The Class of 2027

White Coat Ceremony

Drexel University College of Medicine

August 11, 2023

DREXEL UNIVERSITY
College of
Medicine

History of

The White Coat Ceremony

The White Coat Ceremony was established in 1993 by the Arnold P. Gold Foundation at the College of Physicians and Surgeons, Columbia University. It was designed to encourage a renewed focus on compassion among future generations of physicians.

Wearing their white "cloaks of compassion," entering students take the Declaration of Geneva, also known as the Physician's Pledge, the contemporary successor to the 2,500-year-old Hippocratic Oath, for the first time, in the presence of family, friends, faculty, board members, administrators and alumni, affirming their commitment to the professional duties of physicians and the ethical principles of the medical profession they have now joined. Taking the Pledge at the beginning of their education makes the students more aware of their responsibility from the very first day of their training, not just to take care of their patients but to care for them.

Program

NATIONAL ANTHEM

OPENING REMARKS

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

Donna M. Russo, PhD, HU '89
William Maul Measey Chair in Medical Education,
Interim Vice Dean for Educational Affairs, Senior Associate Dean for Curriculum,
and Professor of Microbiology & Immunology

WELCOME FROM THE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

Edward Siegel, MD '12, MBA
President, Alumni Association

MUSICAL WELCOME FROM DOCTOR'S NOTE

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Renee M. Turchi, MD, MPH
Professor and Academic Chair of Pediatrics

ROLL CALL OF THE CLASS OF 2027

Esther Chernak, MD, MPH
Professor of Medicine

Renee Kottenhahn, MD
Associate Professor of Clinical Pediatrics

Eduardo Espiridion, MD
Associate Professor of Psychiatry

Nathalie S. May, MD
Associate Professor of Medicine

Cheryl A. Hanau, MD
Professor and Richard Shuman, MD, Chair of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine
and Senior Associate Dean of Admissions

ADMINISTRATION OF THE PHYSICIAN'S PLEDGE

Karen Restifo, MD, JD
Regional Vice Dean and Campus Dean, College of Medicine at Tower Health
and Professor of Clinical Emergency Medicine

CLOSING REMARKS

Charles B. Cairns, MD

Drexel University College of Medicine

Class of 2027

Julia Adams
Saahil Adusumilli
Oluwaseyi O. Akinboboye
Akram Albeer
Aya Al-Nazal
Jack Bruno Anderson
Lauren M. Anderson
Suchita Anigol
McKayla Gabrielle Antrim
Radean Anvari
Shehbeel Arif
Cameron Asay
Ryan T. Aturaliya
Cameron Ashton Aubert
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Grace Axelson
Immanuelle I. Azebe-Osime
Peter Aziz
Noor S. Baban
Shrilakkshmi Babu
Cooper Bahr
Aminata Yainkain Bangura
Anita Bargaje
Ryan J. Baron
Margot B. Bellon
John Carl Benda
Katherine Berg
Annabelle Rose Bernard
Story B. Bernstein
Abhinav S. Bhamidipati
Shreya Arshia Bharadwaj
Praneetha Sai Bheemarasetty
Sasha Bilal
Elena Nicole Bosak
Nathaniela Bourdeau
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Bergin M. Brown
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Dave Chen
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Regan Julia Cronk
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Class of 2027 at time of printing

Acknowledgements

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- The Drexel University College of Medicine Alumni Association
- The Office of Student Affairs and Career Advising

The white coats and stethoscopes are provided through the generosity of alumni and friends who welcome each student with a note of congratulations.

A special thank you is extended to our leadership donors:

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- David L. Wertheim, MD, MCP '88

MUSIC

Doctor's Note
Drexel University College of Medicine's A Cappella Group
Singing "Home" by Phillip Phillips

Performers: Tala Bouzeid, Lauren Carmody, Lorenzo Guani, Baotram Nguyen, Anjani Ravi, Vivian Shoukrun, Keerthana Srinivasan, Annika Surapaneni and Sean Webster

Ceremonial music performed by Symphony in C

History of Drexel University College of Medicine

In our third decade as Drexel University College of Medicine, we continue to celebrate its heritage as a college of opportunity, tracing our roots from two forebear institutions that embraced diversity: Hahnemann Medical College and the Woman's Medical College of Pennsylvania. The College of Medicine proudly upholds enduring values: commitment to educational opportunity, excellence in basic science and clinical preparation, dedicated mentorship and upholding the innovative spirit of visionary institutions.

Hahnemann was established as the Homeopathic Medical College of Pennsylvania in 1848, to provide standardized training in the emerging system of medicine called homeopathy. It was renamed Hahnemann Medical College in honor of Samuel Hahnemann, the founder of homeopathic medicine. The school welcomed students of all backgrounds. By the late 1920s, the homeopathic focus was gone, but the attention to excellent student preparation lived on. Hahnemann became a nationally known academic medical center and a leading provider of subspecialty care, particularly for cardiovascular disease.

The Woman's Medical College, the first degree-granting medical school in the world for women, was founded in 1850. Providing educational opportunity to a diverse cohort of women was its hallmark. Woman's Med trained physicians who practiced all over the globe, creating a corps of impressive female clinicians and scientists to serve as faculty and leaders in medicine. After 120 years, the school became co-educational in 1970 under the name Medical College of Pennsylvania, or MCP.

Our legacy schools were brought together by Allegheny Health, Education and Research Foundation, based in Pittsburgh. The two medical colleges were combined and in 1996 took the new name Allegheny University of the Health Sciences. When Tenet Healthcare Corporation acquired the hospitals in 1998, a nonprofit – MCP Hahnemann University – was created to take over the merged medical schools.

Drexel University, itself an historic institution, assumed management of this new academic entity. The medical school became Drexel University College of Medicine in 2002.

Like MCP and Hahnemann, Drexel University had its roots in the provision of opportunity. Financier Anthony J. Drexel founded the Drexel Institute of Art, Science and Industry in 1891 to offer practical education to men and women without regard to socioeconomic status, race or religion.

In 2019, Hahnemann University Hospital was closed due to the bankruptcy of its owner, American Academic Health System (AAHS). In the wake of the closure, Drexel University and the College of Medicine developed plans for the continued clinical training of our medical students at other affiliated hospitals. St. Christopher's Hospital for Children was sold as part of the same AAHS bankruptcy. Drexel and Tower Health stepped in as co-owners of this storied pediatric hospital to continue its service to the families of northeast Philadelphia and beyond.

The collaboration between Drexel and Tower Health also took the form of an academic affiliation agreement, which resulted in the creation of the College of Medicine at Tower Health, in West Reading, Pennsylvania. The first cohort of 40 first-year medical students arrived at the campus in August of 2021.

In summer 2023, the College of Medicine welcomed first- and second-year MD program students at the new, state-of-the art Health Sciences Building in University City, near Drexel University's other colleges and schools.

As a leading college in a vibrant urban university, our medical school benefits from and enhances Drexel's place on the national stage with a heritage of innovation, inclusiveness and excellence that goes back more than 175 years.

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