Medicine-Pediatrics

**Matthew J. Cauda**

Lehigh Valley Hospital  
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Emergency Medicine

**Ryan Cha »**

AdventHealth  
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Orthopedic Surgery

**Ashkon Zia Chamani \***

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Morsani College of Medicine  
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Emergency Medicine

**Garvens Charles \***

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School at Houston  
Houston, Texas  
Internal Medicine

**Kenechukwu Charles-Obi**

University of Maryland  
Medical Center  
Baltimore, Md.  
Otolaryngology

**Michael Hanes Charlton**

Virginia Commonwealth  
University Health System  
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Internal Medicine

**Stephen Chien »**

Harbor-University of California  
Los Angeles Medical Center  
Torrance, Calif.  
Medicine-Preliminary  
UCLA David Geffen School  
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Center/VA Greater Los  
Angeles Healthcare System  
Los Angeles, Calif.  
Physical Medicine and  
Rehabilitation

**Peter D. Cho**

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Aventura Hospital  
Aventura, Fla.  
Radiology-Diagnostic

**Colby Hana Ono Choi**

University of California  
San Francisco/Benioff  
Children's Hospital  
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Pediatrics

**Stacy Chou †**

University of Hawaii  
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Internal Medicine

**Joe Christianson**

Eastern Maine Medical Center  
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Psychiatry

**Marie-Lise L.****Chrysostome ♦**

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Internal Medicine

**Hannah Elizabeth Daley »**

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Obstetrics-Gynecology

**Jonathan Dang**

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Anesthesiology

**Michelle Ashley Davis \***

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Family Medicine

**Amy Nicole DeAngelo**

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Pediatrics

**Thomas DeCesare**

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Hershey Medical Center  
Hershey, Pa.  
Anesthesiology

**Jay Desai ♦**

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Internal Medicine

**Sujay A. Deshpande**

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Anesthesiology

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### **Arnelle Downing**

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Anatomic Pathology/  
Clinical Pathology

### **Maryam Olamide Durosinmi**

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Chan Medical School –  
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Internal Medicine

### **Mina Ebrahimi**

Temple University Hospital  
Philadelphia, Pa.  
General Surgery

### **Camellia Edalat ♦**

Tulane University  
New Orleans, La.  
Ophthalmology

### **Vivienne Edwards**

Houston Methodist Hospital  
Houston, Texas  
Internal Medicine

### **Aura Enache » ♦**

Rush University Medical Center  
Chicago, Ill.  
Internal Medicine

### **Layni Ertell**

University of Vermont  
Medical Center  
Burlington, Vt.  
Neurology

### **Alexander Nabil Fahmy**

Loyola University  
Medical Center  
Maywood, Ill.  
Urology

### **Gabrielle Feher**

Barrow Neurological Institute  
at St. Joseph's Hospital  
and Medical Center  
Phoenix, Ariz.  
Neurology

### **Tomas Fencel**

University of Texas  
Health Science Center  
at San Antonio  
San Antonio, Texas  
General Surgery

### **Maggie Meijun Feng**

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Shore/Long Island Jewish  
Great Neck, N.Y.  
Medicine-Preliminary

### **Palmer Louis Foran**

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Medical Center  
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Internal Medicine

### **Margaux Pierpont Games \***

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Tower Health  
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Psychiatry

### **Bryan K. Gamwo**

Baycare Health System/  
St. Joseph's Hospital  
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Transitional

West Virginia University  
School of Medicine  
Morgantown, W.Va.  
Radiology-Diagnostic

### **Jenna Leigh Gannon**

University of Connecticut  
School of Medicine  
Farmington, Conn.  
Internal Medicine/  
Primary Care

### **Romina Garakani**

St. Luke's University  
Hospital-Anderson  
Easton, Pa.  
Transitional  
Dermatology

### **Tasha Garayo \***

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Vascular Surgery

### **Adam Gardi » ♦**

Emory University School  
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Atlanta, Ga.  
Otolaryngology

### **Oliver Andrew Gibb**

Henry Ford Health  
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Urology

### **Ryan Nicholas Gibson**

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Newark, Del.  
Emergency Medicine

### **Brianne M. Giuffrida »**

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Medical Center  
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### **Abbey Glover »**

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Orthopedic Surgery

### **Alyssa A. Godfrey**

Information Withheld

### **Taylor Bouffard Goldberg**

Oregon Health & Science  
University/Hillsboro  
Medical Center  
Hillsboro, Ore.  
Family Medicine

### **John Steven Golden**

Cleveland Clinic Foundation  
Cleveland, Ohio  
Internal Medicine/Clinician  
Educator Track

### **Mollie Goldman**

Allegheny General Hospital  
Pittsburgh, Pa.  
Internal Medicine

### **Sarah Jean Lopez Gonzaga**

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York, Pa.  
Family Medicine

### **Angela Grant**

University of California  
Davis Medical Center  
Sacramento, Calif.  
Neurology

### **Josette Chiara**

**Graves \* » † •**  
Penn State Milton S.  
Hershey Medical Center  
Hershey, Pa.  
Otolaryngology

### **Bridgid Elizabeth Greed ♦**

University of Virginia  
Charlottesville, Va.  
General Surgery

### **Brian M. Grodecki »**

University of Iowa Health  
Care Medical Center  
Iowa City, Iowa  
Medicine-Preliminary  
Ophthalmology

### **Lorenzo Guani \* »**

Brown University/  
Butler Hospital  
Providence, R.I.  
Psychiatry

### **Caitlin Margaret Guthlein**

University of Rochester  
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Rochester, N.Y.  
Emergency Medicine

### **Ahmad Hamid \* » ♦**

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Internal Medicine

### **Timothy Hamilton**

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School of Medicine  
Morgantown, W.Va.  
Internal Medicine

### **Joshua U. Hancock ♦**

HCA Florida JFK Hospital/  
University of Miami Miller  
School of Medicine  
Atlantis, Fla.  
Orthopedic Surgery

### **Benjamin Samuel**

**Haslund-Gourley » §**  
University of California  
San Diego Medical Center  
San Diego, Calif.  
Internal Medicine/Physician  
Scientist Pathway

### **Ezaz Hasnain \***

Kirk Kerkorian School of  
Medicine at University  
of Nevada Las Vegas  
Las Vegas, Nev.  
Psychiatry

### **McKenzie Heinbaugh »**

Penn State Milton S.  
Hershey Medical Center  
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Emergency Medicine

**Skylar J. Henderson \* ∞**

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Jacksonville, Fla.  
Interventional Radiology  
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### *Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences and Professional Studies Award*

#### **THE AMEDEO BONDI, PHD ENDOWED GRADUATE AWARD**

To a PhD graduating student for excellence in research performance during the training experience:

***Arron Franklin Hall, PhD***

### *Doctor of Medicine Awards*

#### **THE 2025 UNITED STATES PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE AWARD**

From the Physician Professional Advisory Committee of the U.S. Public Health Service in recognition of demonstrated commitment to public health and public health practice:

***Ripal Sheth***

#### **THE DR. ELIAS ABRUTYN AWARD**

For excellence in Infectious Diseases:

***Ben Boyarko***

#### **THE AMERICAN ACADEMY OF NEUROLOGY MEDICAL STUDENT PRIZE FOR EXCELLENCE**

For graduating medical students who have promising career potential in neurology as seen by their institution's faculty and residents:

***Anish Krishna Sethi***

For graduating medical students who have promising career potential in child neurology as seen by their institution's faculty and residents:

***Aboli Asman Kesbhat***

#### **THE PAULA BERNOCCHI MEMORIAL AWARD**

For excellence in the field of Emergency Medicine:

***Aileen Christina Bianchi***

For excellence in the field of Psychiatry:

***Caleb R. Smith***

#### **THE IAIN F.S. BLACK AWARD**

For excellence in Pediatrics, presented by the Department of Pediatrics and the Medical Staff of St. Christopher's Hospital for Children:

***Mallory Rongstad Moyer***

#### **THE LUTHER W. BRADY, MD AWARD**

For excellence in Radiation Oncology and Clinical Oncology:

***Shray Jain***

#### **THE RONALD P. CAPUTO AWARD**

For outstanding clinical skills and humanitarianism in the care of medical patients:

***María Claudia Adair***

#### **THE HARRIS R. CLEARFIELD AWARD**

For excellence in Gastroenterology:

***Marie-Lise L. Chrysostome***

#### **THE MAURICE C. CLIFFORD, MD LEADERSHIP AWARD**

For a graduating senior who has excelled academically and whose accomplishments exhibit outstanding leadership, integrity, excellence and volunteer service in activities devoted to human welfare:

***Josette Chiara Graves***

#### **THE SELMA AND OSCAR CORN, MD HU '43 MEMORIAL AWARD IN ORTHOPAEDICS**

For excellence in Orthopaedic Surgery, proven scholarship and demonstrated leadership amongst peers:

***Jahan Aslami***

#### **THE DEAN OF ADMISSIONS AWARD FOR AMBASSADOR LEADERSHIP EXCELLENCE**

For graduating student ambassadors who exemplify exceptional leadership, professionalism, and sustained commitment to representing the College of Medicine with distinction.

***Shray Jain***

***Molly Carolina Ruiz***

***Amba Viswanathan***

#### **THE DREXEL UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF MEDICINE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION AWARD**

For dedication and contribution to the community and University:

***Milan B. Patel***

***Alexis Lee Price***

#### **THE DREXEL UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF MEDICINE SGA AWARD**

For outstanding dedication and loyalty to the school and the student body:

***Preston T. So***

#### **THE ALAN EDELSON MEMORIAL PRIZE**

For outstanding leadership and service to the student body and the College of Medicine:

***Molly Carolina Ruiz***

#### **THE DIANA J. EGAN AWARD**

For excellence in clinical Obstetrics and Gynecology:

***Alanis Daniela Perez Benitez***

#### **THE SOCIETY FOR ACADEMIC EMERGENCY MEDICINE AWARD**

For excellence in Emergency Medicine:

***Ryan Nicholas Gibson***

#### **THE DEPARTMENT OF FAMILY, COMMUNITY AND PREVENTIVE MEDICINE AWARD**

For excellence in Family Medicine:

***Jackson Stromberg***

For excellence in Community and Preventive Medicine:

***Nikki Lee Rimlinger***

#### **THE EVA FERNANDEZ FOX AWARD**

For the graduating senior who best demonstrates personal integrity, stability, responsibility and loyalty to the College of Medicine:

***Skylar J. Henderson***

#### **THE WILLIAM GREGG AWARD**

Graduation prize for Humanitarianism in Care of Pediatric Patients:

***Jeffrey Wang***

#### **THE LESTER J. GROVERMAN, MD MEMORIAL AWARD**

For outstanding clinical and academic performance in Hematology and Oncology:

***Mekhala Giridhar  
Santebennur***

#### **THE BEATRICE STERLING HOLLANDER, MD, WMC '41 MEMORIAL AWARD**

To the student in the graduating class who shows promise of leadership, high character and dedication to service:

***Alexis Lee Price***

#### **THE RITA G. JACOBS AWARD**

For excellence and compassion in Anesthesiology and Pain Management:

***Emma Grace Boyajieff***

#### **THE NORMAN JOHANSON AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN ORTHOPEDIC SURGERY**

For a student who demonstrates excellence in orthopedic surgery and a commitment to providing equitable orthopedic care to all patients with musculoskeletal conditions:

***Abbey Glover***

***Zachary Ryan Zook***

#### **THE ROBERT F. JOHNSTON MEMORIAL AWARD**

For excellence in Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine:

***Cynthia D. Huang***

#### **THE JOSEPH A. LANGBORD MEMORIAL PRIZE**

For a graduating senior who best exemplifies the qualities of humanitarianism in the practice of medicine:

***Rodaina I. Ahmed***

**THE WILLIAM LIKOFF,  
MD MEMORIAL AWARD  
IN CARDIOLOGY**

For the graduating senior with the most promise in the field of Cardiology:

***Rishay Patel***

**THE DANIEL MASON,  
MD HU '44 AWARD**

For excellence in Cardiovascular clinical work:

***Jenna Leigh Gannon***

**THE MAY FAMILY  
AWARD FOR  
EXCELLENCE IN  
CLINICAL ROTATIONS**

For a student underrepresented in medicine who has excelled in clinical rotations and demonstrated a dedication to leadership and service to the College of Medicine:

***Willow Pastard***

**THE DEPARTMENT OF  
MEDICINE AWARD**

For excellence in Renal and Electrolyte studies:

***Ripal Sheth***

**THE DEYLAN C.  
MOORE AWARD**

For leadership, humanism and service to the student body and the community:

***Brianna Cattellino***

**THE ALMA D. MORANI,  
MD WMC '31 AWARD  
IN GROSS ANATOMY**

For excellence in Anatomy during the senior year:

***Nischa Lou Busch***

***Brian M. Grodecki***

***Alexa C. Smith***

**THE DEPARTMENT OF  
NEUROLOGY AWARD**

For excellence in Neurology:

***Faith Shinjin Kean***

***Christopher John Morici***

**THE DEPARTMENT  
OF OBSTETRICS AND  
GYNECOLOGY AWARD**

For overall academic excellence in Obstetrics and Gynecology:

***Katharine M. Beck***

For academic excellence in the Obstetrics and Gynecology Clinical Clerkship:

***Robert Charles  
Monachello Jr.***

For leadership in the field of Obstetrics and Gynecology:

***Maryse Isaka Lapu***

**THE OFFICE OF  
STUDENT AFFAIRS  
AWARD**

For service to the medical school and to the student body:

***Megan J. Bradley***

***Morena Paula Koorie***

***Ashini A. Patel***

***Alexis Lee Price***

***Sara E. Prischak***

***Emerson T. Rowe***

***Jackson Stromberg***

**THE AXEL K. OLSEN,  
MD NEUROSURGERY  
AWARD**

For excellence in Neurosurgery:

***Caitlin C. Barrett***

***Nischa Lou Busch***

***Alexis Lee Price***

**THE DEPARTMENT  
OF PATHOLOGY  
AND LABORATORY  
MEDICINE AWARD**

For outstanding achievement in Pathology and Laboratory Medicine:

***Arnelle Downing***

**THE ALEXANDER  
PEARCE, MD AWARD**

For excellence in Surgery:

***Laura Maule***

**THE RONALD S.  
PENNOCK, MD AWARD**

For excellence in Internal Medicine and Cardiology:

***Megan J. Bradley***

**THE PENNSYLVANIA  
ACADEMY OF  
FAMILY PHYSICIANS,  
PHILADELPHIA  
BRANCH AWARD**

For performance and leadership in Family Medicine:

***Tharun Nandakumar***

**THE ELISE REID  
CARRINGTON AWARD**

For a graduating senior who has demonstrated a high level of accomplishment and who has demonstrated outstanding leadership and service to the student body:

***Alyssa A. Godfrey***

**THE DR. LEE WINSTON  
SILVER AWARD**

For excellence in Pediatrics:

***Esha Bhandari***

**THE VIVEK SUBRAMANI  
MEMORIAL AWARD**

For leadership, compassion, service and a commitment to fostering community within the College of Medicine:

***Joshua Bryan Palma***

**THE DEPARTMENT OF  
SURGERY AWARD FOR  
EXCELLENCE IN THE  
SURGERY CLERKSHIP**

Allegheny Health Network:

***Ahmad Hamid***

Bayhealth:

***Laura Maule***

Crozer-Chester Medical Center:

***Jennie Anne Reisman***

Kaiser Permanente Bay Area:

***Cynthia D. Huang***

Main Line Health:

***Robert Jack Bradley  
Armstrong***

Philadelphia Area:

***Maria Claudia Adair***

Reading Hospital/Tower Health:

***Aboli Asman Kesbhat***

UPMC Harrisburg:

***Marisa Langton***

WellSpan York Hospital:

***Sophia Anyisia Zylstra***

**THE DEPARTMENT OF  
SURGERY AWARD**

For excellence in the Surgery Pathway:

***Madhulika Badri***

**THE CHARLES  
SWARTZ AWARD**

For academic and clinical excellence in Medicine:

***Anjali A. Pradhan***

**THE DANIEL M.  
TABAS AWARD**

For outstanding scholarly achievement by a student pursuing a career in Primary Care:

***Molly Carolina Ruiz***

**THE THOMAS J.  
VISCHER AWARD**

For clinical excellence in Medicine:

***Jay Desai***

***Benjamin Samuel  
Haslund-Gourley***

***Amanda Elizabeth Ross***

**THE ARTHUR  
AND BERTHA  
WEISMAN AWARD**

For excellence in Child Psychiatry:

***Rachel Marlee Quinn***

**THE RANDALL  
WEISS AWARD**

For excellence in Psychiatry:

***A. Sami Abdul-al***

***Kendall Nicole Smith***

**THE WOMAN ONE  
SCHOLAR AWARD**

For exemplary performance as a Woman One Scholar:

***Lauryn Bender***

***Bernice Dekontee Kear***

For exemplary performance as a D. Walter Cohen Shared Leadership Scholar:

***Garvens Charles***

***Abay Tadesse***

**THE WU FAMILY PRIZE**

For excellence in Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation:

***Stephen Chien***

**THE DR. MARY  
YANKOSKY AWARD**

For excellence in Endocrinology:

***Hannah Burton***

For excellence in Radiologic Sciences:

***Deeksha Ajeya***

## Dean's Awards

### DEAN'S AWARDS FOR EXCELLENCE IN CLINICAL TEACHING

Allegheny Health Network:  
**David Broadbent, MD**  
*Anesthesiology*

Bayhealth Medical Center:  
**Lee Colaiani, MD**  
*Emergency Medicine*

Capital Health System:  
**Mark Kuhn, MD**  
*Obstetrics & Gynecology*

Jefferson Abington Hospital:  
**William Ford, MD**  
*Medicine*

Kaiser Permanente – Bay Area:  
**Jeffrey Andal, MD**  
*Medicine*

Main Line Health:  
**William Morano, MD**  
*Surgery*

Mercy Fitzgerald Hospital:  
**Yusuf Sattar, MD**  
*Medicine*

Reading Hospital - Tower Health:  
**Anthony Donato, MD**  
*Medicine*

St. Christopher's Hospital for Children:  
**Emily Spengler, MD**  
*Pediatrics*

St. Luke's University Health Network:  
**Anish Parameswaran, DO**  
*Medicine*

UPMC Altoona:  
**Mausaminben Hathidara, MD**  
*Neurology*

UPMC Harrisburg:  
**Ayman Mansour, MD**  
*Pediatrics*

Virtua Health:  
**Nurain Fuseini, MD**  
*Obstetrics & Gynecology*

WellSpan York Hospital:  
**Joseph Uwazota, MD**  
*Family Medicine*

Ambulatory Medicine Site:  
**St. Luke's University Health Network**

Family Practice Site:  
**St. Vincent Hospital – Allegheny  
Health Network**

### DEAN'S EXCELLENCE AWARDS

Basic Science Education:  
**Joris Beld, PhD**  
*Microbiology & Immunology*

**Jed Shumsky, PhD**  
*Neurobiology & Anatomy*

Graduate Medical Education:  
**Anastasios Kapetanos, MD**  
*Medicine, Allegheny Health Network*  
**Pavani D. Pagolu, MD**  
*Medicine, Reading Hospital – Tower Health*

Innovation:  
**David L. Bartlett, MD**  
*Surgery, Allegheny Health Network*  
**Robert T. Sataloff, MD**  
*Otolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery*

Leadership for Faculty:  
**Nitin Bhanot, MD, MPH**  
*Medicine, Allegheny Health Network*  
**Thomas A. Geng Jr., DO, MBA**  
*Surgery, Reading Hospital – Tower Health*

Leadership for Professional Staff:  
**Caitlin Curcio, MS**  
*Office of Faculty*  
**Lisa A. DiGiacomo, Gregory Johnson, MBA,  
Tracy McSweeney and Edward Waldov, MBA**  
*Drexel Medicine and Drexel Health Clinical  
Support Division Leaders*

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*Vice Chair*

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Maria Renz '90

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Stephen L. Wanner, CPA '92

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Sylvia Merkel Brasler '60

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R. John Chapel Jr. '67

John G. Johnson Jr. '70, '72

George F. Krall Jr. '58, HD '14

C.R. "Chuck" Pennoni '63, '66, HD '92

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Charles P. Pizzi HD '23

John J. Roberts '67, HD '05

William T. Schleyer '73, HD '06

Stephen A. Sheller, Esq., HD '17

A tradition that reaches back nearly a thousand years, Commencement symbolizes not so much the culmination of the years of effort on the part of both students and teachers, but rather the beginning — the commencement — of a productive social and professional life, and a life of continued learning.

The first university, the University of Bologna, was founded in Italy in 1088 and offered specialized education in the major professional fields of the medieval world: law, medicine, government and theology — areas that would dominate European and American higher education until the 20th century.

From Bologna, the concept of university education spread throughout Europe and later to the Americas. The pageantry and symbolism of Commencement are typified by the cap and gown, which in their original forms were simply the everyday attire of the medieval scholar. The additions of the centuries have made them what they are today.

The academic costume has three basic parts: the cap, the gown and the hood. Three factors must be taken into consideration — the degree, the branch of knowledge and the university by which the degree is granted.

The bachelor's gown is black, has long sleeves, and is worn closed. The master's gown is black but has short sleeves and a crescent cut at the sleeve end. Some are open at the wrist; others have a slit in the upper part of the sleeve. The doctor's gown is often black, preferably silk, with full, round sleeves that are barred in either black velvet or velvet of the color used in the hood to designate the branch of learning. Many American universities, as well as British ones, now have gowns of characteristic color for doctoral graduates. For instance, a graduate of Harvard University may wear a crimson gown, a New York University graduate a violet gown, and a University of Pennsylvania graduate a gown of red and blue.

The shape and size of the American hood mark the degree of the wearer. The lining of the hood is indicative of the institution granting the degree and is usually the official color or colors of the school. If two colors are used, one is generally arranged as a chevron upon the other.

The bachelor's hood is 3 feet long, the master's 3 ½ feet long, and the doctor's 4 feet long. Bachelor of Science and Master of Science candidates wear

sun-gold hoods; Bachelor of Arts and Master of Arts candidates, white hoods. Doctor of Philosophy candidates wear blue hoods. Doctor of Medicine candidates wear green hoods. Candidates with annotated degrees may wear hoods of other colors, such as apricot (Bachelor and Master of Science in Nursing), teal (Master of Physical Therapy), and blue with white trim (Master of Arts, Creative Arts in Therapy), to name a few.

Caps are traditionally black with a long tassel fastened to the mid-point. A doctor's cap may have a tassel of gold thread. The tassel is worn on the right side until a degree has been conferred; it is then worn on the left.

Commencement begins and ends with the academic procession, led by the chief marshal carrying the mace. The mace traces its origins to the Roman fasces, a bundle of rods bound together around an ax with the blade projecting, which was carried before magistrates as an emblem of authority. The ceremony officially begins with the placing of the mace before the graduates and ends when the chief marshal retrieves it and leads the recession. The color guard follows the marshal, with the candidates for degrees marching behind in reverse order of seniority — certificate, associate, and bachelor's first, master's next and doctoral third. The faculty follows, also proceeding in reverse order from assistant to full professor. The final division of the procession is the platform party, composed of academic deans, administrative officers, trustees, honorary degree recipients and the president.

Throughout their long and proud history, universities have retained and cherished strong ties to their ceremonial roots. The faculties and graduates have gloried in the rich imagery and colorful panoply associated with Commencement, one of the oldest continuing rituals in the Western world.

### History and Traditions of the University Mace

The mace was a medieval weapon intended to prevail over an armored adversary. As long-range weapons evolved, the mace became a ceremonial symbol denoting authority and was carried before a nobleman for protection, if necessary, from personal attack. In academic processions, it has traditionally been carried by an academic officer of high standing. The selection of the officer to carry the mace may be governed by institutional tradition and may vary from ceremony to ceremony.

### Publication Policy

This Commencement program is intended for unofficial use only. It may not be used for legal purposes or for proof of the University's granting of degree to, or receipt of diploma by, any individual named herein. Contents of this publication reflect information available at or before the time of printing. Student names listed in this program reflect our best understanding at the time of printing.

*Lists complete as of April 2026*

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