Dear Graduates,

On this joyous occasion, I join my Drexel colleagues in honoring you for your hard work and outstanding achievements at Drexel University College of Medicine. You now join the ranks of accomplished Drexel physicians, scientists and professionals serving humanity at the forefront of medical practice, biomedical research and the development of life-saving diagnostics, treatments and vaccines.

As you embark on your careers, I want to recognize your tremendous contributions to our research enterprise, ranging from securing prestigious fellowships and NIH grants to publication of articles in the most respected peer-reviewed medical and scientific journals.

Your experience at Drexel has prepared you to make vital contributions as health care continues to experience rapid change and revolutionary advances, from the use of artificial intelligence in drug design and diagnostics to the development of personalized treatment through genomic medicine or customized implants and prosthetics.

Whether you devote your careers to developing more effective treatments and cures, eliminating disparities in the delivery of care or reshaping academic medicine, you have the power to improve countless lives in immeasurable ways.

As you join a Drexel alumni family that spans the globe, I encourage you to remain closely connected to your alma mater. You will have so many opportunities to add to the College of Medicine’s academic strength and impact, just as your Drexel faculty and peers will continue to enrich your life. I also hope you will serve as proud ambassadors for the College whose mission you have most surely advanced.

The world needs every one of you to excel in medicine and biomedical research. In wishing you fulfilling careers and meaningful lives, I know we can all count on your exceptional skills, authentic compassion and unwavering devotion to your profession as you rise to meet every challenge and come through for humanity’s sake. Congratulations.

Sincerely,

John Fry
President
Brass Prelude
Selected Works
Symphony in C

Academic Procession
Pomp and Circumstance March No. 1
Edward Elgar
Symphony in C

National Anthem
Star-Spangled Banner
Francis Scott Key
Symphony in C

Opening Remarks
Leon McCrea II, MD, MPH
Deborah J. Tuttle, MD and John P. Piper, MD Vice Dean for Educational Affairs
Director, Drexel Pathway to Medical School Program
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 for Medical Affairs, Drexel University
Professor of Medicine and Emergency Medicine

Welcome
John Fry
President, Drexel University

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

Recognition of Academic and Teaching Awards
Charles B. Cairns

Citation of Fifty-Year Graduates 1974-2024
Charles B. Cairns

Conferring of Honorary Degree
John Fry
Charles B. Cairns

Doctor of Science
Vicki L. Chandler, PhD

Commencement Address
Vicki L. Chandler

Charge to the Graduates
Charles B. Cairns

Confering of Graduate Degrees
John Fry
Elisabeth J. Van Bockstaele, PhD
Founding Dean, Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences and Professional Studies
Chief Strategy Officer
Senior Vice President for Graduate and Online Education
Dean, Graduate College
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 Gaurier-Hausser, PhD
Director, Interdisciplinary Health Sciences Program
Assistant Professor, Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences and Professional Studies

Paul McGonigle, PhD
Co-director, Division of Interdisciplinary and Career-Oriented Programs, Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences and Professional Studies
Director, Drug Discovery and Development Program, Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences and Professional Studies
Professor of Pharmacology and Physiology

Shae B. Padrick, PhD
Assistant Professor of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology

Erin Vogelsong, MS
Director, Master of Laboratory Animal Science Program,
Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences and Professional Studies
Assistant Professor, Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences and Professional Studies

Administration of the Graduate Student Oath
Elisabeth J. Van Bockstaele

Confering of the Doctor of Medicine Degrees
John Fry
Charles B. Cairns
Leon McCrea II
Seema Baranwal, MD
Senior Associate Dean for Student Affairs
Associate Professor of Medicine

Amy C. Fuchs, MD
Associate Dean of Student Affairs for Career Advising
Associate Professor of Medicine

Stacy Ellen, DO
Assistant Dean for Student Affairs
Associate Professor of Clinical Pediatrics
Investiture
Carolyn Giordano, PhD
Associate Dean, Assessment and Evaluation
Associate Professor of Family, Community and Preventive Medicine
Rita Guevara, MD
Associate Professor of Clinical Pediatrics
Assistant Dean of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion
Jennifer Hamilton, MD, PhD
Associate Dean for Medical Education – Simulation
Professor, Department of Family, Community and Preventive Medicine
Martin Herman, MD
Professor and Interim Academic Chair of Orthopedic Surgery
Professor of Pediatrics
Asif Ilyas, MD ’01, MBA
Associate Dean of Clinical Research
Adjunct Professor of Orthopedic Surgery and Pediatrics
Adrienne Willard, MD
Associate Professor of Medicine

Administration of the Physician’s Pledge
Cecilia M. Smith, DO
Associate Dean, College of Medicine at Tower Health
Professor and Interim Academic Chair of Medicine

Military Oath for MD Officers
Ayman S. Bodair, MD ’19
Captain, Medical Corps, United States Army
Critical Care Fellow, Walter Reed National Military Medical Center

Induction into the Alumni Association
Edward Siegel, MD ’12, MBA
President, Alumni Association

Graduate Remarks
Samuel Glaisher
Class of 2024

Farewell
Seema Baranwal

Recessional
The Earle of Oxford’s March
Symphony in C
Crown Imperial
William Walton/arr. Douglas Nelson
Symphony in C

Macebearer
Joel Horwitz, PhD
Professor of Pharmacology and Physiology

Faculty Marshals
Cheryl A. Hanau, MD
Senior Associate Dean of Admissions
Professor and Richard Shuman, MD, Chair of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine
Matthew Hartman, MD
Associate Professor of Radiologic Sciences
David Matson, DO
Interim Academic Chair and Associate Professor of Clinical Anesthesiology and Perioperative Medicine
Bisan A. Salhi, MD, PhD
Assistant Dean for Student Affairs, Diversity, Equity and Inclusion
Associate Professor of Emergency Medicine
Todd I. Strochlic, VMD, PhD
Associate Professor of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology
Maya Therattil, MD
Assistant Professor of Medicine

Student Marshals
Aarohee Bhattarai
Gabriel DePinho
Tomas Fencel
Nitika Gupta
Jaclyn Lo
Mary Marino
Manasa Mula
Rachel Safo
Allyssa Thomas
Isaac Turkson
Mekha Varghese

All degrees awarded at this Commencement carry an official conferral date of May 9, 2024.
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.

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Hahnemann Medical College
Class of 1974
Stephen Abelow, MD
David Aldinger, MD *
Peter Altimare, MD
Marilyn Artushenia, MD
David Artzerounian, MD
Jason Balaban, MD
Deborah Barto, MD
Jeffrey Bettinger, MD
Donald Bohannon, MD
Edward Bondi, MD
Bruce Brazina, MD
Jeffrey Brecher, MD *
Dean Brenner, MD
Louis Carideo, MD
David Carney, MD
Kent Carson, MD
Donald Carter, MD
Joseph Colancecco, MD
Stephen Colen, MD
Harry Collins, MD
Stewart Cooler, MD
Ronald Costa, MD
Patrick Costello, MD *
James Crozier, MD *
Pablo Roderick, MD
Mary Ellen Rimsza, MD
Marc Reynolds, MD
Raymond Quinlan, MD
Patricia Purcell, MD
Terry Pundiak, MD
Barry Pressman, MD *
Mark Reynolds, MD
Mary Ellen Rimsza, MD
Leonard Robinson, PhD
Paul Rodrier, MD
Richard Ross, MD
Robert Ross, MD
Jeffrey Rymuza, MD
Joseph Sabo, MD *
Nancy Sajben, MD
Jane Sargent, MD *
Lee Schwab, MD
Peter Scivoletti, MD
Carl Shafto, MD
Owen Sheekey, MD
Barry Stamm, MD
June Stotz, MD
Robert Sunenblick, MD *
Andrew Symons, PhD
Conrad Tamea, MD
Robert Thompson, MD
Robert Toltzis, MD
Irene Townsend, MD
Jay Ungar, MD
Ward Vaughan, MD
Howard Weisbrod, MD
Lyne Weiss, MD
Jen-Tsch Weng, PhD
Herman Williams, MD *
Charles Young, MD

Medical College of Pennsylvania
Class of 1974
John Ammon, MD
Cathy Artis, MD *
Anthony Balsamo, MD
Janice Benson, MD *
Cynthia Berg, MD *
Sharon Billon, MD
Barbara Blake, MD
Karen Brocco-Kish, MD
Eva Buttner, MD *
Laura Cannavo, MD
Colleen Carey, MD
Eileen Catterton, MD *
David Cheli, MD
Claire Cifaloglio, MD
Marc Cotler, MD
Georgia Dash, MS
Anthony De Casperis, MD *
Pamela Dietrich, MD *
Robert Domanski, MD, PhD
Patricia Doerr, MD *
Mary Ellen Egan, MD
Michael Egan, MD
Mary Esper, MD *
Robert Feeney, MD
Mary Ann Fink, MD
Margaret Flanagan, MD
Mark Flynn, MD
Ann Foss, MD
Mary Francis, MD
Joseph Furey, MD
Mary Futrell, MD
John Gaffney, MD
Steve Gallant, MD
Robert Gallucci, MD
Mary George, MD
Eugene Germaine, MD
Robert Gerson, MD
Seymour Geskin, MD
Joseph Giampa, MD
Sheila Giovanetti, MD
Sarah Glick, MD
Stephen Glick, MD
Steven Goldstein, MD
Kathryn Hart, MD
* deceased
Vicki L. Chandler, PhD

Pioneering plant geneticist and research leader

Vicki L. Chandler, PhD, is recognized as one of the foremost geneticists in the world. She has conducted critical research in the field of plant genetics for more than three decades. In 2014, she was appointed to the National Science Board by President Barack Obama for a six-year term.

Dr. Chandler is chief academic officer and provost at Minerva University, providing administrative leadership and budgetary management for academic affairs, admissions and advising functions, with oversight of all academic programs and policies. She previously served as dean of natural sciences at Minerva.

Prior to joining Minerva, Dr. Chandler served as the chief program officer for science at the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation. She led research programs and taught at the University of Oregon and the University of Arizona. She has served extensively on national advisory boards and panels, including the National Science Foundation’s Biological Directorate Advisory Committee (2001-2004), and she was elected to the governing council of the National Academy of Sciences (2007-2010). She currently serves on the Board of Science Education for the Academy and on the management board for the Sainsbury Laboratory Cambridge University.

Dr. Chandler’s pioneering research on the control of gene expression in plants and animals has garnered numerous awards, including the Presidential Young Investigator Award, the National Science Foundation Faculty Award for Women Scientists and Engineers, and the National Institutes of Health Director’s Pioneer Award. She has also been named a Searle Scholar. Dr. Chandler is an elected member of the National Academy of Sciences and the American Philosophical Society, and a fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

She has chaired or co-chaired Keystone, Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology and Gordon Research conferences, serving the latter as an elected council member and a board trustee. She has been president and served on the Board of Directors for the Genetics Society and served as president of the American Society of Plant Biologists.

Dr. Chandler received her BA in biochemistry from the University of California Berkeley and her PhD in biochemistry from the University of California San Francisco. She completed a postdoctoral fellowship at Stanford University.

For her vast contributions to the field of plant genetics, Drexel is proud to confer upon Dr. Vicki L. Chandler the degree of Doctor of Science, *honoris causa*. 
DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY DEGREES
(The graduate’s dissertation title and advisor are indicated.)

Maria R. Cavallo
“Unveiling Resistance Mechanisms and Improving Therapeutic Outcomes in Mutant-BRAFV600E Cancer Models”
Advisor: Edward J. Hartsough, PhD
PHARMACOLOGY AND PHYSIOLOGY

John Edmund Chojnowski III.§
“Uncovering a Novel Regulatory Mechanism for Casein Kinase 2 (CK2)”
Advisor: Todd I. Strochlic, VMD, PhD
MOLECULAR AND CELL BIOLOGY AND GENETICS

Gina Marie Cusimano
“Exploring Adenosine Deaminase 1 (ADA-1) as a Novel Molecular Vaccine Adjuvant”
Advisor: Michele Kutzler, PhD
MICROBIOLOGY AND IMMUNOLOGY

Elijah Hayes Davis
“The Multifaceted and Paradoxical Roles of Toll-Like Receptors, Along With Their Signaling Adaptors TRIF and MyD88, in Modulating Microglia Innate Immune Response to Neutrotropic Betacoronaviruses”
Advisor: Sonia Navas-Martin, PhD
MICROBIOLOGY AND IMMUNOLOGY

Carly A. DeAntoneo
“Reovirus Z-RNAs Activate ZBP1 Dependent Cell Death”
Advisor: Siddharth Balachandran, PhD
MOLECULAR AND CELL BIOLOGY AND GENETICS

Emily Esquea
“Targeting Metabolic Vulnerabilities in Breast-Cancer Brain Metastatic Cells”
Advisor: Mauricio Reginato, PhD
MOLECULAR AND CELL BIOLOGY AND GENETICS

Dema Ghaban
“Role of IDO1 in Vascular Remodeling During Pregnancy”
Advisor: Alexander Muller, PhD
MICROBIOLOGY AND IMMUNOLOGY

Ari Gordon §
“Differences From Within: Comparative and Functional Genomics of Diverse Bacteria Isolated From Children’s Middle Ear Infections”
 Advisors: Elias El Haddad, PhD, and Joshua Chang Mell, PhD
MOLECULAR AND CELL BIOLOGY AND GENETICS

Chun-Ta Ho
“Effect of the Chemokine CXCL12 on Dendritic Spine Dynamics – Turnover, Maturation and Clustering”
Advisor: Olimpia Meucci, MD, PhD
PHARMACOLOGY AND PHYSIOLOGY

Julie Joseph
“Regulating Immunity via Exosomes by the Retroviral b-Zip Protein, HBZ, in HTLV Associated Neuroinflammation”
Advisor: Pooja Jain, PhD
MICROBIOLOGY AND IMMUNOLOGY

Jill M. Lawrence
“Characterizing Pro-inflammatory ‘A1’-Like Astrocyte Polarization Responses in Primary Human Cell Culture Models of the Blood-Brain Barrier, Acute and Chronic Inflammation, and HIV-1 Viral Protein Exposure”
Advisor: Michael R. Nonnemacher, PhD
MOLECULAR AND CELL BIOLOGY AND GENETICS

Giang Le Minh
“Understanding Mechanisms of OGT/O-GlcNAc Regulation of Breast Cancer Stem Cells”
Advisor: Mauricio Reginato, PhD
BIOCHEMISTRY

Xiaonan Liu
“Dissecting the Molecular and Cellular Mechanisms of Neuronal Morphogenesis in Mouse Cortical Neurons”
Advisor: Kazuhito Toyooka, PhD
PHARMACOLOGY AND PHYSIOLOGY

Xuan Luo
“Immune Regulation by Small Extracellular Vesicles in Attenuating Inflammatory Pain”
Advisor: Seena Ajit, PhD
PHARMACOLOGY AND PHYSIOLOGY

§ Completed Joint MD/PhD Program
Teresa Marie LuPone
“Development of a High Throughput High Content Imaging Viral Titer Assay to Investigate the Effect of Substance Misuse on HIV-1 Replicative Dynamics in hMDMs”
Advisor: Peter J. Gaskill, PhD
MICROBIOLOGY AND IMMUNOLOGY

Nicholas J. Stachowski
“Effects of BDNF and Epidural Stimulation on Locomotor Outcomes and Spinal RORb Interneurons After Complete SCI in Mouse”
Advisor: Kimberly Dougherty, PhD
NEUROSCIENCE

Mitchell Isaac Parker §
“A Comprehensive Structural Classification of RAS Conformations”
Advisors: Roland Dunbrack, PhD, Erica Golemis, PhD, and Joshua Meyer, MD
MOLECULAR AND CELL BIOLOGY AND GENETICS

Yih-Ping Su
“Viral-Host Genomic Interactions: Characterizing Cis and Trans Interactions of Integrated HBV DNA With the Human Genome”
Advisors: Garth D. Ehrlich, PhD, and Joshua P. Earl, PhD
MICROBIOLOGY AND IMMUNOLOGY

Breanne Elizabeth Pirino
“The Kappa-Opioid Receptor in Subregions of the Nucleus Accumbens Shell in Affective Behavior and Ethanol Drinking”
Advisor: Jessica R. Barson, PhD
NEUROSCIENCE

John Robert Walker
“The Role of Mechanosensitive, IB4-Positive Nociceptive Afferent Input in Forelimb Motor Function and Rehabilitation After Spinal Cord Injury”
Advisor: Megan Detloff, PhD
NEUROSCIENCE

Jonathan Houston Richards
“Neuroimmune Contributions to Mouse Chronic Neuropathic Pain: Macrophages Play a Dual Role in Sensory Discriminative and Affective Components of Pain”
Advisor: Megan Detloff, PhD
NEUROSCIENCE

Jeremy A. Weinberger
“Multisite Electrode Arrays to Optimize Epidural Stimulation for Spasticity Following Spinal Cord Injury”
Advisor: Marie-Pascale Côté, PhD
NEUROSCIENCE

Candace Alicia Rizzi-Wise
“Opposing Regulation of Fear and Other Contextual Responses by the Dorsal Versus Ventral Lateral Septum”
Advisor: Dong Wang, PhD
NEUROSCIENCE

Qiaowei Xie
“The Impact of EcoHIV on Cocaine-Related Behaviors”
Advisor: Jacqueline Barker, PhD
PHARMA COLOGY AND PHYSIOLOGY

Photis S. Rotsides
“The Antibiotic Sensing Mechanism of VanS from Type-B VRE”
Advisor: Patrick J. Loll, PhD
BIOCHEMISTRY

Jieyi Zhang
“Phenotypic Plasticity of CX3CR1 in Prostate Cancer Metastasis”
Advisor: Alessandro Fatatis, MD, PhD
PHARMACOLOGY AND PHYSIOLOGY

Trevor Shawn Smith
“Modular Motor Control and Perturbation Analyzed Using Stochastic Dynamic Operators”
Advisor: Simon F. Giszter, PhD
NEUROSCIENCE

§ Completed Joint MD/PhD Program
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 PROGRAMS

Biochemistry

Ahmed Sheriff Bulhassan
“Development of Novel Fungal Arp2/3 Complex Inhibitors”
Advisor: Shae B. Padrick, PhD

Ana May Dumitrescu
“Assessing the Antiviral Effect of Plasma-Conditioned Medium Against Herpes Simplex Virus 1 Infection in Polarized Vaginal Epithelial Cells”
Advisors: Fred Krebs, PhD, and Vandana Miller, MD

Caroline I. Corcoran
“Cobamide Biosynthesis: Examination of Aminopropanol Production and Incorporation”
Advisor: Amy Ma, PhD

Parisa Hekmatian
“Characterizing Escape Pathways Associated With HIV-Related Long Noncoding RNA H19 in DNA Damage Response”
Advisor: Christian Sell, PhD

Sudhiksha Muthukrishnan
“Investigating the Role of SND1 in Glioblastoma Using RNA-Seq”
Advisor: Srinivas Somarowthu, PhD

Britney Black
“Assessing the Antiviral Effect of Plasma-Conditioned Medium Against Herpes Simplex Virus 1 Infection in Polarized Vaginal Epithelial Cells”
Advisors: Fred Krebs, PhD, and Vandana Miller, MD

James Arch Johnson
“Characterizing Escape Pathways Associated With HIV-Related Long Noncoding RNA H19 in DNA Damage Response”
Advisor: Christian Sell, PhD

Shabnam Pirestani
“AURKA Control of PD-L1 Expression in Head and Neck Cancer”
Advisor: Erica Golemis, PhD

Amanda Abavana
“AURKA Control of PD-L1 Expression in Head and Neck Cancer”
Advisor: Erica Golemis, PhD

Joanna Jones
“Assessing the Antiviral Effect of Plasma-Conditioned Medium Against Herpes Simplex Virus 1 Infection in Polarized Vaginal Epithelial Cells”
Advisors: Fred Krebs, PhD, and Vandana Miller, MD

Karen Lennie Malanda
“Optimization of Human Organotypic Brain Slice Cultures for Use as a Novel Model of NeuroHIV”
Advisor: Olimpia Meucci, PhD

Felicity Tamayo Tso
“Characterization of Shared Immunogenic Poly-epitope Frameshift Mutation in Microsatellite-Instability-High (MSI-H) Colorectal Cancer”
Advisors: Patrick Wilkinson, PhD, Katelyn Miller, PhD, and Alessandro Fatatis, MD, PhD

Karan Bamb
“Utilizing Bioinformatics to Identify Dysregulated lncRNAs in Hepatitis B Positive Hepatocellular Carcinoma”
Advisor: Srinivas Somarowthu, PhD

Kshiti Shrenik Vaishnav
“Investigating the Functional Role of Highly Structured Regions in lncRNA SChLAP1 Using CRISPR/Cas-Based Deletion Analysis”
Advisor: Srinivas Somarowthu, PhD

Microbiology and Immunology

Amanda Abavana
“Regulation of BORG2 by Cdc42 Through Disruption of Internal Structure”
Advisor: Shae B. Padrick, PhD

Zachary Capriotti
“Interplay Hepatitis B Virus and lncRNA FAM99A Expression and Interacting Proteins in Liver Cancer Cell Lines”
Advisor: Michael Bouchard, PhD

Priyashree Nagarajan
“Cancer Biology
“Investigating the Role of SND1 in Glioblastoma Using RNA-Seq”
Advisor: Srinivas Somarowthu, PhD

Sri Havya Jana
“The Role of DDX11 in Telomere Maintenance and Its Implications in Cancer Cells”
Advisor: Eishi Noguchi, PhD

Ranjit Kaur
“Characterization of Shared Immunogenic Poly-epitope Frameshift Mutation in Microsatellite-Instability-High (MSI-H) Colorectal Cancer”
Advisors: Patrick Wilkinson, PhD, Katelyn Miller, PhD, and Alessandro Fatatis, MD, PhD

Steve Rutledge
“Characterization of Shared Immunogenic Poly-epitope Frameshift Mutation in Microsatellite-Instability-High (MSI-H) Colorectal Cancer”
Advisors: Patrick Wilkinson, PhD, Katelyn Miller, PhD, and Alessandro Fatatis, MD, PhD

Neuroscience

Alexander A. Benson
“Characterization of Shared Immunogenic Poly-epitope Frameshift Mutation in Microsatellite-Instability-High (MSI-H) Colorectal Cancer”
Advisors: Patrick Wilkinson, PhD, Katelyn Miller, PhD, and Alessandro Fatatis, MD, PhD

Pharmacology and Physiology

Hieu Jeromy
“Characterization of Shared Immunogenic Poly-epitope Frameshift Mutation in Microsatellite-Instability-High (MSI-H) Colorectal Cancer”
Advisors: Patrick Wilkinson, PhD, Katelyn Miller, PhD, and Alessandro Fatatis, MD, PhD

Diego Eduardo Jiménez Trejo
“Characterization of Shared Immunogenic Poly-epitope Frameshift Mutation in Microsatellite-Instability-High (MSI-H) Colorectal Cancer”
Advisors: Patrick Wilkinson, PhD, Katelyn Miller, PhD, and Alessandro Fatatis, MD, PhD

Erick V. O’Brien
“Characterization of Shared Immunogenic Poly-epitope Frameshift Mutation in Microsatellite-Instability-High (MSI-H) Colorectal Cancer”
Advisors: Patrick Wilkinson, PhD, Katelyn Miller, PhD, and Alessandro Fatatis, MD, PhD

Dayna Robinson
“Characterization of Shared Immunogenic Poly-epitope Frameshift Mutation in Microsatellite-Instability-High (MSI-H) Colorectal Cancer”
Advisors: Patrick Wilkinson, PhD, Katelyn Miller, PhD, and Alessandro Fatatis, MD, PhD

Molecular and Cell Biology and Genetics

Karan Bamb
“Interplay Hepatitis B Virus and lncRNA FAM99A Expression and Interacting Proteins in Liver Cancer Cell Lines”
Advisor: Michael Bouchard, PhD

Ranjit Kaur
“Characterization of Shared Immunogenic Poly-epitope Frameshift Mutation in Microsatellite-Instability-High (MSI-H) Colorectal Cancer”
Advisors: Patrick Wilkinson, PhD, Katelyn Miller, PhD, and Alessandro Fatatis, MD, PhD

Steve Rutledge
“Characterization of Shared Immunogenic Poly-epitope Frameshift Mutation in Microsatellite-Instability-High (MSI-H) Colorectal Cancer”
Advisors: Patrick Wilkinson, PhD, Katelyn Miller, PhD, and Alessandro Fatatis, MD, PhD

Erick V. O’Brien
“Characterization of Shared Immunogenic Poly-epitope Frameshift Mutation in Microsatellite-Instability-High (MSI-H) Colorectal Cancer”
Advisors: Patrick Wilkinson, PhD, Katelyn Miller, PhD, and Alessandro Fatatis, MD, PhD

Dayna Robinson
“Characterization of Shared Immunogenic Poly-epitope Frameshift Mutation in Microsatellite-Instability-High (MSI-H) Colorectal Cancer”
Advisors: Patrick Wilkinson, PhD, Katelyn Miller, PhD, and Alessandro Fatatis, MD, PhD

Molecular and Cell Biology and Genetics

Karan Bamb
“Interplay Hepatitis B Virus and lncRNA FAM99A Expression and Interacting Proteins in Liver Cancer Cell Lines”
Advisor: Michael Bouchard, PhD

Ranjit Kaur
“Characterization of Shared Immunogenic Poly-epitope Frameshift Mutation in Microsatellite-Instability-High (MSI-H) Colorectal Cancer”
Advisors: Patrick Wilkinson, PhD, Katelyn Miller, PhD, and Alessandro Fatatis, MD, PhD

Steve Rutledge
“Characterization of Shared Immunogenic Poly-epitope Frameshift Mutation in Microsatellite-Instability-High (MSI-H) Colorectal Cancer”
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Erick V. O’Brien
“Characterization of Shared Immunogenic Poly-epitope Frameshift Mutation in Microsatellite-Instability-High (MSI-H) Colorectal Cancer”
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Dayna Robinson
“Characterization of Shared Immunogenic Poly-epitope Frameshift Mutation in Microsatellite-Instability-High (MSI-H) Colorectal Cancer”
Advisors: Patrick Wilkinson, PhD, Katelyn Miller, PhD, and Alessandro Fatatis, MD, PhD
Rashmi Raveendra Tantri
“Sex Differences in Dopamine Transporter Regulation in Rats Following Acute Cocaine Response: Exploring the Role of Map Kinase Phosphatase 3 (MKP3)”
Advisor: Ole Mortensen, PhD

Fuyu Yang
“Characterizing Novel Allosteric Modulators for Human Dopamine Transporter”
Advisor: Ole Mortensen, PhD

DIVISION OF INTERDISCIPLINARY AND CAREER-ORIENTED PROGRAMS

Biomedicine and Business

Eric Baksh
Hannah Elyse Dunnous
Jordan Guerrero Flores
Madison Rose Gaiser
Amanda Marie Gretz
Darvhan Augustine Villas Moses
Riya D. Patel
Beverly Tuffour

Biomedicine and Digital Media

Madeline Tate Montero

Biomedicine and Entrepreneurship

Olubukola Jimoh

Biomedicine and Law

Lauren Nicole Saiia
Logan Spence Reese Smith-Myricks
Carla M. Triolo

Clinical Research Organization and Management

Jamie E. Anderson
Laurie Marie Biela
Christine Ciprich
Allison Cullen
Angelica Marie DeMartino
Adaeze Uzoamaka Antoinette Ekeson
Miranda S. Garcia
Elizabeth Caroline Gehrer
Elizabeth Hernandez
Gwendolyn Illar
Giovanna Marie Kinahan
Sherly R. Largo
Lourdes Marie Mestre
Urjita Patel
Rebecca Bornstein Pouey
Jacqueline Ann Rakowski
Anna Savage
Christine Elaine Shaefler
Sejal Shah
Denis Manga Tebit
Christine Virginia Whitehead
Drew M. Witter

Drug Discovery and Development

Brianna Marie Achenbach
Sunday Akoji
Onaie Norman Campbell
Sopiko Darchiashvili
Geraldine De Zayas Valdes
Michelle Graf
Isaac Michael Hutchinson
Nicole Shelby Lefebvre
Denis N. Lipe
Zoila Moreano Villena
Ariel Alejandro Napoles
Yagni Keyur Shah
Eric Hookeikainoa Smith
Jordan Stewart
Nicholas Wilson

Immunology

Asha Anderson
Sabrina Marie Aronis
Raquel Beaird
Cassaulandra DePlancke
Jorge Alejandro Garcia Lugo
Fozia Ghafoor
Jasmin A. Giles
Mehmet Kerem Gokus
Kaitlin Idank
Cara Lord
Kelli Peters-Smith
Ashley Marie Schwab
Tabitha V. Soto
Anthony Jacques White

Infectious Disease

Melissa Buchter
Kyle DePlancke
Kiera Caitlin Marshall
Jura Mehja
Shannon Neilan
McCaela Prentice
Allison Jane Scott
Andrew Tyler Sukowaty
Miranda Vaughn
Michaela L. Yandell

Histotechnology

Karleen Bell
She-Are’ Levon Edna Mathis
Martha Diane Nolder
Luis G. Ochoa-Maldonado
Sherry Yang
# Master’s Degree Recipients 2024

## Master of Laboratory Animal Science
- TeQuana LaRose Bayless
- Nathaniel P. Carter
- James Robert Champion
- Emily Ann Jordan
- Mosope N. Kotoye
- Sofia Ordonez
- Erica L. Poulin
- Christina Marie Robinson
- Mary E. Rodenbarger
- Hannah Elizabeth Shaw
- Hannah Theresa Thomas
- Faith C. Tirendi
- Lauren Zepp

## Molecular Medicine
- Keziah K. Adjei
- Argin Aivazian
- Brian David Burritt
- Brittanie Ewell
- Grace C. Holstein
- Nisha N. Prajapati
- Zaira Loraine Sylvain
- Charlotte Touboul

## Pathologists’ Assistant
- Mark Choi
- Jiayin Dong
- Peter Dvoracek
- Anna Helen Nelson
- Amanda Nguy
- Sarah Rosengrant
- Nicole Marie Rossi
- Brittany Anne Schleeter
- Anna Margaret Vitolins
- Rachel Wainwright
- Eric Woodrow Wilford

## Division of Pre-Medical and Pre-Health Programs
### Biomedical Studies
- Makeda Haileleul Asare
- Saba Farhady
- Haley A. Hoffman
- Evin Kilicarslan
- Ryan Daniel Mason
- Chantelle Millwood
- Makenzi A. Patterson
- Meanique D. R. Pollock
- Emily Schein
- Janel K. Sewell

### Drexel Pathway to Medical School
- Lamrot Abadula
- Ahmed Mohamed Abbas
- Georgina Aduasare
- Oluwasemilayo Agbejule
- Chidera K. Agwu
- Stephanie-Louise Agymang
- Holly Chinoye Akabu
- Farbod Akhavantaheri
- Toluwani Sarah Akinselure
- Dania Alfrouch
- Zahra Aliqabi
- Fatu Amara
- Kevin Paul Argüelles Dominguez
- Jermie Aryee
- Afua N. Awuah
- Hebah Mohammednur Bahta
- Zaria M. Beckley
- Karen A. Bolouvi
- Andrea J. Bonilla Ospina
- Diego J. Compte
- Jessica Barnes Dalkiran
- Brittney Dant
- Paulina Daugis
- Oluwayemisi K. Dehinbo

## Intensive Medical Sciences
- Melissa Rose Demock
- Aissata Diallo
- Khadija Diouf
- Samantha Munachi Efobi
- Hayley M. Estrella
- Alexis Ezeanii
- Evangelina Femin-Mendoza
- Jagger Godarzi
- Juana Evelina Gonzalez
- Nancy Habib
- Vershawn C. Hansen
- Josue Alfredo Hernandez
- Peyton A. Hodges
- Diana Ikilikyan
- Chelsea Chidera Iloanya
- Betty T. Jackson
- Shaiku Jalloh
- Moorin Hossain Khan
- Sora L. Kim
- Cristina Sofia Martel
- Priscilla Mejia
- Kelembwork Mengesha
- Jada Jebru Montley
- Ana Maria Montoya
- Tasnim Mujir
- Anthony Munoz
- Shayla Murray
- Tresor-Ange G. Oertel
- Oluwatomiola Victoria Olatunji
- Charlie Ortiz
- Etinosa Esther Osagie
- Anthony K. B. Owusu
- Viva A. Paintsil
- Cara B. Pannell
- Andrea Marie Peralta
- Patora A. Qurless
- Chynna Seck
- Karsyn R. Terry
- Michael Trinidad Jr.
- Christian Udealor
- Kimani Matiya Virella

## Interdisciplinary Health Sciences
- Edmund Solomon Wekunga
- Jane Zheng
- Fatima A. Zubedi

## Medical Science
- Pratham Singh Dhanjal
- Cedrick Nana Ofori
- Wali U. Pirzada

## Pathologists’ Assistant
- Samuel Appiah
- Nina Sofia Danko
- Trevor DeSilva
- Karen Isabel Done
- Dina J. Elias
- Shay Maximilian Elster
- Grant Exler
- John Thomas Galbreath
- Margaret R. Jenkins
- Diamonte DeShawn Jones
- Ahone Koge
- Jyothi Kulasingam
- Olivia Lane
- Kristofer J. Lavrich
- Marc Lewis
- Kyle Lu
- Jaden Symone McDermott
- Clara Luzia Bailey Motiño
- Veronique Myers
- Sal Nayyer
- Sinclaire Redding
- Taleah M. Reid
- Jasmine Simpson
- Arinze Miracle Ubadike
- Jaimena Wheel
- Rachel L. Williams

## Medical Science
- Tara Yvonne Lamb++
- Derek S. Mann++
- Philip Maxwell++
- Katherine Derek Mullen++

++ Completed Joint MD/MS Program

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**Master’s Degree Recipients 2024**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Degree Program</th>
<th>Recipients</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Master of Laboratory Animal Science</strong></td>
<td>TeQuana LaRose Bayless, Nathaniel P. Carter, James Robert Champion, Emily Ann Jordan, Mosope N. Kotoye, Sofia Ordonez, Erica L. Poulin, Christina Marie Robinson, Mary E. Rodenbarger, Hannah Elizabeth Shaw, Hannah Theresa Thomas, Faith C. Tirendi, Lauren Zepp</td>
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<td>Samuel Appiah, Nina Sofia Danko, Trevor DeSilva, Karen Isabel Done, Dina J. Elias, Shay Maximilian Elster, Grant Exler, John Thomas Galbreath, Margaret R. Jenkins, Diamonte DeShawn Jones, Ahone Koge, Jyothi Kulasingam, Olivia Lane, Kristofer J. Lavrich, Marc Lewis, Kyle Lu, Jaden Symone McDermott, Clara Luzia Bailey Motiño, Veronique Myers, Sal Nayyer, Sinclaire Redding, Taleah M. Reid, Jasmine Simpson, Arinze Miracle Ubadike, Jaimena Wheel, Rachel L. Williams</td>
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<td>Tara Yvonne Lamb++, Derek S. Mann++, Philip Maxwell++, Katherine Derek Mullen++</td>
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++ Completed Joint MD/MS Program
DOCTOR OF MEDICINE DEGREES
(The location of the physician’s clinical program is indicated.)

Shreya Agarwal
MedStar Georgetown University Hospital
Washington, D.C.
Internal Medicine

Trevor Dean Bale
Samaritan Health Services-Covallis Program
Covallis, Ore.
Family Medicine

Abhinaya Bharath ♦
Sinai Hospital of Baltimore
Baltimore, Md.
Ophthalmology

Anna Carolin Braendle » ♦♦
New York Presbyterian-Columbia and Weill Cornell
New York, N.Y.
Emergency Medicine

Adeola R. Ajayi »
Lankenau Medical Center/ Main Line Health
 Wynnewood, Pa.
Medicine-Preliminary
 University of Maryland Medical Center
Baltimore, Md.
Radiology-Diagnostic

Jessica Barnett
St. Christopher’s Hospital for Children/Tower Health
Pediatrics

Ishaan Jay Bhatt »
Mercy Catholic Medical Center
Darby, Pa.
Medicine-Preliminary
University of Maryland Medical Center
Baltimore, Md.
Radiology-Diagnostic

Aditya Brahmbhatt
Information Withheld

Aravindh Krishna Ajithkumar
University of Massachusetts Chan Medical School
Internal Medicine

Dominique Helen Barral
Danbury Hospital
Danbury, Conn.
Obstetrics-Gynecology

Isabel Billiar
University of Pittsburgh Medical Center
Pittsburgh, Pa.
Vascular Surgery

Taylor Marie Buckley
Christiana Care Health System
Newark, Del.
Obstetrics-Gynecology

Johnny Allsop » ♯
Yale New Haven Hospital
New Haven, Conn.
Internal Medicine

Nathan Beaton
Naval Medical Center
San Diego
San Diego, Calif.
Ophthalmology

Catherine Blankemeyer
Cooper Medical School of Rowan University/Cooper University Hospital
Camden, N.J.
Obstetrics-Gynecology

Emma M. Byrne »
Brigham and Women’s Hospital
Boston, Mass.
Medicine-Preliminary
Mass General Brigham
Boston, Mass.
Neurology

Vyshnavi Anandan
Mary Washington Healthcare Fredericksburg, Va.
Transitional
Eastern Virginia Medical School
Norfolk, Va.
Radiology-Diagnostic

Jamison C. Beiriger »
University of Pittsburgh Medical Center
Pittsburgh, Pa.
General Surgery

Alyiah R. Bolton * ♦♦♦
MedStar Georgetown University Hospital
Washington, D.C.
Psychiatry

Blake Campbell
Cleveland Clinic Foundation
Cleveland, Ohio
Internal Medicine

Sarah Awad-Sichel
Christiana Care Health System
Newark, Del.
Emergency Medicine

Nicholas Berardone
University of Pittsburgh Medical Center
Pittsburgh, Pa.
Internal Medicine

Alexandra Boucher » ♦
University of Pittsburgh Medical Center
Pittsburgh, Pa.
Neurology

La Niece N. Carpenter * ♦♦♦
University of California Davis Medical Center
Sacramento, Calif.
General Surgery

Sarah Awad-Sichel
Christiana Care Health System
Newark, Del.
Emergency Medicine

Raviteja Bethamcharla
New York Presbyterian Hospital-Columbia University Medical Center
New York, N.Y.
Neurological Surgery

Elaine Boustila
Christiana Care Health System
Newark, Del.
Emergency Medicine

Matthew Cerveny
Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center
Lebanon, N.H.
Anesthesiology

† Humanities Scholar | ♦♦ Women’s Health Scholar–Health Equity | ♦♦♦ Women’s Health Scholar–Sex and Gender
♦ Medical Scholar–Biomedical Sciences | ♦♦ Medical Scholar–Business | ♦♦♦ Medical Scholar–Global Health | ♦♦♦♦ Medical Scholar–Public Health
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<tr>
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<th>Institution/Department</th>
<th>City, State</th>
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<td>Kevin Chen</td>
<td>Louisiana State University School of Medicine</td>
<td>New Orleans, La.</td>
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<td>Benjamin S. Chu</td>
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<td>Danielle Darius #</td>
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<td>Andrew Davis #</td>
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<td>Denis J. de la Flor #</td>
<td>University of Massachusetts Chan Medical School</td>
<td>Worcester, Mass.</td>
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<td>Emily Anne Demmert</td>
<td>Mass General Brigham</td>
<td>Boston, Mass.</td>
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<td>Barry DeRose</td>
<td>West Virginia University School of Medicine</td>
<td>Morgantown, W.V.</td>
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<td>Rush University Medical Center</td>
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<td>Matthew Dolan</td>
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<td>Andriana Doliba</td>
<td>George Washington University Hospital</td>
<td>Washington, D.C.</td>
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<td>Kathryn Susan Duncan</td>
<td>University of Texas Health Science Center</td>
<td>San Antonio, Texas</td>
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<td>Courtney Cia-Lyn Eng</td>
<td>Case Western Reserve</td>
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<td>Ozdemir Erdemir</td>
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<td>Frank Estrella Jr.</td>
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<td>Chinedu Andrew Ezikanyi</td>
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<td>Chad Fanti #</td>
<td>Boston University</td>
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<td>Marissa Fu</td>
<td>New York Presbyterian Hospital-Weill Cornell</td>
<td>Medical Center</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sara Aya Furukawa</td>
<td>McGaw Medical Center of Northwestern University/</td>
<td>Chicago, Ill.</td>
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<td>Anthony Ghobrial</td>
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<td>Tower Health</td>
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# Bridging the Gaps Scholar | * Gold Humanism Honor Society | » Alpha Omega Alpha Honor Society
• Completed Joint MD/MS Program | •• Completed Joint MD/MPH Program | § Completed Joint MD/PhD Program
<table>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Samuel Glaischer</td>
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<td>Anne Elizabeth Glenney</td>
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<td>Ari Gordon §</td>
<td>Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai</td>
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<td>University of Virginia Charlottesville, Va. Ophthalmology</td>
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<td>University of Vermont Medical Center</td>
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<td>University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston</td>
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<td>Michael Heller »</td>
<td>Lehigh Valley Hospital Allentown, Pa.</td>
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<td>Kassandra Nicole Hill ✷</td>
<td>Allegheny General Hospital Pittsburgh, Pa.</td>
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<td>Eli DiSante Hoerler *</td>
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<td>Nicholas Ihnatenko</td>
<td>University of Pittsburgh Medical Center/ Williamsport Hospital</td>
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<td>Nathan Jacobs</td>
<td>SSM Health – Saint Louis University School of Medicine</td>
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<td>Bhavita Jagessar</td>
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<tr>
<td>Megan K. Kerstein **</td>
<td>University of Washington Seattle, Wash. Family Medicine</td>
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<td>Parsa Khosravian **</td>
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<td>Hassan Khuram # #</td>
<td>MedStar Georgetown University Hospital</td>
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<tr>
<td>Alina Kiley ´</td>
<td>Grand Strand Medical Center Myrtle Beach, S.C.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Alyson Kim ´ ´ ´</td>
<td>Temple University Hospital Philadelphia, Pa.</td>
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† Humanities Scholar | ♦ Women's Health Scholar–Health Equity | ♦♦ Women's Health Scholar–Sex and Gender
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<td>Robin Kumaratunga *</td>
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<td>Brady Kupersmith</td>
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<td>Camden, N.J.</td>
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<td>Tara Yvonne Lamb ** • *</td>
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<td>Quynh Le *</td>
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<td>Alexander Lee</td>
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Pittsburgh, Pa.  
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Los Angeles, Calif.  
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Transitional  
University of Pittsburgh  
Medical Center  
Pittsburgh, Pa.  
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Jessica Stimely  
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Orlando, Fla.  
Emergency Medicine

Victoria Stoffel  
Rutgers New Jersey  
Medical School  
Newark, N.J.  
General Surgery

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**Academic Awards**

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

**THE AMEDEO BONDI, PHD ENDOWED GRADUATE AWARD**
To a PhD graduating student for excellence in research performance during the training experience: 
**Giang Le Minh, PhD**

**Mitchell Isaac Parker, MD, PhD**

**Doctor of Medicine Awards**

**THE 2024 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: 
**Brett Mitchell**

**THE DR. ELIAS ABUTYN AWARD**
For excellence in Infectious Diseases: 
**Ari Gordon**

**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: 
**Maria M. Priyma**

For graduating medical students who have promising career potential in child neurology as seen by their institution’s faculty and residents: 
**Hannah Suja Cherussuril**

**THE PAULA BERNOCCI MEMORIAL AWARD**
For excellence in the field of Emergency Medicine: 
**Erika Blau Tretner**

For excellence in the field of Psychiatry: 
**Natasha Reddy**

**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: 
**Kady Marie Palmer**

**THE LUTHER W. BRADY, MD AWARD**
For excellence in Radiation Oncology and Clinical Oncology: 
**John Edmund Chojnowski III**

**THE RONALD P. CAPUTO AWARD**
For outstanding clinical skills and humanitarianism in the care of medical patients: 
**Natalia Romano Spica**

**THE HARRIS R. CLEARFIELD AWARD**
For excellence in Gastroenterology: 
**Jacqueline Krieger**

**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: 
**Brett Mitchell**

**THE SELMA AND OSCAR CORN, MD MEMORIAL IN ORTHOPAEDICS HU ’43 AWARD**
For excellence in Orthopaedic Surgery, proven scholarship and demonstrated leadership amongst peers: 
**Carlo Coladonato**

**THE DREXEL UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF MEDICINE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION AWARD**
For dedication and contribution to the community and University: 
**Cenk M. Atillasoy**

**THE DIANA J. EGAN AWARD**
For excellence in clinical Obstetrics and Gynecology: 
**Danielle Darius**

**THE SOCIETY FOR ACADEMIC EMERGENCY MEDICINE AWARD**
For excellence in Emergency Medicine: 
**Anna Carolin Braendle**

**THE DEPARTMENT OF FAMILY, COMMUNITY AND PREVENTIVE MEDICINE AWARD**
For excellence in Family Medicine: 
**Ashlea Ghaner**

For excellence in Community and Preventive Medicine: 
**Edeline Sanchez**

**THE EVA FERNANDEZ FOX AWARD**
For the graduating senior who best demonstrates personal integrity, stability, responsibility and loyalty to the College of Medicine: 
**Farhan Sahawneh**

**THE WILIAM GREGG AWARD**
Graduation prize for Humanitarianism in Care of Pediatric Patients: 
**Anthony M. Tirone**

**THE LEONARD J. GROVERMAN, MD MEMORIAL AWARD**
For outstanding clinical and academic performance in Hematology and Oncology: 
**Joshua Leekron**

**THE DR. MARY ELLEN HARTMAN AWARD**
For a student underrepresented in medicine who exemplifies outstanding social consciousness and leadership with peers and the community: 
**Edeline Sanchez**

**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: 
**Kira L. Smith**

**THE RITA G. JACOBS AWARD**
For excellence and compassion in Anesthesiology and Pain Management: 
**Stuti Tank**

**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: 
**Lacey Kristine Collins Gayathri Vijayakumar**

**THE ROBERT F. JOHNSTON MEMORIAL AWARD**
For excellence in Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine: 
**Johnny Allsop**

**THE JOSEPH A. LANGBORD MEMORIAL PRIZE**
For a graduating senior who best exemplifies the qualities of humanitarianism in the practice of medicine: 
**Danielle S. Mensah**
The William Likoff, MD Memorial Award in Cardiology
For the graduating senior with the most promise in the field of Cardiology:
Margaux Everingham

The Daniel Mason, MD Hu ’44 Award
For excellence in Cardiovascular clinical work:
James Carey

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:
Erica Sydney Riddick

The Office of Student Affairs Award
For service to the medical school and to the student body:
Cenk M. Atillasoy
Emma M. Byrne
Krishna Mallem
Raidizon Mercedes

The Axel K. Olsen, MD Neurosurgery Award
For excellence in Neurosurgery:
Raviteja Bethamcharla
Alessandra Sofia Rigamonti

The Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine Award
For outstanding achievement in the Pathology Course:
Emily Anne Demmert
For excellence in Pathology and Laboratory Medicine:
Pravin Patel

The Alexander Pearce, MD Award
For excellence in Surgery:
Isabel Billiar

The Ronald S. Pennock, MD Award
For excellence in Internal Medicine and Cardiology:
Dhaval Khamar

The Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology Award
For overall academic excellence in Obstetrics and Gynecology:
Catherine Blankemeyer

The Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine Award
For leadership in the field of Obstetrics and Gynecology:
Farhan Sahawneh

The Dr. Lee Winston Silver Award
For excellence in Pediatrics:
Lauren Elizabeth Yue

The Vivek Subramani Memorial Award
For leadership, compassion, service and a commitment to fostering community within the College of Medicine:
Tara Yvonne Lamb

The Department of Surgery Award for Excellence in the Surgery Clerkship
Allegheny Health Network:
Alessandra Sofia Rigamonti
Cape Fear Valley Health Network:
Erica Sydney Riddick
Crozer-Chester Medical Center:
Henry Zimmer

The Department of Surgery Award
For excellence in the Surgery Pathway:
Mayar A. Osman

The Charles Swartz Award
For academic and clinical excellence in Medicine:
Nicholas Berardone

The Daniel M. Tabas Award
For outstanding scholarly achievement by a student pursuing a career in Primary Care:
Trevor Dean Baley

The Thomas J. Vischer Award
For clinical excellence in Medicine:
Blake Campbell
Caleb N. Middlebrook
Kristen Porreca

The Arthur and Bertha Weisman Award
For excellence in Child Psychiatry:
Edward W. Lin

The Randall Weiss Award
For excellence in Psychiatry:
Camille K. Lynch
Hayden Sando

The WU Family Prize
For excellence in Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation:
Beata Jane Vayngortin

The Dr. Mary Yankosky Award
For excellence in Endocrinology:
Esther Tsang

For excellence in Radiologic Sciences:
Jannah Nicole Wing
### Faculty Awards for Distinguished Clinical Teaching

**DEAN’S SPECIAL AWARDS FOR EXCELLENCE IN CLINICAL TEACHING**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Institution</th>
<th>Faculty Name</th>
<th>Department</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Allegheny Health Network</td>
<td>Nicholas Bailey, MD</td>
<td>Department of Surgery</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coatesville VA Medical Center</td>
<td>Jesus Salvador A. Ligot Jr., MD</td>
<td>Department of Psychiatry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crozer-Chester Medical Center</td>
<td>Amber Batool, DO</td>
<td>Department of Surgery</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friends Hospital</td>
<td>Salman Salaria, MD, MPH</td>
<td>Department of Psychiatry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kaiser Permanente – Bay Area</td>
<td>Marron Wong, MD</td>
<td>Department of Obstetrics &amp; Gynecology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mercy Fitzgerald Hospital</td>
<td>Christos P. Kessaris, MD</td>
<td>Department of Anesthesiology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reading Hospital – Tower Health</td>
<td>Nathaniel Robertson, MD</td>
<td>Department of Medicine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Christopher’s Hospital for Children</td>
<td>Kheyandra D. Lewis, MD, MEd</td>
<td>Department of Pediatrics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Luke’s University Health Network</td>
<td>Mahesh Krishnamurthy, MD</td>
<td>Department of Medicine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UPMC Harrisburg</td>
<td>Silpa Kosuri, MD</td>
<td>Department of Medicine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WellSpan York Hospital</td>
<td>Nicole Peters, DO</td>
<td>Department of Emergency Medicine</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**DEAN’S SPECIAL AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN CLINICAL TEACHING AT A FAMILY PRACTICE SITE**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Institution</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kaiser Permanente Mid-Atlantic Permanente Medical Group Adult and Family Medicine Department Baltimore Service Area</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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 1/2 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 glowed 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.
**Officers**

Richard A. Greenawalt ‘66  
*Chair*

Richard A. Hayne  
*Vice Chair*

Nina Henderson  
*Vice Chair*

Richelle P. Parham ’91  
*Vice Chair*

Stan Silverman ’69, ’74  
*Vice Chair*

John A. Fry  
*President*

Darin Pfeifer  
*Secretary*

Helen Y. Bowman  
*Treasurer*

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Thomas A. Caramanico

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Della Clark

Abbie Dean ’08

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Joseph H. Jacovini, Esq., HD ’04

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Corina Lam ’10

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Patrick McGonigal ’86

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Kevin J. O’Hara ’83

Thomas M. Rampulla ’94

Kathleen T. Reardon ’96

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Joseph P. Ujobai ’84

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Michael J. Williams ’80, ’83

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Sylvia Merkel Brasler ’60

Robert R. Buckley ’58, HD ’12

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

D. Howard Pierce ’71

Charles P. Pizzi

John J. Roberts ’67, HD ’05

William T. Schleyer ’73, HD ’06

Stephen A. Sheller, Esq., HD ’17
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Lists complete as of April 2024

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