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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
John Fry
President

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

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

Conferring 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 Gaurnier-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

Conferring 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
William Byrd/arr. Douglas Nelson
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. Strohlic, VMD, PhD
Associate Professor of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology

Maya Therattil, MD
Assistant Professor of Medicine

Student Marshals

Aaroohee 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;

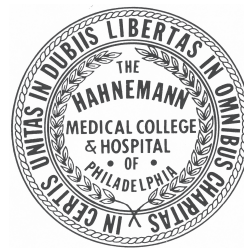
I WILL GIVE to my teachers, colleagues, and students the respect and gratitude that is their due;

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.



Citation of College of Medicine Fifty-Year Graduates, 1974-2024

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 *
Henry Davis, MD *
John Davis, MD
Andrew Dea, MD
Stuart Dershaw, MD
George Desjardins, MD
Joseph DeStefano, MD
Laurel DeStefano, MD
Norman Doherty, MD *
Irving Ehrlich, MD
Victor Elinoff, MD
Paul Emery, MD
David Epstein, MD
Loretta Fauerbach, MS
Joseph Feliccia, MD
Peter Fields, PhD
Harrison Fisher, MD *
A. David Flug, MD
John Flynn, PhD
Stephen Froman, MD
Frank Garner, MD
Joseph Garnic, MD
Michael Gewitz, MD
Frances Gheorghiu, MD
Charles Giannasio, MD
Stephen Glickin, MD
Steven Goldstein, MD
Kathryn Hart, MD

Henry Hitner, PhD
Harry Hoffman, MD *
Bernard Holleran, MD *
Henry Holtzman, MD
Lamont Hornbeck, MD
Edward Ilgren, MD *
Patrick Inverso, MD
Ronald Kanagaki, MD
William Kaplan, MD *
Richard Katz, MD *
Darwin Kenep, MD
Thelma Korpman, MD
Barry Kramer, MD
Andrew Krick, MD
Jeffrey Lane, MD
Marc Langman, MD
Larry Lawrence, MD
Thomas Levrault, MD *
Sandy Lieberman, MD
Barry Lubin, MD
Richard Lynn, MD
Janice Lysiak, MD
William MacNew, MD
Irene Malesic, MD
Matt Mandel, MD
Thomas Mannis, MD
David Marzewski, MD
Thomas Mascenik, MD
Thomas McGuigan, MD
Carey McMonagle, MD
Howard Miller, MD
Gary Mintz, MD
Henry Mishel, MD
Albert Monheit, MD
Robert Nicholl, MD
Robert Novich, MD
John O'Donnell, MD
Robert Oriel, MD
Richard Orose, MD *
Ronald Pacifico, MD *
James Pepicello, MD
David Pollack, MD *
Arthur Porter, MD
Larry Pressman, MD *
Terry Pundiak, MD
Patricia Purcell, MD
Raymond Quinlan, MD
David Reiter, MD
Marc Reynolds, MD
Mary Ellen Rimsza, MD
Stephen Robinson, PhD
Paul Roderick, 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
Lynne 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 Catterson, MD *
David Cheli, MD
Claire Cifaloglio, MD
Marc Cotler, MD
Georgia Dash, MS
Anthony De Casperis, MD *
Patricia Dietrich, MD *
Robert Domanski, MD, PhD
Ivy Dreizin, MD *
Mary Catherine Driscoll, MD
Jacqueline Dunbar, MD
Carole Eisen, MD
Gail Fabrizio, MD
Paula Fischer, MD *
Jean Fourcroy, MD *
Alan Freedman, MD
Robert Godley, MD
Joan Goodman, MD
Stanley Goodman, MD
Bert Green, MD
Michael Haley, MD
Margaret Hurley, MD
Deborah Hurst, MD
Shelby Jester, MD
Linda Kardos, MD
Janice Katz, MD
Sharon Kawai, MD
Judith Kitzes, MD
Carolyn Kressler, MD
Joan Larkin, MD *
Dorothy Leunissen, MD *
Barbara Levine, MD *
Barbara Livermore, MD
Donald McGregor, MD
Barbara Murphy, MD
Geraldine Newman, PhD
Mary O'Connor, MD *
Margaret O'Donnell, MD
Stanley Olenick, MD
Paul Orr, MD *
Mary Pierri, MD
Jillian Pincus, MD
Marlene Plevick, MD *
Marjorie Pollack, MD
David Roberts, MD *
David Rogerson, MD, PhD
Ronald Rosenfeld, MD
Benjamin Rubin, MD
Carol Rubinson, MD
Elizabeth Senekjian, MD
Linda Shaw, MD
Carol Sheaffer, MD *
Elysee Sinclair, MD
Suzanne Smith, MD
Jayne Starrs, MD
Mary Stom, MD
Johnyne Supulski, MD *
Charles Swaine, MD *
Justina Trott, MD
Elaine Turner, MD
Marion Turquhart, MD
John Vinton, MD *
Mary Ann Vinton, MD
Marguerite Werrin, MD
Jacqueline Wertsch, MD
Judith Wilson, MD
Judith Wofsy, MD
Cecelia Wood, MD *
Lorraine Yeiser, MD *
Agnes Yue, MD
Arleen Zabell, MD

DOCTOR OF SCIENCE

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. Storchlic, 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 Neurotropic 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

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

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

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

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

Candace Alicia Rizzi-Wise

“Opposing Regulation of Fear and Other Contextual Responses by the Dorsal Versus Ventral Lateral Septum”

Advisor: Dong Wang, PhD

NEUROSCIENCE

Photis S. Rotsides

“The Antibiotic Sensing Mechanism of VanS from Type-B VRE”

Advisor: Patrick J. Loll, PhD

BIOCHEMISTRY

Trevor Shawn Smith

“Modular Motor Control and Perturbation Analyzed Using Stochastic Dynamic Operators”

Advisor: Simon F. Giszter, PhD

NEUROSCIENCE

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

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

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

Jeremy A. Weinberger

“Multisite Electrode Arrays to Optimize Epidural Stimulation for Spasticity Following Spinal Cord Injury”

Advisor: Marie-Pascale Côté, PhD

NEUROSCIENCE

Qiaowei Xie

“The Impact of EcoHIV on Cocaine-Related Behaviors”

Advisor: Jacqueline Barker, PhD

PHARMACOLOGY AND PHYSIOLOGY

Jieyi Zhang

“Phenotypic Plasticity of CX3CR1 in Prostate Cancer Metastasis”

Advisor: Alessandro Fatatis, MD, PhD

PHARMACOLOGY AND PHYSIOLOGY

MASTER'S DEGREES

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

DIVISION OF BIOMEDICAL SCIENCES PROGRAMS

Biochemistry of Health and Disease

Ahmed Sheriff Bulhassan

Ana May Dumitrescu

“Development of Novel Fungal Arp2/3 Complex Inhibitors”

Advisor: *Shae B. Padrick, PhD*

Biotechnology

Parisa Hekmatian

Sudhiksha Muthukrishnan

Cancer Biology

Britney Black

“Investigating the Role of Long Noncoding RNA H19 in DNA Damage Response”

Advisor: *Christian Sell, PhD*

Alexandria Criswell

“Characterizing Escape Pathways Associated With HIV-Specific CAR T Cell Therapy”

Advisor: *Daniel Claiborne, PhD*

Shabnam Pirestani

“AURKA Control of PD-L1 Expression in Head and Neck Cancer”

Advisor: *Erica Golemis, PhD*

Vidhi Shah

Aaron L. Slifer

“Utilizing Bioinformatics to Identify Dysregulated lncRNAs in Hepatitis B Positive Hepatocellular Carcinoma”

Advisor: *Srinivas Somarowthu, PhD*

Kshiti Shrenik Vaishnav

Microbiology and Immunology

Amanda Abavana

“Cobamide Biosynthesis: Examination of Aminopropanol Production and Incorporation”

Advisor: *Amy Ma, PhD*

Caroline I. Corcoran

“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

“Optimization of Human Organotypic Brain Slice Cultures for Use as a Novel Model of NeuroHIV”

Advisor: *Olimpia Meucci, PhD*

Joanna Jones

Hayley Jayne Klingenberg

“Preclinical Assessment of the Immunogenicity, Durability and Efficacy Induced by Pre-erythrocytic Stage Vaccines Against *Plasmodium falciparum* Malaria”

Advisor: *James Burns Jr., PhD*

Karen Lennie Malanda

“Characterization of the ATP/ADP Carrier Protein (PD37_1004800) in *Plasmodium falciparum*”

Advisor: *Hangjun Ke, PhD*

Felicity Tamayo Tso

Molecular and Cell Biology and Genetics

Karan Bamb

“Understanding the Contribution of the Stringent Response Towards Multidrug Tolerance in *Haemophilus influenzae* Biofilms”

Advisors: *Joshua Chang Mell, PhD, and Donald C. Hall Jr., PhD*

Zachary Capriotti

Jason Tyler DaCunza

“miRNA Cargo in Small Extracellular Vesicles From Mouse Primary Macrophages and RAW 264.7 Cells”

Advisor: *Seena Ajit, PhD*

Sahara Cassandra “Casey” DeAngelis

“Hyperglycemic Conditions May Promote Senescence and DNA Damage in Timeless Depleted Human Cardiac Fibroblast”

Advisor: *Eishi Noguchi, PhD*

Tisha Kalpesh Desai

“Investigation of 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*

David Riley Joyner

“Improved HIV-Specific T Cell Immunity Following Adenosine Deaminase-1 Co-delivery in Preclinical Models of Vaccination”

Advisor: *Elias El Haddad, PhD*

Roshni Nagesh Kadam

“Investigating the Functional Role of Highly Structured Regions in lncRNA SchLAP1 Using CRISPR/Cas-Based Deletion Analysis”

Advisor: *Srinivas Somarowthu, PhD*

Ranjit Kaur

“Interplay Hepatitis B Virus and lncRNA FAM99A Expression and Interacting Proteins in Liver Cancer Cell Lines”

Advisor: *Michael Bouchard, PhD*

Priyashree Nagarajan

“Regulation of BORG2 by Cdc42 Through Disruption of Internal Structure”

Advisor: *Shae B. Padrick, PhD*

Sarath Reghunathan

“Towards In-Vitro Actin Comet Tail Formation and Septin Caging Reconstitution in *Shigella*”

Advisor: *Shae B. Padrick, PhD*

Steve Rutledge

Neuroscience

Alexander A. Benson

Patrick Joseph McGinnis

Victor C. Ogbolu

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

“CRISPR/Cas9 Mediated Generation and Characterization of a BCL-2 D103E KI Acute Myeloid Leukemia Cell Line”

Advisors: *Eva Christine Pietsch, PhD, and Alessandro Fatatis, MD, PhD*

Erick V. O'Brien

Dayna Robinson

“Defining the Signaling Mechanisms by Which Dopamine Stimulates Akt Activation in Primary Human Macrophages”

Advisor: *Peter J. Gaskill, 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

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New York, N.Y.
Anesthesiology

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St. Christopher's Hospital for
Children/Tower Health
Philadelphia, Pa.
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Shore/Long Island Jewish
Great Neck, N.Y.
Internal Medicine

Atene Sotera Poskute

WellSpan York Hospital
York, Pa.
General Surgery

Jod Queen Prado Wang

Rutgers Robert Wood
Johnson Medical School
New Brunswick, N.J.
Internal Medicine

Maria M. Priyma * » † ∞

Hospital of the University
of Pennsylvania
Philadelphia, Pa.
Neurology

Neha S. Puttagunta ♦♦♦

Zucker School of Medicine-
Hofstra/Northwell at North
Shore/Long Island Jewish
Great Neck, N.Y.
Internal Medicine

Anirudh Rao

Temple University Hospital
Philadelphia, Pa.
Internal Medicine

Amberly Danielle Ray ∞

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Hershey Medical Center
Hershey, Pa.
Psychiatry

Natasha Reddy » †

Thomas Jefferson
University Hospital
Philadelphia, Pa.
Psychiatry

Santiago Rengifo » *

St. Luke's University
Hospital-Bethlehem
Bethlehem, Pa.
Orthopedic Surgery

Victoria Renee Ricles ∞

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

Erica Sydney Riddick * » ∞

Johns Hopkins Hospital
Baltimore, Md.
Internal Medicine-Pediatrics

**Alessandra Sofia
Rigamonti »**

Rhode Island Hospital/
Brown University
Providence, R.I.
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Natalia Romano Spica *

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

Kevin Michael Rooney »

Yale New Haven Hospital
New Haven, Conn.
Anesthesiology

Rim Saab † ∞ ∞

Western Pennsylvania Hospital
Pittsburgh, Pa.
Obstetrics-Gynecology

Nathan Sablowski *

Wellstar Kennestone
Regional Medical Center
Marietta, Ga.
Emergency Medicine

Farhan Sahawneh *

State University of New
York Health Science
Center at Brooklyn
Brooklyn, N.Y.
Obstetrics-Gynecology

Christian Sanchez

Mercy Catholic Medical Center
Darby, Pa.
Medicine-Preliminary
Allegheny General Hospital
Pittsburgh, Pa.
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Edeline Sanchez * ∞

New York Presbyterian
Hospital-Columbia
University Medical Center
New York, N.Y.
Family Medicine

Reena Kaur Sandhu »

Sutter Health
Roseville, Calif.
Transitional
Thomas Jefferson
University Hospital
Philadelphia, Pa.
Radiology-Diagnostic

Hayden Sando ♦

Thomas Jefferson
University Hospital
Philadelphia, Pa.
Psychiatry

Samuel Thomas Saucedo »

University of California
San Francisco/Fresno
Fresno, Calif.
Orthopedic Surgery

Samuel Evan Schachter

Temple University Hospital
Philadelphia, Pa.
Internal Medicine

Sara Kim

Sayedroudbari * » †
Washington University
School of Medicine/
Barnes-Jewish Hospital
St. Louis, Mo.
Neurology

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Ohio State University
Medical Center
Columbus, Ohio
Internal Medicine

Pranav Sharma *

Washington University
School of Medicine/
Barnes-Jewish Hospital
St. Louis, Mo.
Internal Medicine

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Pittsburgh, Pa.
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Transitional
Cedars-Sinai Medical Center
Los Angeles, Calif.
Radiology-Diagnostic

Brandon Smith »

University Hospitals
Community Consortium
Chardon, Ohio
Transitional
University of Pittsburgh
Medical Center
Pittsburgh, Pa.
Dermatology

Kira L. Smith

Case Western Reserve
University/University
Hospitals Cleveland
Medical Center
Cleveland, Ohio
Orthopedic Surgery/Research

Jessica Stimely

Orlando Health
Orlando, Fla.
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Victoria Stoffel

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

Louis Susca †

Abington Memorial Hospital
Abington, Pa.
General Surgery

Stuti Tank »

Thomas Jefferson
University Hospital
Philadelphia, Pa.
Anesthesiology

Shahwar M. Tariq

George Washington University
Washington, D.C.
Anesthesiology

Anthony M. Tirone * »

University of Pittsburgh
Medical Center
Pittsburgh, Pa.
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Baltimore, Md.
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New York, N.Y.
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Harbor-University of California
Los Angeles Medical Center
Torrance, Calif.
Anesthesiology

Henry Zimmer

University of Rochester/
Strong Memorial Hospital
Rochester, N.Y.
Anesthesiology

Remy Zimmerman

Information Withheld

Jaelyn P. Zois #

Ohio State University
Medical Center
Columbus, Ohio
Emergency Medicine

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 ABRUTYN 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 Saju Cherusseril

THE PAULA BERNOCCHI 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:

Centk M. Atillasoy

THE DREXEL UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF MEDICINE SGA AWARD

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

Alyson Kim

THE ALAN EDELSON MEMORIAL PRIZE

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

Alyson Kim

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 WILLIAM GREGG AWARD

Graduation prize for Humanitarianism in Care of Pediatric Patients:

Anthony M. Tirone

THE LESTER J. GROVERMAN, MD MEMORIAL AWARD

For outstanding clinical and academic performance in Hematology and Oncology:

Joshua Leckron

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:

Lacee 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 DEPARTMENT OF MEDICINE AWARD

For excellence in Renal and Electrolyte studies:

Mayank J. Patel

THE DEYLAN C. MOORE MEMORIAL AWARD

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

Santiago Rengifo

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

For excellence in Anatomy during the senior year:

La Niece N. Carpenter

Andrew Joseph III

Hannah Yejin Kim

Gabriel Pertierra

Kevin Michael Rooney

THE DEPARTMENT OF NEUROLOGY AWARD

For excellence in Neurology:

Sara Kim Seyedroudbari

Caitlin White

THE DEPARTMENT OF OBSTETRICS AND GYNECOLOGY AWARD

For overall academic excellence in Obstetrics and Gynecology:

Catherine Blankemeyer

For academic excellence in the Obstetrics and Gynecology Clinical Clerkship:

Henry Zimmer

For leadership in the field of Obstetrics and Gynecology:

Farhan Sahawneh

THE OFFICE OF STUDENT AFFAIRS AWARD

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

Centk 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 PENNSYLVANIA ACADEMY OF FAMILY PHYSICIANS, PHILADELPHIA BRANCH AWARD

For performance and leadership in Family Practice:

Katie McCauley

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:

Jessica L. Titherington

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

Kaiser Permanente Bay Area:

Sohan Patel

Main Line Health:

Robin Kumaratunga

Philadelphia Area:

Stuti Tank

Reading Hospital/Tower Health:

Blake Campbell

UPMC Pinnacle:

Margaux Everingham

WellSpan York Hospital:

Shahwar M. Tariq

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 Tsyngaux

For excellence in Radiologic Sciences:

Jannah Nicole Wing

Faculty Awards *for* Distinguished Clinical Teaching

DEAN'S SPECIAL AWARDS FOR EXCELLENCE IN CLINICAL TEACHING

Allegheny Health Network
Nicholas Bailey, MD
Department of Surgery

Reading Hospital – Tower Health
Nathaniel Robertson, MD
Department of Medicine

Coatesville VA Medical Center
Jesus Salvador A. Ligot Jr., MD
Department of Psychiatry

St. Christopher's Hospital for Children
Kheyandra D. Lewis, MD, MEd
Department of Pediatrics

Crozer-Chester Medical Center
Amber Batool, DO
Department of Surgery

St. Luke's University Health Network
Mahesh Krishnamurthy, MD
Department of Medicine

Friends Hospital
Salman Salaria, MD, MPH
Department of Psychiatry

UPMC Harrisburg
Silpa Kosuri, MD
Department of Medicine

Kaiser Permanente – Bay Area
Marron Wong, MD
Department of Obstetrics & Gynecology

WellSpan York Hospital
Nicole Peters, DO
Department of Emergency Medicine

Mercy Fitzgerald Hospital
Christos P. Kessarlis, MD
Department of Anesthesiology

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

Kaiser Permanente
Mid-Atlantic Permanente Medical Group
Adult and Family Medicine Department
Baltimore Service Area

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

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

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

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

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

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

The bachelor's hood is 3 feet long, the master's 3 ½ feet long, and the doctor's 4 feet long. Bachelor of Science and Master of Science candidates wear sun-gold hoods; Bachelor of Arts and Master of Arts candidates, white hoods. Doctor of Philosophy candidates wear blue hoods. Doctor of Medicine candidates wear green hoods. Candidates with annotated degrees may wear hoods of other colors, such as apricot (Bachelor

and Master of Science in Nursing), teal (Master of Physical Therapy), and blue with white trim (Master of Arts, Creative Arts in Therapy), to name a few.

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

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

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

History and Traditions of the University Mace

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

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William T. Schleyer '73, HD '06

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Lists complete as of April 2024

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