

2020

Drexel University  
Commencement Ceremonies  
College of Medicine

MAY THE TWENTY-NINTH  
PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA



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Graduates...

I am honored to celebrate the outstanding achievement that brought you to this pivotal stage in your medical training, research and scientific studies. This is a moment of celebration, when you should take great pride in your many accomplishments.



As you move on to further training, career development and other professional experiences, you can be certain that your personal achievements are magnified many times over, because your achievements are part of something much larger. It is that cherished legacy of helping patients, saving lives, advancing knowledge and expanding access to health care that is central to the mission of the College of Medicine.

There are many challenges in your chosen fields, from the transformative power of technology, to the need for patient-centered care, to the imperative to foster better public health. Even so, I am confident that you are joining the ranks of Drexel physicians, scientists and professionals who are making a difference across health care and related fields.

I salute your efforts, and those of everyone who helped you achieve this milestone—no matter the many challenges that arose. With the mentoring of the Drexel faculty and the support of your family and friends, you have completed a monumental learning journey.

As you join a Drexel alumni community that spans the globe, it is my hope that your time at the College of Medicine has instilled a desire to stay involved with your alma mater. The colleagues and friends from your time at Drexel will continue to enrich your life, and I urge you to serve as proud ambassadors for the College you helped to shape and sustain.

What a rare privilege you have in serving others with dedication as clinicians, researchers or administrators. You can be confident that your preparation is outstanding and your future is bright. On behalf of the trustees, faculty and professional staff of Drexel University, I wish you all the best in fulfilling your career and personal goals.

Sincerely,

*JL Fry*  
John Fry  
President

### *Academic Procession*

---

Pomp and Circumstance March No. 1  
*Edward Elgar*

### *National Anthem*

---

Star-Spangled Banner  
*Francis Scott Key*

Daniel Joseph Buhalo  
Fallon Erin Bushee  
Adam David Elwood  
Daniel Jacob Golden  
Eleni Ann Hannaberry  
Naveen Janardhan Menon  
Class of 2020

### *Opening Remarks*

---

Valerie Weber, MD  
*Deborah Tuttle, MD and John P. Piper, MD*  
*Vice Dean for Educational Affairs*  
*Professor of Medicine*

### *Remarks by the Dean*

---

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

### *Welcome*

---

John Fry  
*President, Drexel University*

### *Greetings*

---

Stanley W. Silverman  
*Vice Chair, Drexel University Board of Trustees*

### *Recognition of Academic Awards*

---

Charles B. Cairns

### *Citation of Fifty-Year Graduates 1970-2020*

---

Charles B. Cairns

### *Conferring of Honorary Degree*

---

John Fry  
Charles B. Cairns

### *Doctor of Science*

---

Katherine A. High, MD

### *Commencement Address*

---

Katherine A. High

### *Charge to the Graduates*

---

Charles B. Cairns

### *Conferring of Graduate Degrees\**

---

John Fry  
Elisabeth J. Van Bockstaele, PhD  
*Dean, Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences and*  
*Professional Studies*  
*Vice Provost of Graduate Education*  
*Professor of Pharmacology and Physiology*  
Jed Shumsky, PhD  
*Associate Dean of Educational and Academic Affairs*  
*Associate Professor of Neurobiology and Anatomy*

### *Administration of the Graduate Student Oath\**

---

Elisabeth J. Van Bockstaele

### *Conferring of Doctor of Medicine Degrees\*\**

---

John Fry  
Charles B. Cairns  
Valerie Weber  
Amy C. Fuchs, MD  
*Senior Associate Dean for Student Affairs*  
*Associate Professor of Medicine*  
Seema Baranwal, MD  
*Associate Dean for Student Affairs*  
*Associate Professor of Medicine*

*All degrees awarded at this Commencement*  
*carry an official conferral date of*  
**May 15, 2020**

*Investiture\*\**

Amy S. Baranoski, MD, DUCOM '03  
*Associate Professor of Medicine*

Cheryl A. Hanau, MD  
*Chair and Professor of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine*

Keith D. Herzog, MD  
*Assistant Professor of Pediatrics*

Ana E. Núñez, MD, HU '86  
*Associate Dean of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion  
Professor of Medicine*

Leon McCrea, MD, MPH  
*Assistant Dean of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion  
Associate Professor of Family, Community, &  
Preventive Medicine*

Michael M. White, PhD  
*Professor of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology  
Professor of Pharmacology and Physiology*

*Administration of the Physician's Pledge\*\**

Steven Rosenzweig, MD  
*Professor of Emergency Medicine*

*Military Oath for MD Officers\*\**

Frederick J. Skilton, MD, DUCOM '14  
*Lieutenant Commander, Medical Corps,  
United States Navy*

*Induction into the Alumni Association*

Mark S. Codella, MD, HU '84, MBA  
*President, Alumni Association*

*Graduate Remarks*

Ria Harshal Mulherkar, MD  
*Class of 2020*

*Farewell*

Amy C. Fuchs

*Recessional*

The Earle of Oxford's Marche  
*William Byrd/arr. Douglas Nelson*

Crown Imperial  
*William Walton/arr. Douglas Nelson*

*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;

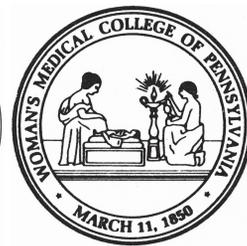
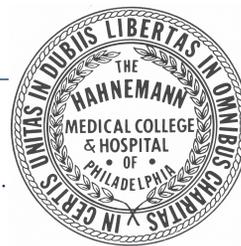
I WILL GIVE to my teachers, colleagues, and students the respect and gratitude that is their due;

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, 1970-2020***Hahnemann Medical College***Class of 1970*

Gary K. Arthur, MD  
 Courtney F. Baker, MD \*  
 Donald E. Barilla, MD  
 Lloyd E. Barron, MD  
 John A. Baxter, MD  
 Allan G. Beck, MD \*  
 Norman N. Bein, MD  
 Herbert M. Bergman, MD  
 Daniel F. Bevilacqua, MD  
 Frank P. Bonikowski, MD  
 Charles T. Bonos III, MD  
 George G. Brackin, MD  
 Phillip S. Brackin Sr., MD  
 Vincent D. Bradley, MD  
 Phillip Kenneth Brownstein, MD  
 J. Kenneth Brubaker, MD, CMD  
 Samuel D. Bruttomesso, MD  
 J. Chriss Cancro, MD  
 Richard D. Capriotti, MD \*  
 Jack P. Carey, MD  
 Bohdan Cehelyk, MD  
 Kerry A. Citrin, MD  
 Daniel Cole, MD  
 Gino A. Consigliere, MD  
 F. Donald Coopey, MD  
 Charles K. Detwiler, MD  
 Lawrence Dinenberg, MD  
 Michael A. Evans, MD  
 Lana Prince Fishkin, MD  
 Gregory J. Fulchiero, MD \*  
 Glenn H. Gallow, MD \*  
 Harry A. Glassman, MD  
 Robert J. Goldberg, PhD \*  
 Kenneth W. Graf, MD  
 Jonathan F. Hahn, MD  
 Su C.K. Hain-Brackman, MD  
 Walter L. Harrison, MD \*  
 Mae B. Hultin, MD  
 Victor E. Iacovoni, MD  
 Joseph E. Imbriglia Jr., MD

Thomas A. Javian Jr., MD  
 Joan Kane, MD  
 Alan K. Ketover, MD  
 Jeffrey S. Kezis, MD  
 Thomas S. Kim, MD  
 Jeffrey I. Komins, MD  
 Charles A. Kosove, MD  
 S. David Krimins, MD  
 Douglas Michael Lanes, MD  
 John F. Lechner, PhD  
 Stephen P. Lerman, PhD \*  
 Alexander Lewis III, MD  
 Edward M. Lipski, MD  
 Louise M. Lisi, MD  
 Preston R. Lotz, MD  
 John D. Lucey, MD  
 Theodore J. Matulewicz, MD  
 Michael A. Matus, MD  
 Robert M. McClellan, MD  
 Nancy McEnerney, MD  
 James I. McMillen, MD  
 Robert G. Meltzer, MD  
 Stephen E. Mitteldorf, MD  
 Sylvester L. Mobley, MD \*  
 Kenneth L. Mummert, MD  
 Norman Mutchnick, MD  
 Thomas S. Newmark, MD  
 Charles J. Olney, MD \*  
 Thomas J. Parente, MD \*  
 Kathleen Julg Paris, MD  
 Donald Petroski, MD  
 Richard M. Pino, PhD  
 Patricia A. Powers, PhD \*  
 H. Jack Pyhel, MD  
 Geoffrey P. Radoff, MD  
 Jerald H. Ratner, MD  
 Howard B. Reiser, MD  
 Mary Ann Renzi-Gentry, MD  
 Michael Rhodes, MD  
 Stanley E. Richter, MD  
 Stephen V. Rigberg, MD \*  
 James B. J. Rondina, MD

Eric P. Rosen, MD  
 Stanley A. Rosenberg, MD  
 Elliot M. Rudnitzky, MD  
 Robert G. Sanford, MD  
 Lyle T. Saylor, MD  
 C. Richard Schott, MD  
 Robert J. Shaw, MD  
 Edward D. Sivak, MD  
 Robert Skversky, MD  
 Bruce P. Sloan, PhD  
 Roger M. Smith, MD \*  
 Elliot L. Snyder, MD  
 Arnold R. Soslow, MD  
 Lawrence Paul Straub, MD \*  
 Mark N. Sussman, MD  
 Michael Swank, MD  
 Donald B. Symanowicz, MD  
 Kenneth W. Thomulka, PhD \*  
 Frank G. Twardzik, MD  
 Theodore W. Uroskie, MD  
 Jack D. Van Campen, MD \*  
 Alan D. Weingrad, MD \*  
 Glen N. Wheeler, MD  
 Alan S. Zakuto, MD  
 Lee S. Zelle, MD  
 Gilbert L. Zuckerman, MD

**Woman's Medical College***Class of 1970*

Ricarda Louise Baum, MD  
 Eileen Amy Bazelon, MD  
 Susan Higley Bray, MD  
 Jane Frances Brooks, MD  
 Wendy Weinstock Brown, MD, MPH  
 Lynn Burkes, MD  
 Marylou Buyse, MD  
 Barbara Ann Carson, MD \*  
 Patricia Antoineta Conrad, MD  
 Lourdes C. Corman, MD  
 Bernadette DeArmond, MD, MPH  
 Carol Ann DuBois, MD  
 Fran A. DuRocher, MD

Carol Felton, MD  
 Mildred H. Gordon, PhD \*  
 Suzanne Phyllis Harwood, MD \*  
 Joan Emma Hurlock, MD  
 Laura Sue Inselman, MD  
 Martha W. Johnson, MD \*  
 Kathleen Susan Ladas, MD  
 Carol Lee Lake, MD  
 Gertrude S. Lefavour, MD  
 Barbara Carole Lipschitz, MD  
 Winona Rosa Mackey, MD  
 Amra Malila, PhD  
 Sandra Deborah Mann, MD  
 Margitta Regina Maurer, MD  
 Joyce Anne McCaffrey, MD  
 Kathleen M. McCarten, MD  
 Susan V. McLeer, MD  
 Geraldine R. Newman, PhD  
 Ida Jean Newton, MD \*  
 Winifred Pack, MD \*  
 Mary Franklin Paulus, MD  
 Maria Supko Plotzker, MD  
 Karen R. Pohutsky, MD  
 Rose Angeline Recco-Esposito, MD  
 Gina L. Rosenberg, MD  
 Henrietta Kotlus Rosenberg, MD  
 Reiko Russin, MD  
 Barbara A. Schindler, MD  
 Carol Ann Sheridan, MD \*  
 Paramjit Kaur Singh, PhD  
 Clare C. Siu, MD  
 Catherine Frances Sladowski, MD \*  
 Kristine Soly, MD  
 Barbara Starrett, MD  
 Susan Sheiman Steremberg, MD \*  
 Gwen Kunken Sterns, MD  
 Suzan Marie Streichenwein, MD  
 Bonnie Marshall Tompkins, MD  
 Carole M. Ulich, MD  
 Marilyn Frellsen Witherup, MD  
 Marsha Wolfson, MD

\* deceased

## DOCTOR OF SCIENCE

**KATHERINE A. HIGH, MD***Gene therapy pioneer*

Dr. Katherine A. High, a hematologist by training, began her career studying the molecular basis of blood coagulation and the development of novel therapeutics for the treatment of bleeding disorders. Her pioneering bench-to-bedside studies of gene therapy for hemophilia led to a series of studies that characterized the human immune response to gene delivery vectors.

Her work evolved to encompass clinical translation of genetic therapies for multiple inherited disorders, and, as the director of the Center for Cellular and Molecular Therapeutics at The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, Dr. High assembled a multidisciplinary team of scientists and researchers working to discover new gene and cell therapies for genetic diseases and to facilitate rapid translation of preclinical discoveries into clinical application.

At CHOP and the University of Pennsylvania, Dr. High was an investigator of the Howard Hughes Medical Institute and held an endowed chair at the medical school. In 2013, Spark Therapeutics, a biotechnology company based in Philadelphia, was formed based on programs that Dr. High had led at Children's Hospital and, in 2014, she joined Spark full time as president and head of research and development. In 2019, Spark was acquired by Roche.

While at Spark, Dr. High led the team that achieved the first FDA approval of a gene therapy for a genetic disease in the U.S., for a rare form of congenital blindness, and led the development of a gene therapy for hemophilia B that is now in late-phase testing.

Dr. High served a five-year term on the FDA Advisory Committee on Cell, Tissue and Gene Therapies and is a past-president of the American Society of Gene & Cell Therapy (ASGCT). She received her AB in chemistry from Harvard University, an MD from the University of North Carolina School of Medicine, and business certification from the UNC Business School Management Institute for Hospital Administrators. She currently serves on the board of directors of CRISPR Therapeutics (NASDAQ: CRSP) and Incyte Corporation (NASDAQ: INCY), and on the board of trustees of the College of Physicians of Philadelphia.

She is the recipient of many honors and awards, is the author of more than 200 scientific papers, and holds multiple issued patents on gene therapy. She is an elected member of the National Academy of Medicine (U.S.), the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, and the Faculty of Pharmaceutical Medicine of the Royal College of Physicians (London). She is currently a visiting professor at Rockefeller University in New York.

For her lifelong commitment to pioneering cures for genetic diseases, Drexel is proud to confer upon Dr. Katherine A. High the degree of Doctor of Science, *honoris causa*.

### Doctor of Philosophy Degrees

(The graduate's dissertation title and advisor are indicated.)

#### Neha M. Akella

"The Role of O-GlcNAc Transferase in Regulation of Breast Cancer Stemness and Tumor Initiation"

Advisor: *Mauricio Reginato, PhD*  
BIOCHEMISTRY

#### Alexander G. Allen

"Utilizing the CRISPR/Cas9 System to Cure HIV-1 Infection"

Advisor: *Brian Wigdahl, PhD*  
MICROBIOLOGY  
AND IMMUNOLOGY

#### Corbett Timothy Berry §

"Novel calcium dependent mechanisms of NF-kappaB activation regulate lymphocyte tolerance and immunity"

Advisors *Bruce D. Freedman, VMD, PhD* and *Uri Hershberg, PhD*  
BIOMEDICAL ENGINEERING

#### Aarti Atmaram Ramanathan

"The Antimalarial Drug Target PfATP4 and Effects of Its Inhibition at the Intersection of Life and Death in *P. falciparum*"

Advisor: *Akhil B. Vaidya, PhD*  
MICROBIOLOGY  
AND IMMUNOLOGY

#### Soha Chhaya

"Neuroimmune Contributions to Pain Development After Spinal Cord Injury: Exploring Macrophage-Mediated Dysfunction in the Dorsal Root Ganglia"

Advisors: *Megan Detloff, PhD*, and *John Houle, PhD*  
NEUROSCIENCE

#### Cheng-Han Chung

"Identification and Evaluation of Guide RNA Design Determinants for Anti-HIV-1 Therapy Using CRISPR/Cas9"

Advisors: *Brian Wigdahl, PhD*, and *William Dampier, PhD*  
MICROBIOLOGY  
AND IMMUNOLOGY

#### Andrew T. Gargiulo

"The Role of Pituitary Adenylate Cyclase-Activating Polypeptide (PACAP) in Alcohol Drinking"

Advisor: *Jessica R. Barson, PhD*  
NEUROSCIENCE

#### Ngoc T. Ha

"Intrinsic Properties and Connectivity of Shox2 Interneurons in Spinal Locomotor Networks"

Advisor: *Kimberly Dougherty, PhD*  
NEUROSCIENCE

#### Harmin Herrera

"Development of Lectins for Detection of Cancer-Specific Fucosylation"

Advisor: *Anand Mehta, PhD*  
MICROBIOLOGY  
AND IMMUNOLOGY

#### Ramanpreet Kaur

"The Role of the CX3CR1-FKN Axis in Tumor Initiation and Metastatic Progression"

Advisor: *Alessandro Fatatis, MD, PhD*  
PHARMACOLOGY AND PHYSIOLOGY

#### Sheila M. Longo

"Nutrient Regulation of Proliferation and Autophagy Determines Follicle Stem Cell Lifespan"

Advisor: *Alana O'Reilly, PhD*  
MOLECULAR AND CELL BIOLOGY  
AND GENETICS

#### Jamie M. Marino

"Effects of Morphine and HIV-1 Tat on the Blood-Brain Barrier: Implications in HIV Disease and HAND"

Advisor: *Michael R. Nonnemacher, PhD*  
MICROBIOLOGY  
AND IMMUNOLOGY

#### Anthony R. Mele

"Impact of HIV Genetic Variation on Tat Length, Function and Ability to be Targeted by Gene-Editing"

Advisor: *Michael R. Nonnemacher, PhD*  
MICROBIOLOGY  
AND IMMUNOLOGY

#### Surya Pandey

"Regulation of Excessive Alcohol Consumption by the Neurotensin System in the Paraventricular Thalamus"

Advisor: *Jessica R. Barson, PhD*  
NEUROSCIENCE

#### Eric Prouty §

"Neurochemical and Electrophysiological Characterization of Target-Specific Neuronal Population in the Dorsal Raphe Nucleus and Their Susceptibility to Chronic Corticosterone as a Model of Depression"

Advisor: *Barry Waterhouse, PhD*  
NEUROSCIENCE

#### Catherine Theisen

"Targeting the Neuropeptide Y System in the Locus Coeruleus: Implications for Therapeutic Interventions in Opioid Use Disorders"

Advisor: *Elisabeth Van Bockstaele, PhD*  
PHARMACOLOGY  
AND PHYSIOLOGY

#### Josie Vanloozen

"Kinematics of Locomotion in the Neonatally Spinalized Rat"

Advisor: *Simon Giszter, PhD*  
NEUROSCIENCE

#### Stephen Woloszynek §

"Extracting Meaningful Features from Noisy Microbiome Data"

Advisor: *Gail L. Rosen, PhD*  
ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING

**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 SCIENCES**

*Molecular and Cell Biology and Genetics*

Theodore E. Gurrola

*Neuroscience*

Taylor A. McCorkle

Breanne E. Pirino

John R. Walker

Sam P. Wechsler

*Pharmacology and Physiology*

Gordon S. Hill ••

Chun-Ta Ho

Ahn Tran

**DIVISION OF INTERDISCIPLINARY AND CAREER-ORIENTED PROGRAMS**

*Biomedicine and Business*

Emma M. Anderson

Kyle S. Durics

*Biomedicine and Entrepreneurship*

Alicia L. Graham

Kimberly R. Hanna

*Biomedicine and Law*

Emily Bhagwatprasad

Cathy R. Jackson

*Clinical Research for Health Professionals*

Ashish Pershad

Mayank Sardana

*Clinical Research Organization and Management*

Aida Arapovic

Wendy Arriaga

Daisy Arteaga

Sheryl Berkowitz

Dawn Carnegie

Andrea Chapa-Cerviatti

Abhilash Chimbirithy

Yasheca Ebanks

Lacey Elmore

Jenna Garner

Christopher Gennello

Hany Hanalla

Aaron Hazzard

LaTonya Hendricks

Katelyn Janicz

Andrea Kukla

Patricia Lese

Sabina Mananova

Diedre McNeil

Tara Milito

Caroline Nehme

Shantae Ockimey

Anaga Ojo

Dexter Pasis

Sabina Perchik

Aminata Perry

Ashish Pershad

Susan Pineda

Sarah Roth

Angie Santiago Zayas

Corey Simpson

Sarah Van Meter

Vyacheslav Voloshin

Elena Welsh

Carrie Withey

Brittany Wood

*Criminalistics*

Matthew Hall

*Drug Discovery and Development*

Abheer Alharbi

Anmol Rajesh Arora

Stephanie Amador

Lynn Baker

Zachary Bell

Krystal Brostek

Taysir Chamem

Kamalini Ghosh

Nathan Gibbs

Nicole Gribbin

Mallory Hamilton

Ariana Myers

Kyle Nichols

Neha Rana

Daniel Welper

Ruxu Zhai

*Forensic Science*

Michelle Martinez

Mary Ann C. Tolentino

Kara M. Ward

*Immunology*

Manar Alabdulwahab

Reem Alamoudi

Dekontee Banto

Kerry Frattarola

Abhijeet Jagadeesh Kulkarni

Brenton R. Marcucci

Jamie N. Williams

Zhang Yao

*Infectious Disease*

Ali R. Ali

Jalil A. Alston

Djuan Austin

Lindsay Cunningham

Grace DeCost

Erica N. Eskins

Allison Ferri

Drew M. Frase

Jessica H. Lewis

Kathryn T. Murden

Christopher Myers

Kiana M. Roman

*Master of Laboratory  
Animal Science*

Stephanie Fowler

Megan Hendrix

Marlea Lamoureux

Jacqueline Lynch

Leah R. Samouhos

*Molecular Medicine*

Jennifer M. Ayoub

Lianne Connolly

Kristen M. DeRosa

Meghan Dolan

Brooke M. Morsell

Salima Mostafa

Alfred J. Simmons

*Medical and  
Healthcare Simulation*

Neil Gulati

Wesley Lockhart

Vanessa Stepney

Keith Trisilla

Courtney Washington

*Pathologists' Assistant*

Sydney Anhalt

Morgan Armitage

Kelly A. Baxter

Madison P. Diven

Alexa L. Hodgin

Ally N. Isnor

Steffan D. Larsen

Alina Maysterchuk

Arianna Rubinetti

Reid R. Sanchez

Britni L. Stowell

Steve M. Vanko

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

*Biomedical Studies*

Nana-Adwoa Agyarkowah

Anthony L. Cappellino

Yezan F. Hadidi

Julia M. Hughes

Michelle L. Kelley

Arielle Kilner

Lily A. McLaughlin

Kevin Morales

Nerica Normil

Mira A. Osman

Akash Patel

Gabe Pertierra

Abena S. Poku

Maria M. Priyma

Erica S. Riddick

Julie Roldan

Jose R. Romero-Carrillo

Jon W. Schreer

Sophia Shah

Kennedy C. Stafford

Nyajei M. Vandi

Greg M. Vitcavage

Jackie Yang

Meghan E. Young

*Drexel Pathway to  
Medical School*

Adeola A. Ajayi

Maria B. Alas

Cynthia M. Andrade

Taasha Andre

Bella Archer

Ghita Benjelloun

Aliyah R. Bolton

Joshua W. Bosque-Hamilton

Lydia M. Briggs

La Niece N. Carpenter

Yonesha T. Cole

Nefertiti H. Curtis

Danielle K. Darius

Chinedu A. Ezikanyi

Kent E. Fuller

Andrew Joseph

Karmveer Kaur

Quynh M. Le

Jana Lewis

Chung Heng Liu

Madison P. Mansfield

Danielle S. Mensah

Caleb Middlebrook

Tarannum T. Mohammadi

Kiarra E. Mouzon

John H. Nguyen

Yen Nguyen

Vanelle Nouboussi Nzaghho

David O. Okhuereigbe

Jade N. Overton

Dimas Palmar

Kady M. Palmer

Amberly D. Ray

Reem Saab

Edeline Sanchez

Zanib Sarfraz

Victoria F. Stoffel

Quonte D. Watkins

Lawrence Zhang

*Interdisciplinary  
Health Sciences*

Noorhaan Abouomar

Yesenia Aguilar

Gabriella A. Belnavis

Sanya Bhambhani

Faith L. Blamon

Dwianitra Bone

Thu Bui

Perla M. Cherfane

Inemesit M. Dan

Lesley Desriviere

Oumayma Driouche

Christian A. Farinas

Laura Figueroa

Ashley French

Maftuna A. Gafurova

Nicole Galiber

Christiana O. Gentry

Edom A. Girma

Alexis Hite

Ojiugo Igwe

Precious P. Iyamu

Toni Jenkins

Jennifer Jiang	Imani J. Whyte-Boyd
Corey N. Johnson	Abby K. Zeller
Caleb Kindle-Parrish	
Alexander K. Kodokian	<i>Intensive Medical Sciences</i> .....
Abreah K. Little	Vivian Belenky
Robert Z. Liu	Caitlyn R. Curley
Maryann Manaparambil	Kyle B. McCloskey
Alaysia I. McCutchen	Volodar M. Migovich
Owen W. McLeod	Jeffrey Ngowe
Seim Michael	Rofida O. Rakha
Kaswana B. Phiri	Samuel E. Schachter
Claire C. Rolland	Aala Zakir
Molly C. Ruiz	Wenxin Zhu
William E. Rutkowski	<i>Medical Science</i> .....
Devonte R. Sadler	Barry T. DeRose
Julianne Salamanca	Simon M. Galer
Emine Salman	Holly A. Gamlen
Syeda S. Sarder	Alyssa Grace Lage ••
Sana Siddiqui	Han Lim
Lexy D. Singh	Jessica Z. Meng
Matt S. Sloan	Brian J. Patchett
Vanessa E. Smith	Lou F. Susca
Brionne St.Cyr	Joshua Wang
Sarah Tayazime	
Natasha V. Teckham	
John M. Thomas	
Darius A. Thompson	
Edwin Tomy	
Renee Trajano	

**Doctor of Medicine Degrees***(The location of the physician's clinical program is indicated.)***Orchideh Abar \***

Abington Memorial Hospital  
Abington, PA  
Obstetrics-Gynecology

**Alexandra Morgan Abbott**

University of California Los Angeles Medical Center  
Los Angeles, CA  
Pediatrics

**Joseph Elias Abdul-Malak**

Lankenau Medical Center  
Wynnewood, PA  
Obstetrics-Gynecology

**Jonathan Ryan Acosta »**

Allegheny General Hospital  
Pittsburgh, PA  
Orthopaedic Surgery

**Temitayo M. Adegoke ££**

University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center  
Dallas, TX  
Internal Medicine

**Jason Matthew Adleberg**

Lincoln Medical Center  
Bronx, NY  
Transitional

Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai/St. Luke's Roosevelt Hospital  
New York, NY  
Radiology-Diagnostic

**Mekail Tarik Ahmed**

Information Withheld

**Rita Chinelo Akumuo**

Temple University Hospital  
Philadelphia, PA  
General Surgery

**Mehnaz Fatima Ali Khan**

Inova Fairfax Hospital  
Falls Church, VA  
Internal Medicine

**Alexander James Altman \***

Rutgers New Jersey Medical School  
Newark, NJ  
Medicine-Preliminary  
Ophthalmology

**Vinesh Anandarajan**

Health Quest  
Poughkeepsie, NY  
General Surgery

**Shantel Apeseche**

Stony Brook University Hospital  
Stony Brook, NY  
Child Neurology

**Francesca Antonina Arana**

Temple University Hospital  
Philadelphia, PA  
Psychiatry

**Brittany Kathleen Ashe £ \***

University of Pittsburgh Medical Center  
Pittsburgh, PA  
Pediatrics

**Aria Ashir**

Sunrise Health Graduate Medical Education Consortium  
Las Vegas, NV  
Transitional  
  
Santa Barbara Cottage Hospital  
Santa Barbara, CA  
Radiology-Diagnostic

**Aria Christopher Attia £**

Mercy Catholic Medical Center  
Darby, PA  
Surgery-Preliminary

**Thalia Heidi Bajakian \***

University of Southern California  
Los Angeles, CA  
Urology

**Galen Whitney Ballentine**

State University of New York Health Science Center at Brooklyn  
Brooklyn, NY  
Psychiatry

**Michelle M. Basiliou »**

University of Michigan Health System  
Ann Arbor, MI  
Anesthesiology

**Stephanie Coriolan Belancourt**

University of Miami Miller School of Medicine/Holy Cross Hospital  
Fort Lauderdale, FL  
Internal Medicine

**Andie Rebecca Belkoff**

Thomas Jefferson University  
Philadelphia, PA  
Psychiatry

**Lawrence Matthew Benedict**

Rutgers New Jersey Medical School  
Newark, NJ  
Internal Medicine

**Jessica Elizabeth Benson**

Temple University Hospital  
Philadelphia, PA  
Psychiatry

**Corbett Timothy Berry » §**

Lankenau Medical Center  
Wynnewood, PA  
Medicine-Preliminary  
  
Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania  
Philadelphia, PA  
Dermatology/Research

**Kathryn Victoria Blair »**

Johns Hopkins Hospital  
Baltimore, MD  
Psychiatry

**Markian Myron Bojko » •**

University of Southern California  
Los Angeles, CA  
Thoracic Surgery

**Julia Lindsay Boland**

George Washington University  
Washington, DC  
Internal Medicine

**Esieza T. Braimah ££**

University of California Los Angeles Medical Center  
Los Angeles, CA  
Pediatrics

**Carolyn Diana Rose Brookhart**

Kaiser Permanente San Francisco Medical Center  
San Francisco, CA  
Obstetrics-Gynecology

**Leanna Nicole Brooks £**

Carolinas Medical Center  
Charlotte, NC  
Family Medicine

**Kyle P. Brougham**

University of Missouri  
Kansas City, MO  
Orthopaedic Surgery

**Hollie N. Brown »**

Zucker School of Medicine at Hofstra/Northwell  
New Hyde Park, NY  
Urology

**Brittney Marie Bruno £ \*•**

Drexel University College of Medicine/Tower Health  
Philadelphia, PA  
Family Medicine

**Daniel Joseph Buhalo**

Brandywine Hospital/  
Tower Health  
Coatesville, PA  
Psychiatry

**Fallon Erin Bushee**

Dartmouth-Hitchcock  
Medical Center  
Lebanon, NH  
Emergency Medicine

**Nikki Aaron Cali**

University of Maryland  
Medical Center  
Baltimore, MD  
Emergency Medicine

**Camille Dana Campion »**

University of Massachusetts  
Medical School  
Worcester, MA  
Obstetrics-Gynecology

**Kristina Alexa Carney \***

Naval Hospital  
Jacksonville, FL  
Family Medicine

**Patricia M. Chen**

Reading Hospital/  
Tower Health  
Reading, PA  
Family Medicine

**Pinting Chen # »**

University of California Los  
Angeles Medical Center  
Los Angeles, CA  
Family Medicine

**Kristen Miyeko Chikami**

University of California  
Irvine Medical Center  
Orange, CA  
Anesthesiology

**Jungeun Choi**

MedStar Georgetown  
University Hospital  
Washington, DC  
Psychiatry

**Jacob Hyen Jae Chung**

Montefiore Medical  
Center/Albert Einstein  
College of Medicine  
Bronx, NY  
Anesthesiology

**Carissa Claire Cicchinelli »**

Thomas Jefferson University  
Philadelphia, PA  
Medicine-Primary

**Caitlin A. Cirullo \***

New York University Grossman  
School of Medicine  
New York, NY  
Medicine-Preliminary  
Anesthesiology

**Meagan Jenkins Clark £**

Ohio State University  
Medical Center  
Columbus, OH  
Internal Medicine

**Laura Marie**

**Chavez Columbus**  
Vanderbilt University  
Medical Center  
Nashville, TN  
Surgery-Preliminary

Eastern Virginia  
Medical School  
Norfolk, VA  
Radiology-Diagnostic

**Heather Elizabeth Conway •**

Dartmouth-Hitchcock  
Medical Center  
Lebanon, NH  
Medicine-Primary

**Jessica R. Cunning »**

Lehigh Valley Hospital  
Allentown, PA  
Plastic Surgery

**Megan Mary Daniels**

Temple University Hospital  
Philadelphia, PA  
Emergency Medicine

**Michael J. Delicce**

Cleveland Clinic Foundation  
Cleveland, OH  
Internal Medicine

**Timothy R. DeRosa**

Brandywine Hospital/  
Tower Health  
Coatesville, PA  
Psychiatry

**Susan Dhamala**

St. Luke's Hospital  
Bethlehem, PA  
Transitional

Johns Hopkins Hospital  
Baltimore, MD  
Radiology-Diagnostic

**Natalie DiCenzo ££ \***

Rutgers Robert Wood  
Johnson Medical School  
New Brunswick, NJ  
Obstetrics-Gynecology

**Deannah Marie Dick**

Eastern Virginia  
Medical School  
Norfolk, VA  
Pediatrics

**Christopher Michael Diehl**

Allegheny General Hospital  
Pittsburgh, PA  
Psychiatry

**Rima Dilbarova**

University of California San  
Diego Medical Center  
San Diego, CA  
Emergency Medicine

**Ashley Jessica Dunning**

Zucker School of Medicine  
at Hofstra/Northwell  
Manhasset, NY  
Emergency Medicine

**Ian Stuart Dwinell •**

Zucker School of Medicine  
at Hofstra/Northwell  
Manhasset, NY  
Surgery-Preliminary

**Madeline Dwyer**

Thomas Jefferson University  
Philadelphia, PA  
Emergency Medicine

**Sonja Zoe Opal Eagle \***

Stanford University  
Stanford, CA  
Emergency Medicine

**Meghan Elizabeth Eisold #**

Thomas Jefferson University/  
Alfred I. duPont  
Hospital for Children  
Philadelphia, PA  
Pediatrics

**Adam David Elwood £**

Rutgers Robert Wood  
Johnson Medical School  
New Brunswick, NJ  
Obstetrics-Gynecology

**Charles Raymond Fencil • \* »**

Virginia Commonwealth  
University Health System  
Fairfax Program  
Fairfax, VA  
Family Medicine

**Victoria Christl Fenton**

University of North  
Carolina Hospitals  
Chapel Hill, NC  
Emergency Medicine

**David Andrew Fitzgerald**

Grand Strand Regional  
Medical Center  
Myrtle Beach, SC  
Transitional

University of Maryland  
Medical Center  
Baltimore, MD  
Neurology

**Quinten Alexander Fletcher**

Crozer-Chester Medical Center  
Upland, PA  
Transitional

University of Pittsburgh  
Medical Center  
Pittsburgh, PA  
Radiology-Diagnostic

**Sean Patrick Flynn \***

Virginia Commonwealth  
University Health System  
Richmond, VA  
Internal Medicine

**Christopher Adam Fong**

Christiana Care Health System  
Newark, DE  
Emergency Medicine

**William Fredrick Foos, Jr.**

George Washington University  
Washington, DC  
Medicine-Preliminary  
Ophthalmology

**Joseph Foote**

Hospital of the University  
of Pennsylvania  
Philadelphia, PA  
Oral Maxillofacial Surgery  
(Class of 2019)

**Chalon D. Forbes**

Tucson Hospitals  
Tucson, AZ  
Transitional

University of Michigan  
Health System  
Ann Arbor, MI  
Radiology-Diagnostic

**Evan Larue Fox**

Greater Baltimore  
Medical Center  
Baltimore, MD  
Medicine-Preliminary

Johns Hopkins Hospital  
Baltimore, MD  
Radiology-Diagnostic

**Colleen Franconi \***

Naval Medical Center  
San Diego  
San Diego, CA  
Transitional

**Robert Steven Freund**

University of Minnesota  
Medical School  
Minneapolis, MN  
Pathology

**Connor Michael Fultz**

University of Pittsburgh  
Medical Center  
Pittsburgh, PA  
Physical Medicine &  
Rehabilitation

**Sachin Apurva Gandhi**

State University of New York  
Upstate Medical University  
Syracuse, NY  
Orthopaedic Surgery

**Geoffrey Siyuan Gao**

Johns Hopkins Hospital  
Baltimore, MD  
Emergency Medicine

**Ashley Garcia**

St. Francis Hospital  
Hartford, CT  
Obstetrics-Gynecology

**Anne Marie Gavenas \***

Craigton University School  
of Medicine/Maricopa  
Medical Center  
Phoenix, AZ  
Obstetrics-Gynecology

**Cyrus Ghaffari**

California Pacific  
Medical Center  
San Francisco, CA  
Medicine-Preliminary

Stanford University  
Stanford, CA  
Physical Medicine &  
Rehabilitation

**Hovhannes Ghazaryan**

Arrowhead Regional  
Medical Center and  
Kaiser Permanente  
Colton, CA  
Emergency Medicine

**Camille Genevieve**

**Marie Giraud \***  
Kaiser Permanente  
Oakland Medical Center  
Oakland, CA  
Internal Medicine

**Daniel Jacob Golden**

University of South Florida  
Morsani College of Medicine  
Tampa, FL  
Medicine-Preliminary  
Radiology-Diagnostic

**Eve Goldstein**

Rutgers Robert Wood  
Johnson Medical School  
New Brunswick, NJ  
Surgery-Preliminary

**Christian J. Gomez \***

Emory University School  
of Medicine  
Atlanta, GA  
Transitional  
Radiology-Diagnostic

**Nivas Govindarajan**

HCA Medical City Healthcare  
Dallas, TX  
Family Medicine

**Sonia Gowda**

Oregon Health &  
Science University  
Portland, OR  
Internal Medicine

**Dhruv Goyal**

Appointment Pending

**Ethan C. Graham**

Madigan Army Medical Center  
Tacoma, WA  
Transitional

**Clara Marie Grayhack »**

Western Pennsylvania Hospital  
Pittsburgh, PA  
Obstetrics-Gynecology

**Alison Talia Gruber \* »**

Thomas Jefferson University  
Philadelphia, PA  
Obstetrics-Gynecology

**Catherine M. Guariglia**

Thomas Jefferson University  
Philadelphia, PA  
Family Medicine

**Brandon William Guffey**

Albert Einstein  
Healthcare Network  
East Norriton, PA  
Internal Medicine

**Megan Miranda Guntrum #**

University at Buffalo  
School of Medicine  
Buffalo, NY  
Family Medicine

**Brett Daniel Haislup »**

MedStar Union  
Memorial Hospital  
Baltimore, MD  
Orthopaedic Surgery

**Mohammed Sahir Haji**

Rhode Island Hospital/  
Brown University  
Providence, RI  
Internal Medicine

**Mustafa B. Hammudi \***

George Washington University  
Washington, DC  
Internal Medicine

**Eleni Ann Hannaberry**  
Zucker School of Medicine  
at Hofstra/Northwell  
New Hyde Park, NY  
Anesthesiology

**Isabella Marie Hanulik »**  
University of California San  
Diego Medical Center  
San Diego, CA  
Pediatrics

**Ashley Harvard**  
Temple University Hospital  
Philadelphia, PA  
Obstetrics-Gynecology-  
Preliminary

**Jonathan Joseph Hauptfeld**  
Beth Israel Deaconess  
Medical Center  
Boston, MA  
Anesthesiology

**Christy Fang He**  
New York Presbyterian  
Hospital-Columbia  
University Medical Center  
New York, NY  
Anesthesiology

**Elise Faith Heidorn**  
Reading Hospital/  
Tower Health  
Reading, PA  
General Surgery

**Gordon Spencer Hill \* » ••**  
Temple University Hospital  
Philadelphia, PA  
Internal Medicine

**Joseph Patrick Horowitz**  
University of Illinois  
College of Medicine  
Chicago, IL  
Medicine-Pediatrics

**Henry Huang**  
Zucker School of Medicine  
at Hofstra/Northwell  
Great Neck, NY  
Medicine-Preliminary

Rhode Island Hospital/  
Brown University  
Providence, RI  
Anesthesiology

**Jonathan Huang \***  
Thomas Jefferson University  
Philadelphia, PA  
Internal Medicine

**Vincent Jing-Ping Huang**  
Temple University Hospital  
Philadelphia, PA  
Internal Medicine

**Sona Hurtz †**  
Cooper Medical School of  
Rowan University/Cooper  
University Hospital  
Camden, NJ  
Internal Medicine

**DaMarcus Ingram \***  
Duke University  
Medical Center  
Durham, NC  
Internal Medicine

**Jonathan Itzhakov**  
State University of New  
York Health Science  
Center at Brooklyn  
Brooklyn, NY  
Anesthesiology

**Ciera Lynn Johnson**  
Chestnut Hill Hospital/  
Tower Health  
Philadelphia, PA  
Family Medicine

**Tej Joshi »**  
Rutgers New Jersey  
Medical School  
Newark, NJ  
Orthopaedic Surgery

**Justine R. Julien**  
Penn State Milton S.  
Hershey Medical Center  
Hershey, PA  
Neurology

**Blase Kania**  
Zucker School of Medicine at  
Hofstra/Northwell at Staten  
Island University Hospital  
Staten Island, NY  
Emergency Medicine

**Brandon Kase**  
Lehigh Valley Hospital  
Allentown, PA  
Transitional

Thomas Jefferson University  
Philadelphia, PA  
Physical Medicine &  
Rehabilitation

**Kaveri Kavita Kaushal**  
Nazareth Hospital  
Philadelphia, PA  
Internal Medicine

**Louis Patrick Kester # »**  
Boston University  
Medical Center  
Boston, MA  
General Surgery

**Anthony An Khong # »**  
University of California  
Davis Medical Center  
Sacramento, CA  
Internal Medicine

**Mark J. Killen**  
Thomas Jefferson University  
Philadelphia, PA  
Emergency Medicine

**Brendan Chester King »**  
Tulane University School  
of Medicine  
New Orleans, LA  
Urology

**Traci J. King \* »**  
Beth Israel Deaconess  
Medical Center  
Boston, MA  
Internal Medicine

**Gregory Joseph Kirchner**  
Penn State Milton S.  
Hershey Medical Center  
Hershey, PA  
Orthopaedic Surgery

**Kirpal Singh Kochar**  
Thomas Jefferson University  
Philadelphia, PA  
Internal Medicine

**Katharine Sage Krushel »**  
Icahn School of Medicine at  
Mount Sinai Beth Israel  
New York, NY  
Psychiatry

**Gregory Michael Kunkel**  
University of Massachusetts  
Medical School  
Worcester, MA  
Urology

**Elizabeth Yoonkyung Kwak #**  
St. Christopher's Hospital  
for Children  
Philadelphia, PA  
Child Neurology

**Alyssa Grace Lage ••**  
York Hospital  
York, PA  
Family Medicine

**Taylor Rae LaRose**  
New York University  
Winthrop Hospital  
Mineola, NY  
Obstetrics-Gynecology

**Eben Larrabee**

Temple University Hospital  
Philadelphia, PA  
Oral Maxillofacial Surgery

**Rachel Marie LeMalefant**

University of Maryland  
Medical Center/  
Sheppard Pratt  
Baltimore, MD  
Psychiatry

**Ryan Lemonde**

Thomas Jefferson University  
Philadelphia, PA  
Emergency Medicine

**Shiochee Vincent Liang**

Rutgers Robert Wood  
Johnson Medical School  
New Brunswick, NJ  
Internal Medicine

**Alexander Michael Lieber**

Icahn School of Medicine  
at Mount Sinai  
New York, NY  
Orthopaedic Surgery

**Lovisa Ljungberg**

Hospital of the University  
of Pennsylvania  
Philadelphia, PA  
Neurology

**Catherine Tuyet-Huong Do Ly**

University of Southern  
California  
Los Angeles, CA  
Internal Medicine

**Evan James Lynn**

Crozer-Chester Medical Center  
Upland, PA  
Emergency Medicine

**Annie Anran Ma**

University of California  
Davis Medical Center  
Sacramento, CA  
Emergency Medicine

**Lynn Han Ma † ££**

Reading Hospital/  
Tower Health  
Reading, PA  
Family Medicine

**Owen Richard Maley**

Penn State Milton S.  
Hershey Medical Center  
Hershey, PA  
Surgery-Preliminary

**Michael S. March »**

Phoenix Children's Hospital  
Phoenix, AZ  
Pediatrics

**Douglas Kay Mayeda**

Saint Joseph Hospital  
Denver, CO  
Family Medicine

**Garrett Sanford Mayo**

North Colorado Medical Center  
Greeley, CO  
Family Medicine

**Shana A. McClain #**

California Pacific  
Medical Center  
San Francisco, CA  
Internal Medicine

**Jessica Leigh McCullough \***

Allegheny General Hospital  
Pittsburgh, PA  
Internal Medicine

**Mary Genevieve McGoldrick \***

Rutgers Robert Wood  
Johnson Medical School  
New Brunswick, NJ  
Emergency Medicine

**Connor James McLaughlin \***

Thomas Jefferson University  
Philadelphia, PA  
Internal Medicine

**Shane Robert Mealy**

Allegheny General Hospital  
Pittsburgh, PA  
Internal Medicine

**Fardeen Mehdi \***

Allegheny General Hospital  
Pittsburgh, PA  
Internal Medicine

**Naveen Janardhan Menon**

Cooper Medical School of  
Rowan University/Cooper  
University Hospital  
Camden, NJ  
Internal Medicine

**Luca Micci**

Walter Reed National  
Military Medical Center  
Bethesda, MD  
Transitional

**Sarah Abigail Miller**

Case Western Reserve  
University/University  
Hospitals Cleveland  
Medical Center  
Cleveland, OH  
Pediatrics

**Jasmine Mirza**

Information Withheld

**Carley Lynn Mitchell**

Case Western Reserve  
University/University  
Hospitals Cleveland  
Medical Center  
Cleveland, OH  
Internal Medicine

**Yaldah Mohammad Nader**

Information Withheld

**Venkat Sai Mokkalapati**

Delaware Psychiatric Center  
New Castle, DE  
Psychiatry

**Zachary Scott Morrow \***

Zucker School of Medicine-  
Hofstra/Northwell at  
Lenox Hill Hospital  
New York, NY  
Internal Medicine

**Rohit Kumar****Mukherjee † ££ \* •**

University of California Los  
Angeles Semel Institute  
for Neuroscience and  
Human Behavior  
Los Angeles, CA  
Psychiatry

**Ria Harshal Mulherkar † »**

Lankenau Medical Center  
Wynnewood, PA  
Medicine-Preliminary

**University of Pittsburgh**

Medical Center  
Pittsburgh, PA  
Radiation Oncology

**Brigid Sheridan Mumford \* »**

University of Pittsburgh  
Medical Center  
Pittsburgh, PA  
Obstetrics-Gynecology

**Samar Naamo**

Information Withheld

**Hiroataka Nakagawa**

St. Vincent's Medical Center  
Bridgeport, CT  
Medicine-Preliminary

**Tufts Medical Center**

Boston, MA  
Physical Medicine &  
Rehabilitation

**Alex Nanchanatt**

Tufts Medical Center  
Boston, MA  
Pediatrics

**Ryan Arthur Narbutas**

Hemet Valley Medical Center  
Hemet, CA  
Transitional

**Norwalk Hospital**

Norwalk, CT  
Radiology-Diagnostic

**Kathleen Johanna Nelson £\*»**

Kent Hospital/Brown  
University  
Pawtucket, RI  
Family Medicine

**Deklerk Awangom Ngankam**

Mercy Catholic Medical Center  
Darby, PA  
Transitional

University of Pittsburgh  
Medical Center  
Pittsburgh, PA  
Physical Medicine &  
Rehabilitation

**Korey Wasyl Onulack**

University of Connecticut  
School of Medicine  
Farmington, CT  
Obstetrics-Gynecology

**Robert Edward Oravets III**

Allegheny General Hospital  
Pittsburgh, PA  
Anesthesiology

**Kristina Ashley Orbe**

Swedish Medical Center  
Seattle, WA  
Family Medicine

**Aminot I. Oshobajo**

Crozer-Chester Medical Center  
Upland, PA  
Transitional

Temple University Hospital  
Philadelphia, PA  
Radiology-Diagnostic

**Luke John Pasick »**

University of Miami/  
Jackson Health System  
Miami, FL  
Otolaryngology

**Avkash J. Patel \***

Case Western Reserve  
University/University  
Hospitals Cleveland  
Medical Center  
Cleveland, OH  
Vascular Surgery

**Hiral Chandrakant Patel**

St. Christopher's Hospital  
for Children  
Philadelphia, PA  
Pediatrics

**Imari Pravin Patel £ \***

University of Maryland  
Medical Center  
Baltimore, MD  
Internal Medicine

**Sahil Pradeep Patel**

Temple University Hospital  
Philadelphia, PA  
Surgery-Preliminary

**Sruti B. Patel**

Icahn School of Medicine  
at Mount Sinai  
New York, NY  
Pediatrics

**Zankhesh Y. Patel**

Zucker School of Medicine  
at Hofstra/Northwell  
Great Neck, NY  
Internal Medicine

**Sefy Aley Paulose**

Icahn School of Medicine at  
Mount Sinai Beth Israel  
New York, NY  
Medicine-Preliminary

**New York Ear & Eye**

Infirmery of Mount Sinai  
New York, NY  
Ophthalmology

**Alise P. Peckjian**

St. Christopher's Hospital  
for Children  
Philadelphia, PA  
Pediatrics

**Avian Pham**

New York-Presbyterian/  
Queens  
Queens, NY  
Surgery-Preliminary

**Desiree Nicole Pinto \* » •**

MedStar Georgetown  
University Hospital  
Washington, DC  
General Surgery

**Dawid Plaza**

Westchester Medical Center  
Valhalla, NY  
Pediatrics

**Eric William Prouty §**

University of Maryland  
Medical Center/  
Sheppard Pratt  
Baltimore, MD  
Psychiatry

**Gregory Joseph Przybylski**

Thomas Jefferson University  
Philadelphia, PA  
Emergency Medicine

**Joseph Dominic Raco \*»**

Penn State Milton S.  
Hershey Medical Center  
Hershey, PA  
Internal Medicine

**Adrian Rainero Garcia**

Ohio State University  
Medical Center  
Columbus, OH  
Emergency Medicine

**Tara Rakiewicz**

Thomas Jefferson University  
Philadelphia, PA  
Internal Medicine

**Jeffrey Antonio Ramirez #**

Harbor-University of California  
Los Angeles Medical Center  
Torrance, CA  
Pediatrics

**Justin Rashtian »**

Montefiore Medical  
Center/Albert Einstein  
College of Medicine  
Bronx, NY  
Internal Medicine

**Ryan H. Rothman**

Allegheny General Hospital  
Pittsburgh, PA  
Internal Medicine

**Anamika Saha \* ££**

Montefiore Medical  
Center/Albert Einstein  
College of Medicine  
Bronx, NY  
Pediatrics-Primary/Social

**Chelsea Tiffany Salas-Tam ££ \***

Thomas Jefferson University  
Philadelphia, PA  
Family Medicine

**Jordy Salcedo Giraldo**

St. Christopher's Hospital  
for Children  
Philadelphia, PA  
Pediatrics

**Tiarrah Drucinda Salvi**

Inspira Health Network  
Vineland, NJ  
Transitional

Tufts Medical Center  
Boston, MA  
Radiation Oncology

**Andrew John Samoyedny »**

Crozer-Chester Medical Center  
Upland, PA  
Transitional

Hospital of the University  
of Pennsylvania  
Philadelphia, PA  
Interventional Radiology

**Luke Kenneth Sanborn**

University of Southern  
California  
Los Angeles, CA  
Internal Medicine

**Joanna Sanchez**

Zucker School of Medicine  
at Hofstra/Northwell  
Great Neck, NY  
Medicine-Preliminary

Icahn School of Medicine  
at Mount Sinai/St. Luke's  
Roosevelt Hospital  
New York, NY  
Anesthesiology

**Nishita D. Saraiya**

Maimonides Medical Center  
Brooklyn, NY  
Emergency Medicine

**Deeksha R. K. Sarma #**

Allegheny General Hospital  
Pittsburgh, PA  
Internal Medicine

**Kevin Thomas Savage »**

Beth Israel Deaconess  
Medical Center  
Boston, MA  
Medicine-Preliminary

University of Pittsburgh  
Medical Center  
Pittsburgh, PA  
Dermatology

**Akanksha Saxena**

Rutgers Robert Wood  
Johnson Medical School  
New Brunswick, NJ  
Family Medicine

**Danielle Malitz Schenker**

Cooper Medical School of  
Rowan University/Cooper  
University Hospital  
Camden, NJ  
Obstetrics-Gynecology

**Hayden Jacob Schenker**

Christiana Care Health System  
Newark, DE  
Emergency Medicine

**Christian Edward Selinski †»**

University of Virginia  
Charlottesville, VA  
Internal Medicine

**Lakshana Senthikumar #**

New York Medical  
College at Metropolitan  
Hospital Center  
New York, NY  
Surgery-Preliminary

**Kajol Shah**

Rutgers New Jersey  
Medical School  
Newark, NJ  
Internal Medicine

**Sofia De Vos Shaikh \***

Boston University  
Medical Center  
Boston, MA  
Internal Medicine

**Norhan Shamloul \* »**

Penn State Milton S.  
Hershey Medical Center  
Hershey, PA  
Medicine-Preliminary  
Dermatology

**Elias Russell Shissler**

Kootenai Health  
Coeur d'Alene, ID  
Family Medicine

**Matthew Solomon Simon**

Mercy Catholic Medical Center  
Darby, PA  
Transitional

Albert Einstein Medical Center  
Philadelphia, PA  
Radiology-Diagnostic

**Steven Alexander Sinfield**

University of California  
Irvine Medical Center  
Orange, CA  
Internal Medicine

**Camille Nakita Singh ££ \***

Boston University  
Medical Center  
Boston, MA  
Family Medicine

**Roshni Priya Singh £**

Boston University  
Medical Center  
Boston, MA  
Internal Medicine

**Alexander Nicholas Sisto**

Montefiore Medical  
Center/Albert Einstein  
College of Medicine  
Bronx, NY  
Internal Medicine

**Lauren Alyson Skerritt »**

Tufts Medical Center  
Boston, MA  
Internal Medicine

**Whitney Taryn Skidmore \***

University of Texas Health  
Science Center at Houston  
Houston, TX  
Emergency Medicine

**Wilton Prescott Smith »**

University of Pittsburgh  
Medical Center  
Pittsburgh, PA  
Internal Medicine

**Conor James Sperzel**

Zucker School of Medicine  
at Hofstra/Northwell  
Great Neck, NY  
Medicine-Preliminary  
Physical Medicine &  
Rehabilitation

**Pranati N. Sreepathy**

University of Illinois  
College of Medicine  
Chicago, IL  
Internal Medicine

**Brian Rogers Stocksdale »**

Stanford University  
Stanford, CA  
Medicine-Preliminary  
Neurology

**Megumi Sugimoto \***

Pomona Valley Hospital  
Pomona, CA  
Family Medicine

**Eddy B. Sun**

Stony Brook  
University Hospital  
Stony Brook, NY  
Internal Medicine

**Joshua Allen Swenson**

Maine Medical Center  
Portland, ME  
Emergency Medicine

**Stephanie M. Tauscher**

Reading Hospital/  
Tower Health  
Emergency Medicine

**David W. Temme, Jr.**

Mercy Catholic Medical Center  
Darby, PA  
Medicine-Preliminary

Rhode Island Hospital/  
Brown University

Providence, RI  
Anesthesiology

**Kristina Emma Thompsen »**

McGraw Medical Center of  
Northwestern University  
Chicago, IL  
Pediatrics

**Katherine Grace  
Thompson £»**

Allegheny General Hospital  
Pittsburgh, PA  
Medicine-Preliminary

Johns Hopkins Hospital  
Baltimore, MD  
Dermatology

**Carl Robert Tischbein**

Walter Reed National  
Military Medical Center  
Bethesda, MD  
Anesthesiology

**Matthew Jason Tobias**

Rutgers Robert Wood  
Johnson Medical School  
New Brunswick, NJ  
Emergency Medicine

**Kevin Michael Todd**

University at Buffalo  
School of Medicine  
Buffalo, NY  
General Surgery

**Nicholas Gee Tong**

Zucker School of Medicine  
at Hofstra/Northwell  
Great Neck, NY  
Pathology

**Heather Artemis Toskos †**

Stamford Hospital/Columbia  
Stamford, CT  
Surgery-Preliminary

**Matthew Gregory Tracey**

Icahn School of Medicine  
at Mount Sinai/St. Luke's  
Roosevelt Hospital  
New York, NY  
Medicine-Preliminary

Zucker School of Medicine  
at Hofstra/Northwell  
New Hyde Park, NY  
Radiology-Diagnostic

**Tracie Tran**

Mercy Catholic Medical Center  
Darby, PA  
Medicine-Preliminary

Rhode Island Hospital/  
Brown University  
Providence, RI  
Anesthesiology

**Sophia Mai-Tram Trinh »**

Louisiana State University  
School of Medicine  
New Orleans, LA  
General Surgery

**Hyo-Bin Um •**

Rutgers New Jersey  
Medical School  
Newark, NJ  
Internal Medicine

**Krista Ann Vadaketh £ »**

New York-Presbyterian/Weill  
Cornell Medical Center  
New York, NY  
Internal Medicine

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Medical Center  
Baltimore, MD  
Emergency Medicine

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Hospital of the University  
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Philadelphia, PA  
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Los Angeles, CA  
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Charlottesville, VA  
Internal Medicine

**Heba Yusuf**

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Morsani College of Medicine  
Trinity, FL  
Internal Medicine  
(Class of 2019)

**Jenny Zheng**

California Pacific  
Medical Center  
San Francisco, CA  
Internal Medicine

**Cassandra Nan Zhi**

Crozer-Chester Medical Center  
Upland, PA  
Transitional

Maimonides Medical Center  
Brooklyn, NY  
Anesthesiology

**Alexandra Zoraian »**

Hospital of the University  
of Pennsylvania  
Philadelphia, PA  
Anesthesiology

### *Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences and Professional Studies Awards*

#### THE AMEDEO BONDI, PH.D. ENDOWED GRADUATE AWARD

To a Ph.D. graduating student for excellence in research performance during the training experience.

*Eugene Mironets  
(Class of 2019)*

### *Doctor of Medicine Awards*

#### THE UNITED STATES PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE 2020 EXCELLENCE IN PUBLIC HEALTH AWARD

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

*Rohit Kumar Mukherjee*

#### THE DR. ELIAS ABRUTYN AWARD

For excellence in Infectious Diseases:

*Lauren Alyson Skerritt*

#### THE PAULA BERNOCCHI MEMORIAL AWARD

For excellence in the field of Emergency Medicine:

*Nikki Aaron Cali*

For excellence in the field of Psychiatry:

*Kathryn Victoria Blair*

#### 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:

*Michael S. March*

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

For excellence in Radiation Oncology and Clinical Oncology:

*Ria Harshal Mulherkar*

#### THE RONALD P. CAPUTO AWARD

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

*Carley Lynn Mitchell*

#### THE HARRIS R. CLEARFIELD AWARD

For excellence in Gastroenterology:

*Joseph Dominic Raco*

#### 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:

*Rohit Kumar Mukherjee*

#### THE DONALD R. COOPER, MD AWARD

For excellence in Surgery:

*Brendan Chester King*

#### THE SELMA AND OSCAR CORN, MD HU<sup>43</sup> MEMORIAL AWARD IN ORTHOPAEDICS

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

*Christine Sarah Williams*

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

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

*Rita Chinelo Akumuo*

#### THE ALAN EDELSON MEMORIAL PRIZE

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

*Rita Chinelo Akumuo*

#### THE DIANA J. EGAN AWARD

For excellence in clinical Obstetrics & Gynecology:

*Alison Talia Gruber*

#### THE SOCIETY FOR ACADEMIC EMERGENCY MEDICINE AWARD

For excellence in Emergency Medicine:

*Hayden Jacob Schenker*

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

For excellence in Family Medicine:

*Charles Raymond Fencil*

For excellence in Community and Preventive Medicine:

*Camille Nakita Singh*

#### THE EVA FERNANDEZ FOX AWARD

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

*Lauren Alyson Skerritt*

#### THE WILLIAM GREGG AWARD

Graduation prize for Humanitarianism in Care of Pediatric Patients:

*Brittany Kathleen Ashe*

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

For outstanding clinical and academic performance in Hematology and Oncology:

*Gregory D. Whitehill*

#### 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:

*Colleen Franconi*

#### THE RITA G. JACOBS AWARD

For excellence and compassion in Anesthesiology and pain management:

*Alexandra Zoraian*

#### THE ROBERT F. JOHNSTON MEMORIAL AWARD

For excellence in Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine:

*Sofia De Vos Shaikh*

#### THE EICHI K. KOIWAI, MD, HU<sup>47</sup> AWARD

For an outstanding performance during the Pathology Clerkship:

*Nicholas Gee Tong*

#### THE JOSEPH A. LANGBORD MEMORIAL PRIZE

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

*Camille Nakita Singh*

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

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

*Kirpal Singh Kochar*

#### THE DANIEL MASON, MD HU<sup>44</sup> AWARD

For excellence in Cardiovascular clinical work:

*Krista Ann Vadaketh*

**THE MEDICAL HUMANITIES AWARD**

*Sona Hurts  
Rohit Kumar Mukherjee*

**THE DEPARTMENT OF MEDICINE AWARD**

For excellence in Renal and Electrolyte studies:

*Camille Genevieve  
Marie Giraud*

For excellence in Internal Medicine and Cardiology:

*Mohammed Sahir Haji*

For clinical excellence in medicine:

*Sean Patrick Flynn*

*Connor James McLaughlin*

*Avkash J. Patel*

**THE DEYLAN C. MOORE MEMORIAL AWARD**

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

*Desiree Nicole Pinto*

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

For excellence in Anatomy during the senior year:

*William Frederick Foos, Jr.*

*Matthew Solomon Simon*

**THE DEPARTMENT OF NEUROLOGY AWARD**

For excellence in Neurology:

*Brian Rogers Stocksdale*

*Grace Marcy Anya Venezia*

**THE DEPARTMENT OF OBSTETRICS AND GYNECOLOGY AWARD**

For overall academic excellence in the Obstetrics and Gynecology:

*Natalie DiCenzo*

For academic excellence in the Obstetrics and Gynecology Clinical Clerkship:

*Brigid Sheridan Mumford*

For leadership in the field of Obstetrics and Gynecology:

*Carolyn Diana Rose  
Brookhart*

**THE OFFICE OF STUDENT AFFAIRS AWARD**

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

*Gregory D. Whitehill*

*Michael S. March*

For service to the senior class and to the medical school:

*Karina Preeti Verma*

*Roshni Priya Singh*

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

For performance and leadership in Family Medicine:

*Leanna Nicole Brooks*

**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:

*Connor James McLaughlin*

**THE RICHARD SHUMAN AWARD**

For excellence in Pathology and Laboratory Medicine:

*Robert Steven Freund*

**THE DR. LEE WINSTON SILVER AWARD**

For excellence in Pediatrics:

*Isabella Marie Hanulik*

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

Abington-Jefferson Health:

*Katherine Krushel*

Allegheny Health Network:

*Joseph Dominic Raco*

Crozer-Chester Medical Center:

*Kristina Emma Thompsen*

Easton Hospital:

*Catherine M. Guariglia*

Kaiser Sacramento Medical Center:

*Anthony An Khong*

Philadelphia Area:

*Alexandra Zoraian*

UPMC Pinnacle:

*Mohammed Sahir Haji*

WellSpan York Hospital:

*Sonia Gowda*

**THE DEPARTMENT OF SURGERY AWARD**

For excellence in the Surgery Pathway:

*Desiree Nicole Pinto*

**THE DANIEL M. TABAS AWARD**

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

*Douglas Kay Mayada*

**THE ARTHUR AND BERTHA WEISMAN AWARD**

For excellence in Child Psychiatry:

*Rachel Marie Lemalefant*

**THE RANDALL WEISS AWARD**

For excellence in Psychiatry:

*Rohit Kumar Mukherjee*

*Eric William Prouty*

**THE WOMAN ONE SCHOLAR AWARD**

*Rita Chinelo Akumuo*

*Stephanie Coriolan  
Belancourt*

**THE WOMEN'S HEALTH EDUCATION AWARD**

In recognition of outstanding leadership and community commitment in the field of Women's Health: Academic Achievement:

*Natalie DiCenzo*

Leadership:

*Ashley Harvard*

Community Commitment:

*Chelsea Tiffany Salas-Tam*

*Camille Nakita Singh*

**THE WU FAMILY PRIZE**

For excellence in Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation:

*Connor Michael Fultz*

**THE DR. MARY YANKOSKY AWARD**

For excellence in Endocrinology:

*Meaghan Jenkins Clark*

For excellence in Radiologic Sciences:

*Andrew John Samoyedny*

## Faculty Awards *for* Distinguished Clinical Teaching

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

Abington–Jefferson Health  
**Steven Shapiro, DO, FAAP, FACOP, FCPP**  
Department of Pediatrics

Allegheny Health Network  
**Mary Lynn Sealey, MD**  
Department of Medicine

Cancer Treatment Centers of America  
**Pamela Crilley, DO**  
Department of Medical Oncology

Coatesville Veterans Affairs Medical Center  
**Mohammad Qasim, MD**  
Department of Psychiatry

Crozer-Chester Medical Center  
**Max Cooper, MD, RDMS**  
Department of Emergency Medicine

Easton Hospital  
**Farhad Elmi, MD**  
Department of Medicine

Friends Hospital  
**Mitali Patnaik, MD, FAPA**  
Department of Psychiatry

Mercy Catholic Medical Center  
**Rajesh Thirumaran, MD, MRCP (UK)**  
Department of Medicine

UPMC Pinnacle  
**Carlos L. Cream, MD, PhD**  
Department of Medicine

Reading Hospital - Tower Health  
**Erica John, MD**  
**Sara L. Wallach, MD, MACP**  
Department of Anesthesiology and  
Perioperative Medicine

St. Francis Medical Center  
**Sara L. Wallach, MD**  
Department of Medicine

St. Christopher's Hospital for Children  
**Daniel R. Taylor, DO, FAAP, FACOP**  
Department of Pediatrics

Virtua Health  
**Michelle L. Salvatore, MD, FACOG**  
Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology

WellSpan Chambersburg Hospital  
**Indranil Chakrabarti, MD**  
Department of Psychiatry

WellSpan York Hospital  
**Krystle Shafer, MD**  
Department of Emergency Medicine

### DEAN'S SPECIAL AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN CLINICAL TEACHING AT A FAMILY PRACTICE SITE

Kaiser Permanente Mid-Atlantic

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 1162 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 New World. 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 (bachelor, master, doctor); the branch of knowledge (nursing, medicine, etc.); 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 three feet long, the master's three-and-a-half feet long, and the doctor's four 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.

The Drexel University mace is carried in the Commencement procession to the stage, where it joins the maces of the College of Medicine's predecessor institutions. The Hahnemann mace was designed and carved by James Victor. The mace of the Medical College of Pennsylvania was designed by former dean Alton I. Sutnick, in conjunction with artist Richard Feldstein.

*Drexel University Board of Trustees*

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Produced by the Office of University Communications

*Lists complete as of May 2020*

