



THE STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK
DOWNSTATE HEALTH SCIENCES UNIVERSITY

Class of 2024

WEDNESDAY, MAY 15, 2024

THE AMPHITHEATER AT
CONEY ISLAND
BROOKLYN, NY



THE
CLASS OF 2024
COMMENCEMENT

ELEVEN O'CLOCK

School of Health Professions

College of Nursing

THREE O'CLOCK

College of Medicine

School of Graduate Studies

School of Public Health



The Commencement Program

Wednesday, May 15th 11:00 a.m.

PROCESSIONAL

(Audience, please rise for the Processional)

PRESIDING MARSHAL

Jeffrey S. Putman, Ed.D.

Vice President for Academic and Student Affairs

NATIONAL ANTHEM

Kerianna Krebushevski, Class of 2024

School of Health Professions

OPENING REMARKS FROM THE PRESIDENT

Wayne J. Riley, M.D., MPH, MBA, MACP

President

The State University of New York

Downstate Health Sciences University

GREETINGS FROM THE DEANS

Allen N. Lewis, Jr., Ph.D., CRC

Dean and Professor, School of Health Professions

Lori A. Escallier, Ph.D., R.N., CPNP-PC, FANN

Dean and Professor, College of Nursing

GREETINGS ON BEHALF OF THE GRADUATES

Marion DeLa Pena, Class of 2024

School of Health Professions

Carissa Coccimiglio, Class of 2024

College of Nursing

PRESENTATION OF THE AILANTHUS AWARD AND INTRODUCTION OF THE COMMENCEMENT SPEAKER

Dr. Wayne J. Riley

AILANTHUS AWARD RECIPIENT AND COMMENCEMENT SPEAKER

Dara Kass, M.D.

Emergency Medicine Physician

Healthcare Strategist & Communicator

AMERICA THE BEAUTIFUL

Michael Cooperstein, Class of 2024

College of Nursing

SCHOOL OF HEALTH PROFESSIONS

PRESENTATION OF CANDIDATES

Dr. Allen N. Lewis, Jr.

CONFERRING OF DEGREES

Dr. Wayne J. Riley

AWARDING OF DIPLOMAS

Dr. Wayne J. Riley

Dr. Allen N. Lewis, Jr.

HOODING OF CANDIDATES FOR THE DOCTOR OF PHYSICAL THERAPY DEGREE

Joanne Katz, Ph.D., DPT, PT

Associate Professor and Chair of Physical Therapy

COLLEGE OF NURSING

PRESENTATION OF CANDIDATES

Dr. Lori A. Escallier

CONFERRING OF DEGREES

Dr. Wayne J. Riley

AWARDING OF DIPLOMAS

Dr. Wayne J. Riley

Dr. Lori A. Escallier

HOODING OF CANDIDATES FOR THE DOCTOR OF NURSING PRACTICE DEGREE

Nataliya Shaforost, DNP, FNP-C, CDCES

Assistant Professor and Director, DNP Program

CLOSING REMARKS AND ADMINISTRATION OF THE OATH OF PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE

Dr. Wayne J. Riley

RECESSIONAL

(Audience: Please rise and remain standing until the graduates have left the venue)

MUSIC CREDIT:

Marches:

Aida, Act II, Scene 2, "Triumphal March"

Giuseppe Verdi

Performed by the Budapest Scoring Symphonic Orchestra

Conducted by Peter Pejtsik

The Commencement Program

Wednesday, May 15th 3:00 p.m.

PROCESSIONAL

(Audience, please rise for the Processional)

PRESIDING MARSHAL

Jeffrey S. Putman, Ed.D.

Vice President for Academic and Student Affairs

NATIONAL ANTHEM

Malaika Dewes, Class of 2024

School of Public Health

OPENING REMARKS FROM THE PRESIDENT

Wayne J. Riley, M.D., MPH, MBA, MACP

President

The State University of New York

Downstate Health Sciences University

GREETINGS FROM THE DEANS

F. Charles Brunnicardi, M.D., FACS

Dean and Professor, College of Medicine

GREETINGS ON BEHALF OF THE GRADUATES

Timothy Morello, Class of 2024

College of Medicine & School of Graduate Studies

PRESENTATION OF THE AILANTHUS AWARD AND INTRODUCTION OF THE COMMENCEMENT SPEAKER

Dr. Wayne J. Riley

AILANTHUS AWARD RECIPIENT AND COMMENCEMENT SPEAKER

Dara Kass, M.D.

Emergency Medicine Physician

Healthcare Strategist & Communicator

PRESENTATION AND CONFERRING OF HONORARY DEGREES

Dr. Wayne J. Riley

Dr. Jeffrey S. Putman

HONORARY DEGREE RECIPIENTS

Doctor of Science

Samuel Waxman, M.D.

M. Roy Wilson, M.D., M.S.

AMERICA THE BEAUTIFUL

Daniel Brereton, Class of 2024

College of Medicine

COLLEGE OF MEDICINE

PRESENTATION OF CANDIDATES

Dr. F. Charles Brunnicardi

CONFERRING OF DEGREES

Dr. Wayne J. Riley

AWARDING OF DIPLOMAS

Dr. Wayne J. Riley

Dr. F. Charles Brunnicardi

HOODING OF CANDIDATES FOR THE DOCTOR OF MEDICINE DEGREE

Isabel McFarlane, M.D., FACP

*Clinical Assistant Professor and
Director, Third-Year Medicine Clerkship*

Yaakov Anziska, M.D.

Associate Professor, Department of Neurology

SCHOOL OF GRADUATE STUDIES

PRESENTATION OF CANDIDATES

David Christini, Ph.D.

Senior Vice President for Research

CONFERRING OF DEGREES

Dr. Wayne J. Riley

AWARDING OF DIPLOMAS

Dr. Wayne J. Riley

Dr. David Christini

HOODING OF CANDIDATES FOR THE DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY DEGREE

Thesis Research Sponsors &

Laura A. Martello-Rooney, Ph.D.

Assistant Professor, Department of Medicine

SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH

PRESENTATION OF CANDIDATES

Kitaw Demissie, M.D., Ph.D.

Professor and Dean, School of Public Health

CONFERRING OF DEGREES

Dr. Wayne J. Riley

AWARDING OF DIPLOMAS

Dr. Wayne J. Riley

Dr. Kitaw Demissie

HOODING OF CANDIDATES FOR THE DOCTOR OF PUBLIC HEALTH DEGREE

Tracey E. Wilson, Ph.D.

*Vice Dean for Faculty Affairs & Research and Distinguished
Service Professor*

CLOSING REMARKS AND ADMINISTRATION OF THE HIPPOCRATIC OATH

Dr. Wayne J. Riley

RECESSIONAL

(Audience: Please rise and remain standing until the graduates have left the venue)

MUSIC CREDIT:

Marches:

Aida, Act II, Scene 2, "Triumphal March"
Giuseppe Verdi

Performed by the Budapest Scoring Symphonic Orchestra
Conducted by Peter Pejtsik

Listed on the following pages are all degree candidates from The State University of New York – Downstate Health Sciences University, who, according to the Office of the Registrar, at the time of publication of this program, were eligible for the awarding of appropriate degrees and honors upon completion of prescribed work. This does not constitute the official list of those who will graduate or receive honors. Official determinations regarding graduation and honors will be made at the time of degree conferral upon submission of all final grades.

SCHOOL OF HEALTH PROFESSIONS

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE

DIAGNOSTIC MEDICAL IMAGING

Nadia Alkaysey
Amanda B. Casey
Baby Debnath
Daniella Z. Eisenstadt
Chitra D. Etwaroo

Sheana Timara Gordon
Hawa-luul O. Ismail
Cindy Li
Fangfang Li
Camille Roberts
Bernice Shi

Samantha Sullivan
Daisy Dayanna Vera
Jamie Elizabeth Wong
Kayla Adeila Worrell
Kelvin Wu
Sumayah Zokari

MASTER OF SCIENCE

HEALTH/MEDICAL INFORMATICS

Joseph K. Abankwa
Shazia Akhter
Edwin Chiu
Carl Condé
Dorine Paulette Cooper
Morgan Efferson
Sagar Mohan Gopalani
Manpreet Kaur
Jessica Kydd
Jenny Jingling Li
Kathleen Morris
Jamara N. Moye-Richards
John S. Muthu
Ryan C. Sumner
Jasmine Torres
Tiffany A. Whittaker
Hermella Wondemneh
Zhi Ming Yu

Judith Elissa Levinrad
Hannah Elizabeth Ross
Miriam R. Samuels
Anahi E. Sanabria
Nadine Nioka Stuart-Chang
Shaunté E. Truick

OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY

Alexandra Camryn Berman
Yazmine T. Bernier
Giselle Elizabeth Calderon
Marion L. Dela Pena
Jenna Nicole Derleth
Jonathan Ryan Falcone
Jenna Marie Gargano
Monica Ghali
Rebeca B. Gonzalez
Rebecca Gritz
Holly Jeanne Hudgins
Bethany E. Israelov
Samar Issa
Nadine S. Johnson
Sonja Joshi
Mahira Khanam
Michaela Kloos
Hanna Kobal
Kerianna Krebushevski

Ellenie Kuszer
Benson Liang
Ada Liu
Somaia Mahjabin
Arubah Mansoor
Nava S. Neugroschl
Peihwa Ni
Rosmery M. Nunez
Parvina Rahimova
Sagda H. Ramadan
Ava R. Schiraldi
Tiara Varela
Alina M. Yakubov

PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT

Jadiya G. Adames
Elif Ahmeti
Salma H. Ali
Aisha Amjad
Japdeep Chhokar
Megan Renae Edwards
Mohammad Rafiq Faiz
Lin Feng
Natasha Leeanna Fraser
Nataly Mishelle Jara Lliguin
Henry Jradeh
Ruwaydah Khan

MIDWIFERY

Shania Kensasha Bignott
Jeimy Campbell-Perdomo
Susan K. Campos
Emily C. Cooper
Tiffany Nora Johnson
Carolyn J. McGowan

David E. Koyenov
Albina Kukic
Sheila Lauren Lati
Annet J. Lema
Monika A. Long
Syeda R. Mahnaz
Nathaniel Malaev
Fernando Mendoza Jr.
Anissa Mouhoubi
Rawan N. Munassar

Nima H. Patel
Daphnee Paul
Parvina Rakhimova
Michelle W. Saad
Valeriya Semenova
Laura Silva
Ramandeep Singh
Mera Skoblo
Tasfia Tabassum
Penina Y. Zadeh

**PHYSICIAN
ASSISTANT
COMPLETION***

Sheron Nicola Walcott

**Students graduating from Physician Assistant Completion receive both the Master of Science in Physician Assistant from the School of Health Professions and the Advanced Certificate in Public Health from the School of Public Health.*

**BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN HEALTH SCIENCES AND
DOCTOR OF PHYSICAL THERAPY**

Francesco Alberico
Shaliza Ally
Emilyn Brodsky
Emily E. Bundock
Azriel Moises Cocchini Beck
Leia Correa
Harrison J. Courtney
Chasity Duran
Van Grace

Allen Abraham Jacob
Madjena Faith Joseph
Duran Kasaj
Yejin Kim
Melanie Kleiner
Annamaria Lombardi
Johnnathan Martinez
Charles A. Meyers
Shamir Morrison

Shira Reisner
Aurus Julius Sanchez
Leonard Michael Schragger
Jusmine Gabrielle C. Soriano
Ian Stowe
Kerry Abel Thelusmond
Anh-Tuan Tran
Kingston Ji Len Wong

ADVANCED CERTIFICATE OF MIDWIFERY

Akilah S. Pascall

Monique Shanell Varcianna

COLLEGE OF NURSING

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE

RN TO BS

Lateef Olawale Adeyemi
Kimberly A. Anglin
Derronica C. Collins
Kalandra M. Duncan
Janaan I. Mutaasa
Catrina Saint Fleur
Sara R. Sarue
Andre J. Stephenson
Velia Villarreal
Kristina Zelenyy

ACCELERATED BS

Tasnia J. Ahmed
Adriana Almanzar
Oheneba Darko Amponsah
Isabella R. Aviles
Shefa Ruhi Bagum
Robert J. Barbara
Deysi Y. Bautista
Nahida Begum
Siham Bendra
Estee Bergman
Ashley Antoinette Blake
Melissa J. Bolton
Jake Sanders Britton
Arielle Brutus
Adrian F. Chan
Stephanie Chen
Alejandra J. Chen Zeng
Luke B. Christy
Lee Kreshin Cohen
Michael Lusby Cooperstein
Jillian S. Craig
Quinten Crawford
Sarena Deshong
Shivanie Elizabeth Dhamija
Jennifer N. A. Dogbegah
Katherine Edell
Michael Edovia Osagiede

Jade Leah Feldman
Valarie Forrester-Williams
Rushell Freeman
Rebecca A. Fuller
Sally Gangaram
Amar Garadi
Gavriella F. Goldsmith
Ashley Hall
Ana C. Hernandez
Antoine Christopher Jackson
Cindy Jiang
Janee K.L. Jones
Eden Kabariti
Devpriya Kar
Salma Khan
Tara Anne Kirk
Elana Klein
Dylan Benjamin Knewstub
Grace Lee
Jamie Liang
Shayna Rebecca Lieberman
Nicole M. LoRubbio
Alexis Machado
Barbara Maile
Tatiana O. Makarenko
Christa S. Mathew
Stella Susan Mathew
Sable Wilson McCray
Eric D. McDuffie
Briana Danielle Mehling
Karina N. Muñiz
Marianna Nerantzinis
Sienna N. Nicolich
Auste Valentina Norvila
Htet Oo
Michelle S. Paguay
Shamar Powell
Hidayethunisa Rehmat
Danielle T. Reid
Anna Mee Eun Rhee

Roxanne S. Richards-Francis
Patricia M. Roberts
Sheneene S. Robinson
Erin K. Rosado
Julia A. Rosenfeld
Samuel Joseph Rudy
Imma Dalia Ruiz
Laura Marie Ryan
Matthew F. Sanders
Lauren S. Seidman
Rayhan Shad
Showda Shahid
Ruth Silver
Emily A. Stokes
Katharine Stokes
Monique Shantae Stone
McCallan Kate Stringer
Jasmin G. Sunny
Yael Teitelman
Rachel Ann Turturro
Helene S. Vadnai
Myriam Valmeus
Yasmin Velez
Casey L. Venturelli
Diya Verma
Presonia A. Wagstaffe
Ariella Tamar Wang
Cyana E. Welch
Elza Winiarsky
Shirley Xiong
Milana Yagudaeva
Nicole Yu
Brigitte Carolina Yunda
Monica Gee-Un Yuo
Erika V. Yuquilima Guaman
Stephanie Amber Yussef

MASTER OF SCIENCE**FAMILY NURSE
PRACTITIONER**

Temima Leah Leiser

NURSE MIDWIFERY*

Akilah S. Pascall

**Students graduating from Nurse Midwifery receive both the Master of Science in Nurse Midwifery from the College of Nursing and the Advanced Certificate in Midwifery from the School of Health Professions.*

**WOMEN'S
HEALTH NURSE
PRACTITIONER**

Jessica N. Abad

Ebunoluwa Adebajo

Nazia Ahmed

Kaalani J. Allah

Flor C. Cabral

Tziporah Chait

Krista C. Clerge

Rasheena Deen

Bielka Diaz

Patrycja Dziedzic

Odette Amaulia Freckleton

Sakari Alique Joseph

Anna Kolesova

Sandi Law

Shadae L. Lawson

Heather Lian

Lisa Loughren

Daniella Manno

Elisa Tersha Marquis

Nairobi Martinez

Jovacia S. McClear

Sydel Ann Mitchell

Niyah A. Moore

Caileigh O'Rourke

Renneika Razor-Isidore

Ashlee Shiann Reid

Diana Nicole Rivera

Angela T. Rose

Emily K. Ryan

Bianca Sawh

Caroline Mollie Steig

Safiya N. Vera

Anthonia Vigier-Callender

Colette K. Williams

Jada M. Williams

Shonique La Tonja Williams

Shayeeda V. Wisdom-Dowling

Ching Yee Zhao

NURSE EDUCATION

Toshawna N. Adams

DOCTOR OF NURSE PRACTITIONER

Yzza Joyce Alcalde

Precious Bamawo

Elizabeth-Anne Bentley

Cassandra A. Cesar

Jenny Cherian

Ashley D. Chevallier

Carissa Coccimiglio

Deeka-Gaye Zona Cole

Sabrina Destime

Brenda Diaz

Zoe Nicole Dunbar

Islima N. Duvivier

Edmarie A. Edwards

Dana T. Fantuzzi

Kayla Jaania Daesha Ford

Chislene Gonzales Aranda

Annette Guerrero

Carmel Gustave

Adele Habbaz

Stephanie Hernandez

Shan Jaffery

Bridget Edem Afi Kemavor

Shadna Adeyinka Labinjo

Keshia Daniel Laporte

Han Na Lee

Liliya I. Levandovski

Kimberly A. Lindsay

Odeisha M. Maitland

Ayanna Vidia Makoosingh-Clare

Abigail Ankomaa Nketsia

Olanike Joke Olorunoje

Losikey Paulino Moquete

Ashley Marie Pelaez

Yanique S. Pryce-Carby

Jennifer Nathalie Ramsuchit

Tiffany Soleil Redwood

Amina Rehman

Anna M. Szostek

Lasoria C. Thomas

Stacey Viciere

ADVANCED CERTIFICATE**FAMILY NURSE PRACTITIONER**

Amanda M. Grace

Xue Yao Li

Listed on the following pages are all degree candidates from The State University of New York – Downstate Health Sciences University, who, according to the Office of the Registrar, at the time of publication of this program, were eligible for the awarding of appropriate degrees and honors upon completion of prescribed work. This does not constitute the official list of those who will graduate or receive honors. Official determinations regarding graduation and honors will be made at the time of degree conferral upon submission of all final grades.

COLLEGE OF MEDICINE

MASTER OF SCIENCE IN PHYSIOLOGY

Zaid Ayaz
Estephanie Garcia
Leah Louisa Ham

Gelila Hawthorne
Hend Heikal
Jalen Knight

Ashley N. Padilla

DOCTOR OF MEDICINE

Christina Ines Williams Agudelo
Interventional Radiology

Ahmed Gamal Abozeria *
Internal Medicine

Nicole E. Ackerman *
Internal Medicine

Moazam Afzal
Psychiatry

Sukhpreet Singh Ahluwalia
Surgery-General

Kyrrillos M. Akhnouk
Emergency Medicine

Christopher Alessandro
Pediatrics

Lina Mohamed Alhanshali *
Dermatology

Srishty Narendra Amarnani
Family Medicine

Bradley Keith Amazan *
Urology

Naveera Arif ~
Psychiatry/Adult/Child

Marianna Babadzhyanov
Internal Medicine

Brandon T. Badillo *~
Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation

Edward S. Bae *
Internal Medicine

Emily Catherine Bakaj
Neurodevelopmental Disabilities

Nayeem Baksh
Orthopaedic Surgery

Jacob Nathaniel Bamberger
Surgery-General

Hong Fei Bao
Anesthesiology

Michael Peter Barry
Psychiatry

Gregory S. Belizaire ~
Psychiatry

Alissa Carmel Judith Belzie *~
Ophthalmology

Rivka Benyaminov
Psychiatry

Sonali C. Bhat *~
Family Medicine

Fredrick Weiss Birnbaum
Pediatrics

Daniel J. Bockelman
Internal Medicine

Joseph Uriah Boroda
Urology

Daniel Gannon Brereton
Surgery-General

Weston Lee Buehring *
Orthopaedic Surgery

Huchong Cai
Anesthesiology

Caroline Ellen Canning *~
Urology

Christopher Chan
Anesthesiology

Sonya Gilda Rachel Chemouni Bach
Family Medicine

Christine Chen
Surgery-General

Ting-Ju Chiang
Emergency Medicine

Crystal S. Choi
Internal Medicine

Matthew Suhk Chung
Orthopaedic Surgery

Amanda Kathryn Ciardiello *
Internal Medicine

Geoffrey William Cloud *
Internal Medicine

Isabel Pilar Conde
Internal Medicine

Zachary Cooper
Anesthesiology

Rachel A. Corona ~
Surgery-General

Dennis P. Cummins
Psychiatry

Kaitlynn Nicole Cunningham *
Dermatology

Adam Daniels
Otolaryngology

Or Dayan
Oral Surgery

Benjamin De Leon III <i>Urology</i>	Jennifer S. Gottfried * <i>Otolaryngology</i>	Agnes Jiang <i>Psychiatry</i>
Liam Malachy Deegan <i>Transitional Year</i>	Nitasha Goyal <i>Neurology</i>	Amanda Elizabeth Jirgal * <i>Surgery-General</i>
Javier C. Dejesus Lugo <i>Internal Medicine</i>	Judah Gray <i>Emergency Medicine</i>	Christy Grace Joseph ~ <i>Internal Medicine</i>
Shivali A. Devjani <i>Internal Medicine</i>	Brandon Mark Grill ~ <i>Psychiatry</i>	Alex C. Jung <i>Internal Medicine</i>
Jacqueline Carmela DiSalvatore * <i>Anesthesiology</i>	Kelsey Jean Hackett <i>Obstetrics and Gynecology</i>	Pratima Sarah Jurakhan <i>Emergency Medicine</i>
Eugene J. Dolphin <i>Emergency Medicine</i>	Lawrence Hanson <i>Ophthalmology</i>	Charles Craig Karrasch <i>Ophthalmology</i>
Andrew John Dorritie * <i>Pediatrics</i>	Marea Adele Hatheway <i>Psychiatry</i>	Farhan Ishraq Kashem <i>Surgery-General</i>
Neeta D'Souza <i>Urology</i>	Nicholas Jack Hines <i>Internal Medicine</i>	Dilruba Khatoun <i>Anesthesiology</i>
Owen Washington Edwards <i>Surgery-General</i>	Joshua A. Hirsch <i>Internal Medicine</i>	Lakshay Khosla * <i>Urology</i>
Miar Elaskandrany * <i>Anesthesiology</i>	Elver Shei-Wah Ho <i>Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation</i>	David Kim <i>Internal Medicine/Emergency Medicine</i>
Sophie Sprung Eldred * <i>Internal Medicine</i>	Kenny Hong <i>Psychiatry</i>	Lindsay S. Kim <i>Anesthesiology</i>
Christina Noel Falcone ~ <i>Surgery-General</i>	Sharif Hosein Patiño * <i>Anesthesiology</i>	Samuel Kim <i>Anesthesiology</i>
Nouraz Falik <i>Internal Medicine</i>	Shirley Huang <i>Obstetrics and Gynecology</i>	Yunji Kim <i>Pediatrics</i>
Alexander H. Fang *~ <i>Psychiatry</i>	Vivian Huang <i>Emergency Medicine</i>	Julianne Kleitsch <i>Dermatology</i>
Sohaib A. Fasih-Ahmad	Eun Kyeong Hwang * <i>Psychiatry</i>	Benjamin Krasnyanskiy <i>Internal Medicine</i>
Alexandra Elizabeth Feathers <i>Internal Medicine</i>	Adem Idrizi <i>Anesthesiology</i>	Alexandria Leah Krauss * <i>Surgery-General</i>
Paul Ford Flynn <i>Psychiatry</i>	Yael Ihejirika ~ <i>Surgery-General</i>	Oscar Robert Krol * <i>Surgery-General</i>
Rythika Rose Francis <i>Obstetrics and Gynecology</i>	Justin W.D. Ingram <i>Urology</i>	Patryk Kazimierz Krzesaj <i>Surgery-General</i>
Paul S. Fried <i>Pediatrics</i>	Albina S. Islam <i>Otolaryngology</i>	Jesse John Landis <i>Internal Medicine</i>
Madeleine Ann Gao <i>Radiology-Diagnostic</i>	Menachem M. Jacobs <i>Internal Medicine</i>	Jessica Anne Lanzkowsky ~ <i>Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation</i>
Ariel Gidon <i>Internal Medicine</i>	Girish Vinayak Jayant <i>Internal Medicine</i>	Timothy T.B Lau <i>Internal Medicine</i>
Leah R. Goldberg <i>Internal Medicine</i>	Audrigue J. Jean-Louis <i>Emergency Medicine</i>	April Minhyae Lee ~ <i>Ophthalmology</i>
Ariana Frances Gopal <i>Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation</i>		

COLLEGE OF MEDICINE

Judy Sulki Lee

Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation

Vladlena Lee

Interventional Radiology

Nancy L. Li ~

Psychiatry

Raven Liping Lin

Family Medicine

Aysha Gabriella Malik ~

Ophthalmology

Matthew Ferdinand Sunga Marcelino *

Pediatrics

Ryan Scott Marder

Orthopaedic Surgery

Sasha G. Machado

Neurology

Shrisha Maskey

Obstetrics and Gynecology

Serina S. Mathew

Emergency Medicine

Jessica Paige Mineroff Gollogly *

Dermatology

Kevin Ali Moattari *

Orthopaedic Surgery

Nader A. Mohamed *

Radiation Oncology

Luke C. Morales

Pathology

Kevin Huub Moran

Internal Medicine

Timothy D. Morello *

Ophthalmology

Marc Alfred Moscatelli

Internal Medicine

Kurt Michael Moskovitz

Emergency Medicine

Madonna Moza ~

Internal Medicine

Colm Michael Mulvany

Emergency Medicine

Bryant Muniz-Safadi

Internal Medicine

Christopher Anthony Musial II

Internal Medicine

Iqra Nadeem

Surgery-General

Zaid Nakadar

Internal Medicine

Jack Joseph Nasar

Family Medicine

Zainab Nathani

Family Medicine

Diarra Mame Ndiaye *~

Anesthesiology

Alexandra Maria Nerantzinis

Anesthesiology

Michel Nana Abena Serwaa Ntiri

Internal Medicine

Nway Nway

Pediatrics

Noorulain Paracha ~

Anesthesiology

Lekha Rakesh Patel

Pediatrics

Simran Patel

Anesthesiology

Sneha Patel

Pediatrics

Jemy Paulson

Internal Medicine

Julianny Perez

Anesthesiology

Emily Pesek *~

Emergency Medicine

Olga Pinkhasov *

Pediatrics

Husain Y. Poonawala

Internal Medicine

William Wyatt Post *

Psychiatry

Sumeet K. Prasad

Anesthesiology

Zain Qureshi

Internal Medicine

Brian Rhee

Michael Jude Ricci

Emergency Medicine

Justine G. Rosalez

Surgery-General

Rahul Roshin

Family Medicine

Alexis V. Roth *

Surgery-General

Felix David Rozenberg ~

Internal Medicine

Blaine Burke Russ

Urology

Joshua Salama

Internal Medicine

Giovanni Raphael Sanchez

Surgery-General

Hector Rolando Sandoval

Ophthalmology

Benjamin Matthew Sanits

Interventional Radiology

Kayla M. Schacher

Obstetrics and Gynecology

Lisa Marie Scott

Internal Medicine

Ayten Ossama Sergios

Neurology

Tooba Shafiq

Pediatrics

Armaan P. Shah ~

Radiology-Diagnostic

Vivek N. Shah *~

Emergency Medicine

Brett Maxwell Sherman

Internal Medicine

Anuradha Shetty

Psychiatry

Vlad Shknevskiy

Internal Medicine

Binyamin Simkhaev ~

Anesthesiology

Jessica Rosemarie Sirizzotti

Pediatrics

Latia Kadisha Skerving

Emergency Medicine

Rawlica J. Sumner ~

Obstetrics and Gynecology

Mohamed M. Sylla

Ophthalmology

Joanna Karina Tabor
Neurological Surgery

Sania Tahir
Psychiatry

Nicolas Andres Valentino *
Orthopaedic Surgery

Marcos Antonio Vargas
Emergency Medicine

Juan David Villabona
Emergency Medicine

Perri Samantha Vingan
Plastic Surgery

Andrew Herbert Voigt
Surgery-General

Jeremy Sampson Wadowski
Anesthesiology

Daniel J. Walocha
Anesthesiology

Annette S. Wang

Ruoyu Wang ~
Internal Medicine

Jeremy Roscoe Wasserburg
Surgery-General

Kelita Alison Waterton ~
Internal Medicine

Lulu Wei *~
Urology

Treven A. Wesley *
Ophthalmology

Piers James Whitaker ~
Emergency Medicine

Jeremy Phillip Wilson
Internal Medicine

Matthew John Wilson
Psychiatry

Elaine Nicole Winge ~
Anesthesiology

Katty Wu ~
Obstetrics and Gynecology

Alice Yau
Plastic Surgery

Hua Yep
Anesthesiology

Samuel Min-Su Yim
Urology

Hall Zhang
Internal Medicine

Sherry Zhang
Anesthesiology

Jordan Zhou
Anesthesiology

Hillel Ziegler
Oral Surgery

Sylvia Zielinski
Pediatrics

Lori Elyse Zomback
Pediatrics

Denotes:

* *Alpha Omega Alpha Medical Honor Society*

~ *Gold Humanism Honor Society*

DISTINCTION IN RESEARCH

Moazam Afzal

Lina Mohamed Alhanshali

Nayeem Baksh

Jacob Nathaniel Bamberger

Zachary Cooper

Kaitlynne Nicole Cunningham

Shivali A. Devjani

Andrew John Dorritie

Alexander H. Fang

Alexandra Elizabeth Feathers

Adem Idrizi

Lakshay Khosla

Oscar Robert Krol

Jessica Paige Mineroff Gollogly

Noorulain Paracha

Alexis V. Roth

Felix David Rozenberg

Andrew Herbert Voigt

Ruoyu Wang

Jeremy Roscoe Wasserburg

Lulu Wei

Alice Yau

COMMENDATION IN INVESTIGATIVE SCHOLARSHIP

Perri Samantha Vingan

SCHOOL OF GRADUATE STUDIES

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY

Aparajita Bhattacharya

Molecular & Cellular Biology
Engineering Self-Assembling
Biomaterials using Protein Block
Copolymers for Drug Delivery and
Molecular Imaging in Glioblastoma
Field Application Scientist at
NanoTemper Technologies,
Watertown, MA

Ernest R. Cote

Neural & Behavioral Science
Impacts of Early Life Stress on Adult
Emotive Behavior and the PFC-
Amygdala Circuit
Adjunct Faculty- New York University
and Adjunct Assistant Professor-
Hunter College

Matthew R. Evrard

Neural & Behavioral Science
Circuit Breakers: $\alpha 4\beta\delta$ GABA-A
Receptors Drive Adolescent
Refinement of Neural Circuits in
Prefrontal Cortex Placement

Mulin He

Molecular & Cellular Biology
Inhibiting phosphatidylcholine
remodeling in adipose tissue
increases insulin sensitivity.
Postdoctoral Research Fellow,
Harvard University

Craig F. Kelley

Biomedical Engineering
Multiscale computer modeling of
brain excitability: applications to
spreading depression and neuronal
impedance
Postdoctoral Research Scientist in
Biomedical Engineering, Columbia
University

Charles C. Karrasch

Molecular & Cellular Biology
Regulation of retinal development
and function by Cellular
Communication Network Factor 2
(CCN2)
Fellow in Ophthalmology, SUNY
Downstate Health Sciences
University

Timothy Morello

Molecular & Cellular Biology
The architecture of claustrum and
related limbic cortical regions in
Carollia perspicillata revealed by
latexin and calcium-binding proteins
Fellow in Ophthalmology, The Johns
Hopkins Institute

Alexandra H. Seidenstein

Neural & Behavioral Science
Gene expression changes in response
to PTSD: a multi-cohort approach to
discovering the biological correlates
of PTSD and exploration of its
relationship to HIV Pathogenesis
Orthopaedic Surgery Resident, The
Johns Hopkins School of Medicine

Sofia Tortora-Morel

Molecular & Cellular Biology
Oral/gut microbiome and
inflammatory markers in African
American colon cancer patients
Post-doctoral fellow in Immunology,
Memorial Sloane Kettering Cancer
Center

MASTER'S DEGREE IN PHYSIOLOGY

Eftychia Markopoulou

Exploring Sphingolipid Metabolism:
Focus on Serine Palmitoyltransferase
(SPT) and Therapeutic Implications of
Targeting SPTLC3

Carlos Velez

Unraveling the Mystery of Non-
Coding Genomic Content: Evolution,
Regulation, and Functional
Significance

SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH

ADVANCED CERTIFICATE IN PUBLIC HEALTH

Kim R. Getfield

MASTER OF HEALTHCARE ADMINISTRATION

Cynthia Augustin	Isaac Lati	Shivani Patel
Shaquan R. Bailey	Diamond N. Lucas	Erica Ashley Philogene
Shatasia T. Fields-White	Ashlie R. Maharaj	Javon O. Scott
Gladys Figaro	Noureldin Hisham Mohamed Mohsen	Ashlie A. Taylor
Rhonda Joseph	Chandani Prakash Patel	

MASTER OF PUBLIC HEALTH

Raadwa Fikry Ahhmed	Amna Elayan	Madison Tova Lazar
Ashley Angelica Allen	Victoria I. Emasealu	Stephanie Ying Li
Aabha A. Anekar	Tatyana Estanislás	Samuel Milton Liff
Chantel Dominique Ayuso	Lauren A. Etcitty	Sara M. Lyttle
Nadia K. Banks	Lena-Marie Evans	Cierra Frances Machado
Moyouri Bhattacharjee	Oyewunmi Fayomi	Melissa A. Madden
Christina Bhawanidin	Parisa Foroughiasl	Viktoriya I Markova
Sai Akhila Reddy Bhumanapalli	Haleesah T. Gibson	J'selle Nichole McGuire
Olivia S. Blake	Omita Girdhari	Nazira Meman
Gary Asuni Bobb	Nivia Tatiana Gomez-Lopez	Dawn M. Miller-Salsberry
Pierre Boucicault	Hamzah Gouharuddin	Morrissa A. Millet
Ryan W. Brouwer	Kaylee Gutierrez	Kimberly M. Mis
Denaya D. Brown	Shaziah Hassan	Taliah Briana Moore
Nindia Shana Brown	Eamen Ho	Luke C. Morales
Amber D. Cadore	Aliyah Alicia Howard-Rodriguez	Patricia M. Mullings
Rozanne Narissa Caesar	Justin W.D. Ingram	Kirabo Pauline Nyanzi
Roudjessie Charles	Menachem M. Jacobs	Zainab Nathani
Sonya Gilda Rachel Chemouni Bach	Jasmine A. Jarvis	Efekona Nuwere
Ruchira Choudhury	Jihae Jeon	Tatyanna Ogbue
Alex Colasanti	Jacinta I. Jiwike-Konkwo	Elizabeth Oluwatoyin Ogundare
Antonio Commisso	Kurt Frantz Joseph	Jurido Olukunle
Fayola Cothrel	Billie Olivia Kelly	Fahria K. Orine
Lailaa Cunningham	Kyla Briana Kiser	Danylo Orlov
Jacob J. Daniel	Danielle Elizabeth Krinsky	Melissa Oropeza Sosa
Bree Simran Darby	David Laguerre	Joseberne V. Pacaud
Malaika Fatima Ann Dewes	Alecsandria Lawrence	Rosia Pacaud
Adoni Ivana Dowridge	Danielle Lawrence	Ashley N. Padilla
Anjana Dudhraj	Dominique Lawrence	Lucia Christine Passaglia
Chaya D. Eastmond	Gabriella Lawrence	Simran Patel
Donellie Edwards	Lauren Lawrence	Makeda Patrick
Marc El Beaino	Nathalia Lawrence	Natalie Anise Rader

SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH

Raymond Ramraj
Nona Marie Robinson
Gabriella S. Rodriguez
Alexis V. Roth
Nita Saliaga
Angelik J. Santiago
Kayla M. Schacher
Adrita Shafi
Anika Shamim
Anastassiya Shamina Fraser
Anuradha Shetty
Dewi Arlene Sihalofo
Tiara Laska Simon

Tanu Singh
Hannan Sirak
Matthew T. Smith Jr.
Madeleine G. Snider
Olaseni Soetan
Charles J. Solidum
Petal D. Sonny
Paula Spann
Lauren B. Stafford
Rawlica J. Sumner
Zahin Tasmim
Elena M. Tejada
Nancy M. Torres

Jailene M. Urena
Raul E. Urshela Otero
Mabel Valencia-Yang
Chellapriya Vythinathan
Joanna Elaine Walch
Kelita Alison Waterton
Lulu Wei
Arleshia J. Wellington
Keanna Williams
Ayo Zahra
Josselyn Zavala
Mary T. Zavaro
Jordan Zhou

DOCTOR OF PUBLIC HEALTH

Jennifer Akl

Endocrine Disrupting Chemicals:
Proposed Ten Key Characteristics of
Phthalates and Nonylphenol

Ayanna Dominique Diarra Besson

A Pilot Evaluation of a Virtual 21-day
Whole-food Plant-based Dietary
Intervention in New York City
Residents

Stacy Ann Chludzinski

Hard-of-Hearing Adults and Inpatient
Falls

Tsering Choden

Examining risks and protective
factors among US adolescents with
incarcerated household members: A
longitudinal study using the National
Longitudinal Survey of Youth 1997

Shabitri Dasgupta

Examining the Role of Serum Ferritin
Levels and the Risk of Adverse
Cardiac Events Among Post-
Menopausal Women: Insights from
the Womens' Health Initiative Study

Ariba Hashmi

Loneliness and Health-Related
Quality of Life among Women Living
with HIV in the United States

Susan Marie Holman

Mammography Screening Among
Women Living with HIV: The Role of
Health Care Empowerment

Kathleen Ann Lozefski

Case-Control Study on the
Association and Location of
Drowning-Related Deaths among
Children with Autism

Nicole C. Mastrogiovanni

Examining Concussions in Middle &
High School Students and Student-
Athletes:
Evidence for a National Concussion
Surveillance System

Carolyn Elenora Mont

Health Care Workers' Work-/Non-
Work-Life Balance in COVID-19
Patient Care Environments

Paige Neuenschwander

ART Adherence Among People Who
Inject Drugs and Their Partners in
Kazakhstan

Claire N. Nurse

Trends in Exposure to Polyfluoroalkyl
Substances and Association with
Metabolic Syndrome

Bianca D. Rivera

An Exploration of the Digital
Determinants of Stroke Prevention
and Rehabilitation in New York City

Jessica R. Smilowitz

Correlates of Hearing Impairment in
the Health and Retirement Study

Scott Michael Webber

The Effects of Transportation Network
Companies (TNCs) on Cardiovascular
Disease Risk: A Comprehensive
Systematic Review

Janille Margaret Leoni Williams

Disparities in Knowledge and
Awareness of Human Papillomavirus
and Human Papillomavirus-Related
Cancers Among Sexual Minorities in
the United States, 2017-2020

Honorary Degree Recipients

Samuel Waxman, M.D

Honorary Doctor of Science

Samuel Waxman, M.D., is the founder and CEO of the Samuel Waxman Cancer Research Foundation. A 1963 summa cum laude graduate of Downstate's College of Medicine, Dr. Waxman is a nationally and internationally recognized oncologist who has made numerous significant contributions to cancer research. Dr. Waxman has dedicated his career to developing minimally toxic therapies that improve the lives of cancer survivors. His impact extends through his own research and the work of scientists he has funded, both in the United States and around the world.

In his academic role, Dr. Waxman is Professor Emeritus at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai Medical Center. He also serves on the International Scientific Advisory Board of the Shanghai Center for Translational Medicine at Shanghai Jiao Tong University.

Dr. Waxman's pioneering research has led to crucial advancements in understanding how cancer cells differentiate and metastasize. He has explored the role of nutritional factors like vitamins B12, folic acid, and vitamin A in DNA synthesis, contributing to the breakthrough cure for acute promyelocytic leukemia (APL). This once-fatal leukemia now boasts a 95 percent survival rate thanks to these findings.

Continuing his trailblazing work, Dr. Waxman investigates potential treatments for leukemia using arsenic trioxide and retinoids and develops innovative therapies for breast cancer by targeting molecules that drive cancer growth.

Founded by Dr. Waxman in 1976, the Samuel Waxman Cancer Research Foundation (SWCRF) fosters collaboration among global scientists to accelerate cancer cures. Under his guidance, the foundation has invested over \$100 million in cancer research, funding more than 200 scientists worldwide. These investments have led to significant cancer treatment breakthroughs and innovative therapeutic strategies.

The SWCRF champions a unique research model that emphasizes cross-institutional cooperation through its Institute Without Walls, which connects over 60 scientists globally. This network facilitates the exchange of research findings and technologies, speeding up the progress in cancer research.

The foundation not only supports cutting-edge research but also holds special meetings to disseminate research progress among key stakeholders. It has made numerous notable contributions, including developing differentiation therapy for APL and identifying dormant cancer cells critical for understanding metastasis.

Recently, SWCRF has focused on the link between aging and cancer, addressing the increasing global cancer burden due to rising life expectancies. This initiative includes collaborations with prominent research and funding organizations and launching the peer-reviewed journal *Aging AND Cancer* to spotlight underfunded areas of cancer research related to aging.

Through these multifaceted efforts, Dr. Waxman and the SWCRF continue to lead in the quest to understand and effectively treat cancer, emphasizing minimally toxic treatments to enhance the quality of life for cancer survivors worldwide.

Dr. Waxman has authored more than 300 scientific papers. He has contributed to chapters in textbooks on hematology, chemotherapy, and nutrition and written a series of books focusing on differentiation therapy and leukemia. Dr. Waxman helped found the International Conference on the Differentiation Therapy of Cancer, which brings together researchers from around the globe every two years.

Dr. Waxman's achievements have been recognized with numerous honors and awards. Most recently, these include the Friendship National award from the government of China, The Ellis Island Medal of Honor, the Jacobi medallion from the Ichan school of medicine at Mount Sinai, and an honorary doctorate from Hainan medical university.

M. Roy Wilson, M.D., M.S.

Honorary Doctor of Science

M. Roy Wilson, M.D., M.S., is an inspirational role model and distinguished leader whose contributions to academic medicine, public health, and education have been transformative. He is passionately dedicated to social equity and helping economically disadvantaged students find opportunities through education. His vision and leadership have been instrumental in driving innovation and advancing the educational excellence and research capabilities at the institutions he has led.

Dr. Wilson earned a B.S. in biology from Allegheny College in 1976, followed by an M.D. from Harvard Medical School in 1980, and an M.S. in Epidemiology from the University of California, Los Angeles, in 1990. His training includes an internship in Internal Medicine at Harlem Hospital and a residency in Ophthalmology at the Massachusetts Eye & Ear Infirmary, where he also completed a fellowship in Glaucoma. He is an accomplished ophthalmologist with significant contributions to understanding and treating glaucoma, particularly among underserved populations.

Throughout his career, Dr. Wilson has held prestigious academic appointments. He has been the Chancellor of the University of Colorado Denver and Health Sciences Center, where he also served as chair of the Board of Directors of the University of Colorado Hospital, President of the Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center, and President of Wayne State University (WSU) in Detroit, Michigan (2013 – 2023). He currently serves as President Emeritus and Distinguished Professor of Ophthalmology at WSU. Dr. Wilson also held the position of dean of the School of Medicine at Creighton University and dean of the medical school, president, and chair of the board of directors at Charles R. Drew University of Medicine and Science.

Dr. Wilson's leadership at WSU was transformative and addressed crucial challenges such as significant racial achievement gaps and declining research funding. Under his guidance, WSU saw a 21-point improvement in graduation rates in five years, an achievement for which it received the prestigious Degree Completion Award from the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities, and a doubling of its research portfolio.

Before his tenure at Wayne State, Dr. Wilson served as the deputy director for strategic scientific planning and program coordination at the National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities. In this role, he pioneered an integrated approach to minority health and health disparities research across the multiple divisions of the National Institutes of Health.

Dr. Wilson's advocacy for diversity and inclusion is highlighted by his tenure as the Chair of the Board of Trustees of the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC) in 2017-2018. Dr. Wilson is a member of both the National Academy of Medicine and the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. He was a member of the National Academies of Science, Engineering, and Medicine committee that produced the seminal 2023 report on antiracism and equity in STEMM organizations and currently chairs the National Academies committee on the Use of Race and Ethnicity in Biomedical Research.

His contributions to medicine, medical education, science, and equity have earned Dr. Wilson numerous awards, including the National Institutes of Health Director's Award, the AAMC's Herbert W. Nickens Award, and the Michiganian of the Year Award in 2022.

The challenges Dr. Wilson faced growing up as a bi-racial child of a Japanese mother and an African-American U.S. serviceman in Japan are detailed in his memoir, "The Plum Tree Blossoms Even in Winter." His personal journey, marked by resilience and perseverance, continues to inspire and motivate those facing adversity.



Ailanthus Award Recipient and Commencement Speaker

Dara Kass, M.D.

*Emergency Medicine Physician
Healthcare Strategist & Communicator*

Dara Kass, M.D., is a distinguished emergency medicine physician and, most recently, was a Biden Administration appointee as Region II Regional Director in the United States Department of Health & Human Services. Prior to that, she was an Associate Professor of Emergency Medicine at Columbia University Medical Center.

A proud Brooklyn native, Dr. Kass's journey into medicine was influenced by her mother, an emergency medicine nurse. She earned her Bachelor of Science degree in neurobiology and physiology from the University of Maryland, College Park, before completing her Doctor of Medicine degree at SUNY Downstate's College of Medicine.

Following her residency at SUNY Downstate and Kings County Hospital, Dr. Kass became an attending physician at Staten Island University Hospital, where she helped start their emergency medicine residency program. She joined NYU Langone Medical Center in 2012 as the Director of Undergraduate Medical Education, directing medical school programs in the emergency department. In 2018, Dr. Kass moved uptown to Columbia University Medical Center as an Associate Professor of Emergency Medicine and the inaugural Director of Equity and Inclusion in their Emergency Department.

Early in the COVID-19 pandemic, Dr. Kass contracted the virus, which led her to advocate for frontline healthcare workers' access to personal protective equipment and effective disease control measures. She continued to raise awareness of the pandemic's severity and its impact on healthcare workers' well-being, embracing telemedicine to consult with patients during her recovery.

A strategic consultant and healthcare communicator, Dr. Kass is also the founder of FemInEM, a platform dedicated to promoting gender equity in emergency medicine. FemInEM provides professional development, resources, and support for women in the field—growing from a blog created to share resources to a multimedia organization hosting multiple in-person conferences, a job board, a Speaker's Bureau, and asynchronous resources for gender equity education.

A mother of three, Dr. Kass's journey took an unexpected turn when her youngest son, Sammy, was diagnosed with alpha-1 antitrypsin deficiency, causing liver failure and requiring a liver transplant on his second birthday. Dr. Kass served as Sammy's living donor and sparked her advocacy for reforming organ donation policies to increase access to life-saving transplants. Dr. Kass's leadership extends to her involvement in nonprofit organizations that address public health issues like gun violence, organ donation, and access to reproductive health care.

Dr. Kass has received prestigious awards, including the 45under45 Award from the Emergency Medicine Residents' Association and the Advancement of Women in Academic Emergency Medicine Award from the Society for Academic Emergency Medicine.

As Dr. Kass prepares to address the graduating class, her remarkable journey as a physician, advocate, and leader serves as an inspiration to all, embodying the resilience and commitment needed to effect meaningful change in healthcare and beyond.

Messages to the Alumni

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION OF THE COLLEGE OF MEDICINE

718.270.2075 | www.downstate.edu/alumni

To the Class of 2024,

It is a great point of privilege for me to congratulate you, the Class of 2024, on this momentous achievement.

As we continue to emerge from the pandemic, rest assured the College of Medicine spirit of perseverance and progress were evident throughout the 2022-2023 academic year, and we continue to find hope as you graduate today and move into this next season of your careers.

Today is not the end of your relationship with the College of Medicine—it's only the beginning. You may not realize it, but on the day, you accepted your offer of admission from College of Medicine at SUNY Downstate, you joined a lifelong community. In fact, you joined more than a community—you joined a family. And just like your own family, you remain a member of the College of Medicine family for life. You share a common bond with thousands of other College of Medicine alumni out there in the world. Every time you see someone wearing a College of Medicine sweatshirt, or whenever you read about the accomplishments of a fellow alumnus, it is my hope that you'll feel a sense of pride and nostalgia.

As you depart College of Medicine, I challenge you, each in your own way, to allow your academic experiences at College of Medicine to serve as the foundation upon which you build productive careers. Allow your social interactions with faculty, staff, administrators, and your fellow students to guide you as you interact with individuals in the workplace and in society and allow the College's commitment to you to be a model for your commitment back to yourself, your family, your community, and your alma mater.

It is my desire for you to live richly, satisfying personal lives filled with love and laughter, to find ways to make your community a better place for yourselves and your neighbors, to grow, and to continue learning for the rest of your lives. Remember that you are conquerors, and you have the courage and the strength to overcome every obstacle set before you.

Graduates, each of you has successfully completed multiple years of rigorous training and skill development to earn your degree. You have proven your readiness for success. Now you have a different job to do, for the greatest things have not been done. I have been consistently impressed and invigorated with stories shared about the research and work you've conducted over your academic journey. With its rigor and required work ethic, you will be able to face nearly anything in life. Here is to you, the next generation of doctors and the newest members of the College of Medicine SUNY Downstate Alumni Family!

My charge to you is to see the horizon not as a limit, but as an invitation. The torch has been passed to you with the expectation that you will hold it higher and carry it farther than those who walked before you.

Congratulations once again on this amazing milestone, graduating from the College of Medicine is an achievement you can be proud of for the rest of your life.

With all good wishes,

Anne Marie Beddoe, M.D., MPH '78

President

Alumni Association of the College of Medicine

The State University of New York

Downstate Health Sciences University

SCHOOL OF HEALTH PROFESSIONS ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

www.downstate.edu/alumni

Dear SOHP 2024 Graduate,

Congratulations Class of 2024! We are proud to welcome each one of you as a Downstate Health Sciences University, School of Health Professions (SOHP) alumna/ alumnus, where many alumni before you are outstanding examples in the field of healthcare.

The SOHP has a long history of educating students preparing them for a variety of healthcare careers, namely physician assistants, occupational therapists, physical therapists, diagnostic medical sonographers, midwives, and medical informaticists. We are committed to continuing to serve you, our newest alumni, through evidence-based professional development and continuing education, networking activities, and fun events. We need your help to be successful in these endeavors.

Joining the SOHP Alumni Association helps to ensure that our students have an opportunity to interact with homegrown healthcare professionals as mentors. Your

time and talents as alumni can benefit students who are matriculating as well as help attract new students.

We hope that you consider staying active with the SOHP family as a way to give back to the institution that helped put you on track to become an exceptional healthcare professional. There are many ways you can be involved.

Please continue to visit us on the website, Twitter, Instagram, LinkedIn, and Facebook for information on future Alumni activities. You may also contact Assistant Dean Phillip Bones (SOHP Alumni Association Contact Person: phillip.bones@downstate.edu).

No matter where you are, we want to reach out and engage with you.

Sincerely,

Allen Lewis, Ph.D., CRC

Dean and Professor

School of Health Professions

Downstate Health Sciences University

COLLEGE OF NURSING

www.downstate.edu/alumni

Congratulations, New Alumni of the College of Nursing!

On behalf of the College of Nursing, I would like to congratulate and welcome the class of 2024 to our alumni family. For our new alumni, and as well as our existing alumni, please consider our invitation to get involved. There are many opportunities for you to participate in our vibrant college, such as serving on my advisory board, as guest speakers and on student panels, support for current students through a mentoring relationship, or supporting our college through monetary gifts. We seek your continued support, and we need you!

There are currently two ways to make a gift. I established the *Nursing Cares Fund* in 2019 to assist Downstate College of Nursing students in meeting immediate financial expenses due to unforeseen, temporary hardships. Awards not exceeding \$500 are made to eligible nursing students in an effort to maintain academic progression and well-being in the student's program of study. Covered expenses for students experiencing hardship include textbooks, travel costs due to death or illness of an immediate family member, medications, eyeglasses, food, technological support, clothing, shelter, or disaster relief.

The other opportunity for gift-giving is through our *College of Nursing Giving Tree*. The Giving Tree provides scholarships for students who excel academically, clinically, or who demonstrate outstanding leadership.

Your donation to the Growing the Future of Nursing Giving Tree will help us continue to achieve our mission and to enhance the educational experience of our students. The hand-crafted tree is located at the entrance of the College of Nursing and welcomes our students, faculty, staff, and guests. As your donations accrue, the tree will continue to grow. Please consider commemorating a loved one or acknowledging a special achievement.

For more information about how to support the future of the College of Nursing, visit our web site:

<https://www.downstate.edu/education-training/college-of-nursing/giving-tree/index.html>

I would love to hear from you if you are interested in becoming involved as a College of Nursing alumnus. I am pleased to work alongside each of you as we move forward together to provide outstanding nursing education and change the world as Downstate nurses!

Please stay in touch and update your address with Ms. Karen Thomas at Karen.Thomas-Lovell@downstate.edu and, as always, feel free to contact me at lori.escallier@downstate.edu

My very best wishes,

Lori Escallier, Ph.D., RN, CPNP-PC, FAAN

Dean, College of Nursing

Downstate Health Sciences University

SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH

www.downstate.edu/alumni

To the New Alumni of the School of Public Health,

Congratulations on your success! Your degree represents your commitment and hard work, and I hope you take a moment to reflect on your accomplishments. As you venture forward, please don't hesitate to engage with the Downstate community. I would encourage you to keep in contact with your peers and professors, not only to stay abreast of potential opportunities for career enhancement and community engagement, but to help support the next generation of leaders in public health as well. The diversity of the Downstate Community and its unifying dedication to service are what make it unique, and your newfound voice as an alumni and public health professional is an invaluable resource. I look forward to building a stronger Downstate community alongside you while promoting health and wellness for all into the future!

Best wishes in your endeavors!

Jake Littman

SPH alumnus '20

Chair, SPH Alumni Advisory Board

jakelouislittman@gmail.com

SCHOOL OF GRADUATE STUDIES

www.downstate.edu/alumni

Dear New Alumni of the School of Graduate Studies,

Congratulations on reaching this incredible milestone in your career!

First, if we can help with anything, please do not hesitate to reach out to us – we will do everything we can to help you navigate your careers.

Second, we would love to engage you in the future, e.g., as a seminar speaker and/or career role model.

Thank you for your contributions to SGS and don't forget to reach back and lend a hand, or your experience, where you can. Let's stay in touch!

Best wishes in your every endeavor,

David Christini, Ph.D.

Senior Vice President for Research

Faculty and Staff Serving as Marshals

Saren Ahearn, PT, DPT, Dip ACLM,

*Assistant Professor, Physical Therapy,
School of Health Professions*

Juan Marcos Alarcon, Ph.D.,

*Associate Professor, Department of
Pathology*

Riccardo Bianchi, Ph.D.,

*Associate Dean for Foundations of
Medicine, College of Medicine*

Carla Boutin-Foster, MD, MSc,

*Associate Dean for Diversity Education
and Research*

Sydney C. Butts, MD,

*Interim Chair and Associate Professor,
Department of Otolaryngology, College of
Medicine*

**Marlene Camacho-Rivera, Sc.D.,
MS, MPH,**

*Assistant Dean for Student Affairs, School
of Public Health*

Anika Daniels-Osaze, Ed.D., MPH,

*Associate Dean for Education, School of
Public Health*

Daniel Ehlke, Ph.D., MA,

*Associate Professor, Department of Health
Policy and Management, School of Public
Health*

Mohammad Faysel, Ph.D.,

*Chair and Associate Professor, Medical
Informatics, School of Health Professions*

Joel Gernsheimer, MD,

*Professor of Clinical Emergency Medicine,
College of Medicine*

Christina Guillen, MD, FAAP,

*Associate Designated Institutional Official
of Diversity and Inclusion*

Catherine Hagerty, Ph.D., RN,

*Assistant Professor, Director of Academic
Innovation, College of Nursing*

Elka Jacobson-Dickman, MD,

*Associate Dean for Clinical Medicine,
College of Medicine*

Joanne S. Katz, PT, DPT, Ph.D.,

*Chair and Associate Professor, Physical
Therapy, School of Health Professions*

Barbara Kitchener, Ph.D., RN,

*Associate Professor, Director RN to BS
Program, College of Nursing*

Richard Kollmar, Ph.D.,

*Associate Professor, Department of Cell
Biology, College of Medicine*

Jason M. Lazar, MD, MPH,

*Vice Dean for Education, Chair,
Department of Medical Education, College
of Medicine*

Samuel Marquez, Ph.D.,

*Professor & Co-Director of Gross
Anatomy, College of Medicine, Director of
Anatomical Donor Program*

**Jeanne McHugh, Ph.D., RN, APRN,
ACNS-BC, FNYAM,**

*Associate Professor, Director Entry-Level
Programs, College of Nursing*

**Jeanine O'Hagan Murphy, DNP,
FNP-BC,**

*Assistant Professor, Director, FNP
Program, College of Nursing*

Katherine L. Perkins, Ph.D.,

*Associate Professor, Physiology and
Pharmacology, College of Medicine*

Jeffrey S. Putman, Ed.D.,

*Vice President for Academic & Student
Affairs*

Antonia Quinn, DO,

*Associate Dean of Clinical Skills, Unit 1 Co-
director, College of Medicine*

**Joanne Ritter-Teitel, Ph.D., MA, RN,
NEA-BC,**

*Associate Dean, Academic Affairs, Chair
Entry-Level Program, College of Nursing*

**Marie Claire Roberts, Ph.D., MS,
M.P.A., RN,**

*Associate Dean for Research and
Evaluation, Associate Professor, College of
Nursing*

Christopher A. J. Roman, Ph.D.,

*Associate Professor and Vice Chair of Cell
Biology, College of Medicine*

Edison Ruiz, MPH, PA-C,

*Assistant Professor/Clinical Coordinator,
Physician Assistant Program, School of
Health Professions*

Moro Salifu, MD, MBA, MPH, MACP,

*Chair of Medicine, Chief of Nephrology
Division, Director of Interventional
Nephrology*

**Nataliya Shaforost, DNP, FNP-C,
CDCES,**

*Director Advanced Level Program, Doctor
of Nursing Practice Core, College of
Nursing*

Teresa Y. Smith, MD, MEd, FACEP,

*Interim Chair, Department of Emergency
Medicine, College of Medicine*

Iryna Struk, MS, RDMS, RSCS, RVT,

*Clinical Assistant Professor, Diagnostic
Medical Imaging Program, School of
Health Professions*

Andrea Trimmingham, MA, PA-C,

*Chair and Assistant Professor, Physician
Assistant Program, School of Health
Professions*

Tracey E. Wilson, Ph.D.,

*Vice Dean for Faculty Affairs and
Research, Distinguished Service Professor,
School of Public Health*

Robert K.S. Wong, Ph.D.,

*Distinguished Professor and Chair,
Department of Physiology and
Pharmacology, College of Medicine*

SUNY Downstate Health Sciences University

SUNY Downstate Health Sciences University is one of four academic health science centers within the 64-unit State University of New York. SUNY Downstate includes the College of Medicine, School of Graduate Studies, College of Nursing, School of Health Professions, School of Public Health, a major research center, several biotechnology sites, and University Hospital at Downstate.

The year 2023 marks the 164th anniversary of SUNY Downstate's emergence as a leader in American medical education. In 1860, the Collegiate Division of the Long Island College Hospital (as it was then known) first opened its doors to students. The school revolutionized medicine in the United States: for the first time in this country, the teaching of medicine was brought to the hospital bedside and the idea that physicians should be trained exclusively in university classrooms and lecture halls was rejected.

In 1931, the school was rechartered as the Long Island College of Medicine. The "Downstate" era began on April 5, 1950, when a merger contract was signed between the Long Island College of Medicine and the newly constituted State University of New York. Several years later, Downstate's current flagship campus was built in East Flatbush, Brooklyn. In April 1953, ground was broken for the Basic Sciences Building, and President Dwight D. Eisenhower laid the cornerstone in 1954. The complex was expanded in 1966 with the opening of University Hospital at Downstate, the School of Health Professions, and the College of Nursing. The School of Public Health was established in 2009. In 2019, Downstate's name was

officially changed to SUNY Downstate Health Sciences University, to more accurately capture the total breadth of the institution's contributions to higher education, scholarship, workforce development, and healthcare.

Today, SUNY Downstate is the focal point of a health education network that encompasses numerous healthcare sites. It offers students broad professional education opportunities, especially for those committed to combating the spread of disease and eliminating health disparities in urban and underserved communities. It plays an important role, nationally and regionally, in the physician and healthcare-professional supply chain. The College of Medicine ranks fourth among the nation's 157 accredited medical schools in the number of graduates who hold an active license to practice medicine and is the top producer of physicians in New York State and New York City.

Downstate faculty members were the first to produce full-body human images using magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) and the first to successfully perform open-heart surgery in New York State. We were the first to establish a federally funded dialysis clinic in the United States, prove that alcoholism has a genetic link, conduct a federal study of perinatal transmission of HIV disease, and identify the important role that nitric oxide plays in cardiovascular health.

This last discovery led to the award of the 1998 Nobel Prize for Medicine or Physiology to the late Downstate faculty member Dr. Robert F. Furchgott.

Land Acknowledgment

We recognize that the venue in which we are celebrating sits on the traditional homelands of the people of the Lenape. The land is both seized and occupied territory of the Lenape People. We honor the Indigenous caretakers of these lands and waters, the elders who lived here before, the Indigenous today, and the generations

to come. We recognize, support, and advocate for Indigenous individuals and communities. By offering this Land Acknowledgement, we support Indigenous autonomy and will work to hold ourselves more accountable to the needs of Indigenous peoples.

The Academic Procession

The procession is led by the presiding marshal. Other members of the procession include faculty marshals (chosen by the graduates), faculty members, deans, honorary degree recipients, and the president of SUNY Downstate.

The academic gown worn by procession members is said to be symbolic of the “democracy of scholarship,” for it covers any dress of rank or social standing underneath.

Academic gowns originated in the Middle Ages, the period when universities were beginning to take form. At that time, most scholars were also clerics and therefore dressed as clerics, in long gowns. Over time, the gown became the accepted dress code for scholars: in England, in the second half of the 14th century, for example, several colleges forbade “excess in apparel” and decreed the wearing of long gowns.

The assignment of colors to signify different academic disciplines developed much later, and was standardized in the United States in the late 19th century. In 1895, an intercollegiate commission composed of representatives from leading colleges established a code of academic dress that prescribed cut, style, and materials of the gowns, as well as colors to represent different fields of learning. Today, academic dress code is regulated

by a formal Committee on Academic Costumes and Ceremonies created by the American Council on Education in 1952.

The gown is usually black for all degrees, with variations in the sleeves, the front cut, and trim. The bachelor’s degree gown is black with long pointed sleeves. The master’s degree gown is black without trim and has oblong sleeves so the upper part of the arm comes through the slit in the sleeve. Doctoral (Ph.D.) gowns are black with bell-shaped sleeves. Mortarboards (caps) with tassels have their own significance. Master’s and bachelor’s tassels are black, while the Ph.D. tassel may be black or gold; medicine is green.

Hood colors indicate the field of learning: dark blue-philosophy; green-medicine; light blue-education; apricot-nursing; golden yellow-science; white-history; purple-law; dark blue-psychology; salmon-public health; and teal-physical therapy.

Details of academic attire may vary depending on where faculty members completed their degrees. Some foreign degree holders, for example, wear special hats, distinctive to their degree and institution. Whatever the differences, however, the governing tradition is continuity of the academic symbols from the Middle Ages.

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OATH OF PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE

As a member of the graduating classes of the School of Health Professions and the College of Nursing,

I solemnly pledge my commitment to the faithful practice of my profession and the provision of high-quality healthcare services, scientific inquiry, and the collective actions necessary to protect and advance the health of all people, with honesty, integrity, and dedication.

I recognize and value human diversity and will provide individualized services for all who seek my care or assistance and respect the rights, values, beliefs, and cultures of those individuals and communities with whom I work.

I will hold as my primary responsibility the health, safety, welfare, and dignity of all human beings.

I will hold in confidence the information shared in the course of my professional service.

I will rely on evidence to support my decisions and actions, and translate that evidence into policies and programs that improve health for all.

I will accept responsibility for my actions and uphold the standards of my profession.

I will actively seek to expand my knowledge and skills as I engage in lifelong learning.

I will add to the body of research and knowledge and share my discoveries.

I will use my experiences to contribute to an improved community and will seek new information and be open to ideas that can better protect and promote the health of individuals in my care and the health of populations.

I will advance health literacy for all and seek equity and justice for vulnerable populations.

My functions and goals are based upon my commitment to the expansion of medical knowledge and the improvement of public health and healthcare for all those in need of the skills of my profession.

I make these commitments freely and with honor.

THE HIPPOCRATIC OATH

I do solemnly swear by that
which I hold most sacred:

That I will be loyal to the profession of medicine
and just and generous to its members;

That I will lead my life and practice my art
in uprightness and honor;

That whatever house I shall enter, it shall be for the
good of the sick to the utmost of my power;

That I will hold myself aloof from wrong;

That I will exercise my art solely for the cure of my
patients, and will give no drug and perform no
operation for a wrongful purpose;

That whatsoever I shall see or hear of the lives of
men and women that should not be spoken,
I will keep secret;

These I do promise, and, in proportion as I am
faithful to this my oath, may happiness and good
repute be ever mine.



DOWNSTATE
HEALTH SCIENCES UNIVERSITY