

2020

Drexel University  
College of Medicine

Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences  
and Professional Studies  
Commencement Ceremony

AUGUST THE TWENTY-EIGHTH

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania



TABLE of CONTENTS

Message from the President . . . . . 1

Commencement Ceremony . . . . . 2

Graduate Student Oath. . . . . 2

Degree Recipients. . . . . 3

The Commencement Tradition . . . . . 6

Trustees of Drexel University . . . . . 7

Graduates...

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



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

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

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

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

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

Sincerely,

*JL Fry*  
 John Fry  
 President

### *Academic Procession*

---

Pomp and Circumstance March No. 1  
*Edward Elgar*

### *Acknowledgement from the Dean*

---

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

### *National Anthem*

---

Star-Spangled Banner  
*Francis Scott Key*

### *Opening Remarks*

---

Paul McGonigle, PhD  
*Professor, Pharmacology & Physiology  
Director, Drug Discovery & Development Program  
Co-Director, Division of  
Interdisciplinary & Career-oriented Programs*

### *Welcome*

---

John Fry  
*President, Drexel University*

### *Greetings*

---

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

### *Commencement Speaker*

---

Jasmine D. Parnell Peake, PhD  
*Class of 2020*

### *Conferring of Graduate Degrees*

---

John Fry  
Elisabeth J. Van Bockstaele, PhD  
*Senior Vice President for Graduate  
and Online Education  
Dean, Graduate College  
Professor of Pharmacology and Physiology,  
College of Medicine*

Jed Shumsky, PhD  
*Senior Associate Dean of Educational  
and Academic Affairs  
Professor of Neurobiology and Anatomy*

### *Administration of the Graduate Student Oath*

---

Elisabeth J. Van Bockstaele

### *Concluding Remarks*

---

Ogan K. Kumova, PhD  
*Class of 2020*

### *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.

---

*All degrees awarded at this Commencement carry an official conferral date of  
**August 31, 2020***

---

## Doctor of Philosophy Degrees

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

### Kristie D. Cox

“Modulation of Hydrogen Sulfide Metabolism: Sulfide:Quinone Oxidoreductase as a Novel Cardiovascular Therapeutic Target”

*Advisor: Marilyn Jorns, PhD*

BIOCHEMISTRY

### Lina J. Maciunas

“Activation of VanR/VanS, the Two-Component System that Regulates Vancomycin Resistance”

*Advisor: Patrick Loll, PhD*

BIOCHEMISTRY

### Derick Haas

“Pharmacological Modulation of Sigma1 as a Means of Regulating Cancer Cell Adaptive Immune Resistance”

*Advisor: Felix Kim, PhD*

PHARMACOLOGY AND PHYSIOLOGY

### Mitchell Nothem

“Time-dependent Hyperactivity of Primary Somatosensory and Anterior Cingulate Neurons After Spared Nerve Injury”

*Advisor: James Barrett, PhD*

PHARMACOLOGY AND PHYSIOLOGY

### Kritika Hanamshet

“The essential role of RAD52 in BRCA-deficient cells”

*Advisor: Alexander Mazin, PhD*

MOLECULAR AND CELL BIOLOGY  
AND GENETICS

### Jasmine D. Parnell Peake

“Characterization of acetaldehyde-induced genomic instability during DNA replication in esophageal keratinocytes”

*Advisor: Eishi Noguchi, PhD*

MOLECULAR AND CELL BIOLOGY  
AND GENETICS

### Jennifer N. Koch

“Influence of Physiologic and Environmental Factors on the Role of Regulator of G Protein Signaling 2 (RGS2) in Vascular Remodeling During Pregnancy”

*Advisor: Patrick Osei-Owusu, PhD*

BIOCHEMISTRY

### Kevin M. Raible

“Rapid Genomic Change and Intraclonal Variation in the Bacterial Opportunistic Pathogens *Haemophilus influenzae* and *Acinetobacter baumannii*”

*Advisors: Garth Ehrlich, PhD and Joshua Mell, PhD*

MICROBIOLOGY AND IMMUNOLOGY

### Ogan K. Kumova

“Altered Innate Immune Responses to Influenza Virus Infection in the Neonate”

*Advisor: Alison J. Carey, MD*

MICROBIOLOGY AND IMMUNOLOGY

### Lindsay A. Steele

“Magnetically Actuated Alginate Scaffolds: Effects on Macrophage Function and Regenerative Outcomes”

*Advisor: Boris Polyak, PhD*

MOLECULAR AND CELL BIOLOGY  
AND GENETICS

## 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

#### *Biochemistry*

#### **Rebecca Anne Rhodes**

"SEPT9 Binds Actin Through a Novel Binding Motif"

Advisor: Shae Padrick, PhD

#### *Cancer Biology*

#### **Fatimah Alfaran**

"The Effects of Copper Modulation on CK2 Kinase Activity"

Advisor: Todd Strochlic, VMD, PhD

#### **Yesim Mercan**

#### **Rebecca Moeller**

"Exploring CDK5 as a Novel Therapeutic Target in Glioblastoma"

Advisor: Mauricio Reginato, PhD

#### **Shivani Sandeep Sheth**

"Roles of Timeless in Fanconi Anemia-mediated repair pathway and cancer growth in Esophageal cancer cells"

Advisor: Eishi Noguchi, PhD

#### *Microbiology and Immunology*

#### **Matthew Joseph VanPelt**

"Identification of CD4+ T cell-stimulating Plasmodium yoelii Epitopes via in vivo Immunopeptidomics."

Advisor: James Burns, Jr., PhD

#### *Molecular and Cell Biology and Genetics*

#### **Namitha Gubbi**

"Investigating a Role for CHTF18 in Meiotic Crossover Formation"

Advisor: Karen Berkowitz, MD

#### **Stephano Mauricio Iglesias**

"Development of a Fluorescent Assay of Septin Filament Assembly"

Advisor: Shae Padrick, PhD

#### **Jean Marc Maurancy**

"An investigation into the binding mode of novel small molecule HIV-1 capsid (CA) protein inhibitors"

Advisor: Simon Cocklin, PhD

#### **Jacob Chinshiang Yo**

"Efficacy of Next-Generation BRAF Inhibitors in Differentiated Thyroid Carcinomas"

Advisor: Edward Hartsough, PhD

#### *Pharmacology and Physiology*

#### **Ipek Gozen Eralp**

"Exploring the role of Divalent Metal Transporter 1 in Morphine-Mediated Upregulation of Neuronal Ferritin Heavy Chain"

Advisor: Olimpia Meucci, MD, PhD

#### **Shunyi Zhao**

"Alterations of DA-related transcripts in A11 diencephalospinal pathways after spinal cord injury"

Advisor: Shaoping Hou, PhD

### DIVISION OF INTERDISCIPLINARY AND CAREER-ORIENTED PROGRAMS

#### *Biomedicine and Law*

#### **Brittany S. Dulski**

#### *Clinical Research Organization and Management*

#### **Cindy Alsamarraie**

#### **Stephanie Althoff**

#### **Angie Lizette Avery**

#### **Charles J Daniel**

**Antonete Carina DiCarlo**

**Nicole Erin Domowicz**

**Meaghan Elizabeth Dunn**

**Erin Harper**

**Katrina Laurel Holdren**

**Diana Lynn Latti**

**Griffin Douglas Lewis**

**Rudolf Itor Malle**

**Hollee Candice Parros**

**Angie Linda Santiago Zayas**

**Melanie Renee Taillon**

**Becca Erin Trombler**

**Lily Vasquez**

**Krishna Rivas - Wagner**

**Nathan Hillel Weiss**

*Drug Discovery and Development*

**Abeer Alharbi**

**María Sofia Castelli**

**Simone B. Draft**

**Fangyi Huang**

**Zongguan Huang**

**Rana Neha**

**Bhumiben Pradipkumar Patel**

**Yibin Xu**

*Histotechnology*

**Angela Joy Altadonna**

**Charles Christopher Carrier**

**Christopher Clough**

*Infectious Disease*

**Karlye Jowers**

*Master of Laboratory Animal Science*

**Heather Marie Becker**

**Meriel Alice Toshiko Campbell**

**Nicolette Paci**

*Medical and Healthcare Simulation*

**Maria Bajwa**

**Colin Lane Donnelly**

**Yvonne Marie Hoover**

**Luther Joel Raechal**

**Michele Lee Renninger**

**Allen D Ribblett**

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

*Biomedical Studies*

**Steven L DiStefano**

**Taylor Lynn Mohr**

**Brianna Mosley**

*Interdisciplinary Health Sciences*

**Stacy M Ferreira**

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

The first university, the University of Bologna, was founded in Italy in 1162 and offered specialized education in the major professional fields of the medieval world: law, medicine, government and theology—areas that would dominate European and American higher education until the 20th century.

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

The academic costume has three basic parts: the cap, the gown and the hood. Three factors must be taken into consideration—the degree (bachelor, master, doctor); the branch of knowledge (nursing, medicine, etc.); and the university by which the degree is granted.

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

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

The bachelor's hood is three feet long, the master's three-and-a-half feet long, and the doctor's four feet long. Bachelor of Science and Master of Science candidates wear sun-gold hoods; Bachelor of Arts and Master of Arts candidates, white hoods. Doctor of Philosophy candidates wear blue hoods. Doctor of Medicine candidates wear green hoods. Candidates with annotated degrees may wear hoods of other colors, such as apricot (Bachelor and Master of Science in Nursing), teal (Master of Physical Therapy), and blue with white trim (Master of Arts, Creative Arts in Therapy), to name a few.

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

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

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

## History and Traditions of the University Mace

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

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

*Drexel University Board of Trustees*

---

Chris McKendry Andrade '90  
 Jeffrey A. Beachell '93  
 James Bean '91  
 Sally J. Bellet, Esq.  
 Gregory S. Bentley  
 Thomas E. "Rick" Berk '86  
 Karen Dougherty Buchholz  
 Elinor Hosterman Buck '87  
 Randall S. Burkert '82  
 Thomas A. Caramanico  
 R. John Chapel Jr. '67  
 Hon. Ida K. Chen  
 Kathleen P. Chimicles, ASA '83  
 Abbie Dean '07  
 Nicholas DeBenedictis '68, '69, HD '87  
 Amish Desai '03  
 Gerianne Tringali DiPiano  
 Domenic M. DiPiero III  
 Thomas O. Fitzpatrick, Esq.  
 Brian R. Ford  
 Michael C. Forman  
 John Fry  
*President*  
 Kenneth Fulmer, '92, '00  
 Sean J. Gallagher '93  
 David R. Geltzer '77  
 Richard A. Greenawalt '66  
*Chair*  
 David Griffith  
 Mauricio Gutierrez  
 Richard A. Hayne  
*Vice Chair*  
 Mary R. "Nina" Henderson '72  
*Vice Chair*  
 Richard C. Ill '73  
 Patricia H. Imbesi '69  
 Joseph H. Jacovini, Esq., HD '04  
 Thomas R. Kline, Esq.

Lawrence M. Korman  
 J. Michael Lawrie '77  
 Raphael C. Lee, MD '75  
 Patrick S. McGonigal '86  
 Matthew S. Naylor '12  
 Denis P. O'Brien '87  
 Kevin J. O'Hara '83  
 Richelle P. Parham '91  
 Charles P. Pizzi  
 Thomas M. Rampulla '94  
 Virginia S. Rose  
 Stan Silverman '69, '74  
*Vice Chair*  
 Joseph P. Ujobai '84  
 Charles K. Valutas '73  
 Michael J. Williams '80, '83

**EMERITUS TRUSTEES**

Renee J. Amooore  
 Paul "Mel" Baiada '82, '85  
 Sylvia "Sibby" Merkel Brasler '60  
 Robert R. Buckley '58, HD '12  
 Barry C. Burkholder '62, '70  
 Robert L. Byers Sr. '65, HD '02  
 Robert J. Drummond '66  
 John G. "Jack" Johnson Jr. '70, '72  
 George F. Krall Jr. '58, HD '14  
 James E. Marks '47, '49, HD '15  
 Robert McClements Jr. '52  
 John A. Nyheim, HD '05  
 C.R. "Chuck" Pennoni '63, '66, HD '92  
 D. Howard Pierce '71  
 John J. Roberts '67, '71, HD '05  
 William T. Schleyer '73, HD '06  
 Stephen A. Sheller, Esq. HD '17  
 Ray Westphal '59, HD '02  
 E. Frederick Wheelock, MD, PhD



## Publication Policy

This Commencement Program is intended for unofficial use only. It may not be used for legal purposes or for proof of the University's granting of degree to, or receipt of diploma by, any individual named herein. Contents of this publication reflect information available at or before the time of printing. Student names listed in this program reflect our best understanding, at the time of printing, of those who will complete their requirements as of August 2020.

Produced by the Office of University Communications

*Lists complete as of August 2020*

