

RUTGERS, THE STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW JERSEY



CONVOCATION

MAY 2025



Class of 2025 Convocation

Monday, May Nineteenth
Two thousand and twenty-five



“You can not separate passion from pathology any more than you can separate a person’s spirit from [their] body... Gaze long enough at your patients, and from even the driest husk there will fly upward a shower of sparks that, to [they who gaze], will coalesce into a little flame... Place your hand over the patient’s heart. Let your fingers receive its beat... Now listen with a stethoscope... Listening to the heart is like learning the songs of birds. A song once heard and identified is your own from then on.”

From
Letters to a Young Doctor
By Richard Selzer



Robert Wood Johnson Medical School Physician Oath

A gift from the Class of 2025

*Written by Lily Adler, Marissa Carranza, and John Avendano,
with language contributed by Jairan Sadeghi*

- I promise that as a physician I will serve humanity by caring for the sick, promoting health and wellbeing, mitigating pain and suffering, and providing kind and compassionate care.
- I will strive every day to do no harm to my patients, to my colleagues, or to the environment.
- I acknowledge that the practice of medicine is a privilege that comes with great responsibility; I will not abuse my position or power. I will not overestimate my role, nor will I underestimate my impact.
- I will see my patients as human beings and not as a pathology, engaging them in shared decision-making and respecting their autonomy, values, and beliefs.
- I will impart knowledge with humility, striving to listen more than I speak.
- I will always place patients over profits, advocating to change practices that are contrary to my profession's ethics, and working toward a fair distribution of health resources.
- I will not permit considerations of any social, economic, cultural, or other identities to influence my duty of care, and I commit myself to addressing health inequities whenever I can and wherever they exist.
- I will foster an inclusive environment by cultivating a collaborative, interdisciplinary approach, respecting my colleagues across professions. I will never undermine my colleagues' right to a safe working environment.
- I recognize that to succeed in medicine requires tremendous support, and I commit myself to paying it forward by mentoring the next generation of diverse physicians.
- I will strive to advance the field of medicine to improve health outcomes and to enhance the quality of care provided.
- I will continue learning as long as I am fortunate to practice medicine.
- I make this declaration solemnly and sincerely, knowing that to the extent that I live by these precepts, I shall be a worthy physician.

ORDER OF PROGRAM

Welcome Remarks	Amy P. Murtha, MD <i>Dean</i> Rutgers Robert Wood Johnson Medical School Brian L. Strom, MD, MPH <i>Chancellor</i> Rutgers Health
Excellence in Teaching & Research Awards	Amy P. Murtha, MD
Keynote Speaker	DeForest B. Soaries, Jr., DMin <i>President and CEO</i> Corporate Community Connections, Inc. Retired, Senior Pastor of First Baptist Church of Lincoln Gardens
Student Address	Joshua Yu <i>President, Class of 2025</i>
Introduction of MD Degree	Carol A. Terregino, MD <i>Senior Associate Dean for Education and Academic Affairs</i> Rutgers Robert Wood Johnson Medical School
Faculty Hooders	Patricia N. Whitley-Williams, MD <i>Senior Associate Dean for Inclusion and Diversity</i> Archana Pradhan, MD, MPH <i>Associate Dean for Clinical Education</i> Joyce G. Afran, MD <i>Associate Dean for Primary Care Education</i> Robert Lebeau, EdD <i>Associate Dean for Preclerkship Curriculum</i> Charletta A. Ayers, MD, MPH <i>Assistant Dean for Multicultural Affairs</i> H. Liesel Copeland, PhD <i>Assistant Dean for Admissions and Education</i> Sonia Garcia Laumbach, MD <i>Assistant Dean for Student Affairs</i> Daniel J. Mehan, Jr., PhD <i>Assistant Dean for Student Affairs</i> Shilpa Pai, MD <i>Assistant Dean for Student Affairs</i> Colleen M. Donovan, MD <i>Associate Professor of Emergency Medicine</i>
Physician Oath	Colleen M. Donovan, MD
Closing Remarks	Amy P. Murtha, MD

MEDICAL DEGREE RECIPIENTS

Affan Ali Aamir ^{6†*}	Hayley Donaldson
Lucy Rose Aaron ⁺	Christopher Dzera
Kathryn K. Abbott ⁺	Sanjana Eranki ^{%^∞}
Shareif A. Abdelwahab [%]	William Patrick Fahy ⁺
Audrey Monica Abend ⁺⁺	Charlene Altagracia Fermin ^{2>}
Shoshana Adler	Daniel Francis Fernandes
Maame-Serwah Afriyie ⁺	Cristina Marie Fernandez ^{^>+}
David Agyapong	Elizabeth Maeve Flatley
Taskeen Alam Ahmed	Giulia Christina Frias [*]
Andres F. Alba Vega ²	Melanie Elise Fringuello ⁺
Josephine Olukemi Alegun ⁺	Jasmine Marie Gamboa
Leila Alidoost	David Richard Garyantes ^{~#}
Sivani Alla ^{&+}	Derek Ge
Vineeth Amba ^{&^+}	Bassel Chahid Ghaddar ^{3!*}
Divya Anand ^{∞*}	Amalia Giraldo Llano ⁺
Ava-Dawn Anigbogu ²	Taylor Cassidy Glassman ^{&^}
Nathan Andrew Arnold ⁺	Michelle Gnidash
Joseph Martin-Villanueva Arriola	Lucy Shan Guan
Hassiet Makeda Asberom	Kevin David Guerrero ^{>+}
John Phillippe Avendano ^{&+}	Juline Hanna
Shivani Bahl ^{∞+}	Maureen Haque
Nicholas James Baker	Joseph Daniel Hawes [^]
Valerie Faith Baker ^{∞*}	Thomas Seungi Hong ^{6*}
Vasundhara Balraj ^{~*}	Jason Hua
Kacie Faith Barry	Umin Alfra Jalloh
Benjamin Hedayat Basseri	Alex Jiang ^{**}
Chandler Noel Berke	Connie Jiang
Veena Bhagavathi ^{@>+*}	Srivarsha Kaloth ^{1^=*}
Ciara Ashley Bosh	Katelyn R. G. Kanemitsu
Jonathan Lee Brisbon	Praneet Kaur Kang ^{^+}
Jasmin Capellan	Sophie Kauderer
Rachel Ruscitti Cary	Nadia Lethissia Kenfack Kembou
Qianwei Chen	Elizabeth Hayley Kessel
Sruti Cheruvu ⁼	Najm Sadiq Khan ⁼
Dina Ashley Collins	Labeeqa Khizir [^]
Valerie Jane Collins	Therese Celeste Kichuk ^{3!}
Pablo E. Colon	Susan Jisoo Kim ⁺
Lauren Renae Alise Colquitt	Irene Koc
Emily Elizabeth Costello	Neha Ragini Kuderu ^{1&}
Nicholas Bernard Dadario ^{=!*}	Rahul Ravi Kukreja ^{&!*}
Michael L. Daidone [*]	Isha Kumbam
Nicholas Dante [*]	Lia Y. Kwak
Sarah Beth Decedue [*]	Cooper Lathrop
Darya Daniel Dehkan [*]	Kelly Ling
Jennifer Delgado ²	Pablo A. Llerena
Alioune Diane [*]	Michael John Lotito
Ankitha Harish Dindigal [∞]	Karen Makar

Emilia Anna Maliborski
 Julia E. Marx [#]
 Aislinn McCleery
 Meghan R. McMullin
 Justin Xavier Melendez
 Keana Roya Mirmajlesi
 Kyle Thomas Moore ^{=*}
 Mohsin M. Mothana ^{*}
 Eric Thomas Muller ^{#+}
 Ricardo Andres Muñoz ^{2>}
 Lydia Mabel Musmanno
 Sarah Marie Nagy
 Lauren Maria Nazzaro ⁺
 Sorasicha Nithikasem ^{=!*}
 Edna Normand ^{3!}
 Jessica Faith Occhiogrosso
 Sarah Seiyong Oh ^{6^*}
 Chelsea Ozichi Osuji
 John Beumjun Park ⁶
 Akhil Patel
 Khushi S. Patel ¹
 Kush Himanshu Patel ⁼
 Kush Kalpesh Patel
 Mann Patel ¹⁼
 Nimi Manesh Patel ^{^!*}
 Riya Patel [^]
 Gianni R. Petrozzino
 Joseph Vance Phelan ^{!++}
 Kayla Alohilani Piiwaa
 Alyssa Joy Pilch ^{1&}
 Aravind Rajagopalan ^{*}
 Guersom E. Ralda
 Eileen Ginette Ramirez [>]
 Shivani Ramolia ^{^@}
 Sonya S. Rao
 Sahithi Reddi
 Camille Elise Reeves
 Jennifer Young-Eun Rha ^{^@+}
 Cristina Alyssa Ricco ^{~=*}
 Leena Rijhwani ^{*+}

Shaheer Rizwan
 Robert S. Rosen ^{3%!*}
 Jacinto Saenz
 Natalia Kellam Sahler ^{&!*+}
 Ryan Joseph Salvatore
 Musab Walied Samarrai ⁶
 Bianca Sanabria [@]
 Luis Hortencio Sanchez [>]
 Alan Sang
 Maribel O. Santos
 Uma Diwakar Sarwadnya
 Chandravathi Sayani ^{1^}
 Eliana Myriam Schach ¹
 Jake Ryan Schade ^{**}
 Ajayi Omiseye Scott-Robinson
 Samantha Marie Shave ^{=!*}
 Jordan Aubrie Shinn ^{*}
 Trisha Sindhu ^{1^}
 Anaika Singh
 Hartej Singh ^{%*}
 Jerry Edward So ^{^+}
 Lohit Sodagum ^{&^*}
 Yaein Song
 Sukrut Sonty ^{**}
 Sidharth Srinivasan
 Julie Ahlawat Sumski
 Samantha Stephanie Sun
 Grace Victoria Tellado
 Namita Thomas ^{^+}
 Rajiv Sanjay Trehan ⁼
 Anisha Tyagi ^{~#!*}
 Athmika Vaseeharan ^{^!*}
 Bhargav Vemulapalli ^{~@}
 Madhir Shyam Vyas
 Joyce Xu ^{1=*}
 Sara Youssef
 Joshua Yu ¹⁺
 Anthony Yung ⁼
 Yifan Zhang ³

* Alpha Omega Alpha Honor Medical Society

+ Gold Humanism Honor Society

% MD with Distinction in Medical Innovation and Entrepreneurship

& MD with Distinction in Leadership in Academic Health

^ MD with Distinction in Service to the Community

∞ MD with Distinction in Medical Humanities

~ MD with Distinction in Medical Education

@ MD with Distinction in Global Health

= MD with Distinction in Research

> MD with Distinction in Inclusion & Diversity

MD with Distinction in Climate Health

\$ MD with Distinction in Bioethics

1 Graduate of BA/BS/MD Program

2 Graduate of BA/BS/MD Access Med Program

3 Graduate of MD/PhD Program

4 Graduate of MD/MBA Program

5 Graduate of Primary Accelerated Continuity Care Experience

6 Graduate of PharmD/MD Program

! Rutgers Health and RWJBarnabas Health Rising Stars

RUTGERS ROBERT WOOD JOHNSON MEDICAL SCHOOL
AWARDS

Student Leadership Award

*Presented on the basis of outstanding leadership to the student body
throughout medical school; selected by
a special faculty committee.*

Joshua Yu

Community Service Award

*Presented on the basis of outstanding service to the medical school or the
community-at-large; selected by a special faculty committee.*

Sarah Seiyoun Oh

The Bruce Fisher Award

*Presented in recognition of academic achievement and
compassionate patient care.*

Natalia Kellam Sahler

Leonard Tow Humanism in Medicine Award

Presented by the Arnold P. Gold Foundation

*on the basis of humanism and compassion in the delivery
of medical care; selected by the faculty and the students.*

Eric T. Muller

**The Society for Academic Emergency Medicine
Excellence in Emergency Medicine Award**

Praneet Kaur Kang

New Jersey American College of Emergency Physicians Award

Rachel Ruscitti Cary

The Outstanding Achievement in the MD/PhD Program

Bassel Chahid Ghaddar

**American Academy of Neurology Medical Student
Prize for Excellence: Adult Neurology**

Khushi S. Patel

**American Academy of Neurology Medical Student
Prize for Excellence: Pediatric Neurology**

Uma Diwakar Sarwadnya

ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE AWARDS

**Anesthesiology and
Perioperative Medicine**

Katelyn R. G. Kanemitsu

**Biochemistry and
Molecular Biology**

Jake Ryan Schade

Dermatology

Bianca Sanabria

Emergency Medicine

Michelle Gnidash

**Family Medicine and
Community Health**

Joseph Vance Phelan

Internal Medicine

Connie Jiang

Neurology

Sarah Beth Decedue

Neuroscience and Cell Biology

Alex Jiang

Neurosurgery

Nicholas Bernard Dadario

**Obstetrics, Gynecology and
Reproductive Sciences**

Athmika Vaseeharan

Ophthalmology

Hartej Singh

Orthopaedic Surgery

Alioune Diane

Otolaryngology

Najm Sadiq Kahn

Pathology

Alan Sang

Pediatrics

Jake Ryan Schade

Pharmacology

Praneet Kaur Kang

**Physical Medicine and
Rehabilitation**

Darya Daniel Dehkan

Psychiatry

Kathryn K. Abbott

Radiation Oncology

Kush H. Patel

Radiology

Shaheer Rizwan

Surgery

Sorasicha Nithikasem

NEW JERSEY HEALTHCARE FOUNDATION, INC. AWARDS

Excellence in Teaching Award

Laryssa A. Patti, MD, FACEP

Excellence in Research Award

Lawrence C. Kleinman, MD, MPH, FAAP

Stanley S. Bergen Medal of Excellence Rutgers Robert Wood Johnson Medical School

Natalia Kellam Sahler

ALUMNI AWARD

Awarded to the student who best demonstrates the high ideals of the medical profession, maintains the highest standards of personal integrity, and has made a significant contribution to the medical school class; selected by their fellow classmates.

Shareif A. Abdelwahab

RUTGERS ROBERT WOOD JOHNSON MEDICAL SCHOOL

ADMINISTRATION AND OFFICE OF EDUCATION

Amy P. Murtha, MD
Dean

Philip Mesisca, MBA
Executive Vice Dean for Finance and Administration

Keith P. Lewis, RPh, MD
Vice Dean

Céline Gélinas, PhD
Senior Associate Dean for Research

Shawna V. Hudson, PhD, FSBM
Senior Associate Dean for Population Health Research

Eric G. Jahn, MD
Senior Associate Dean for Community and Global Health

Justin T. Sambol, MD, MBA
Senior Associate Dean for Clinical Affairs

Mark V. Sauer, MD, MS
Senior Associate Dean for Women's Health

Carol A. Terregino, MD
Senior Associate Dean for Education and Academic Affairs

Patricia N. Whitley-Williams, MD
Senior Associate Dean for Equity and Inclusion

Joyce Afran, MD
Associate Dean for Primary Care Education

Michael Kelly, MD
Associate Dean for Graduate Medical Education

Robert Lebeau, EdD
Associate Dean for Preclerkship Curriculum

Karen W. Lin, MD, MS, FAAP
Associate Dean for Global Health

Archana Pradhan, MD, MPH
Associate Dean for Clinical Education

Rhonda M. Smith, PhD
Associate Dean for Faculty and Staff Affairs

Paul F. Weber, MD, RPh, MBA
Associate Dean for Continuing Medical Education

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Assistant Dean for Multicultural Affairs

H. Liesel Copeland, PhD
Assistant Dean for Admissions and Medical Education

Sonia Garcia Laumbach, MD
Assistant Dean for Student Affairs

Daniel J. Mehan, Jr., PhD
Assistant Dean for Student Affairs

Shilpa Pai, MD
Assistant Dean for Student Affairs

Susannah Wise, MD
Assistant Dean for the Learning Environment

John J. Drudy, MBA, CRA
Director of Financial Operations

Georgia Kyrifides, PE, MS
Director of Operations

Maged Mohamed, MBA
Director of Office of Information Technology

Beth Sienkiewicz Salamon, MEd
Director of Communications and Public Affairs

ROBERT WOOD JOHNSON MEDICAL SCHOOL DEPARTMENTS

ANESTHESIOLOGY AND PERIOPERATIVE MEDICINE	OPHTHALMOLOGY
BIOCHEMISTRY AND MOLECULAR BIOLOGY	ORTHOPAEDIC SURGERY
EMERGENCY MEDICINE	PATHOLOGY AND LABORATORY MEDICINE
FAMILY MEDICINE AND COMMUNITY HEALTH	PEDIATRICS
HEAD AND NECK SURGERY & COMMUNICATION SCIENCES	PHARMACOLOGY
MEDICINE	PHYSICAL MEDICINE AND REHABILITATION
NEUROLOGY	PSYCHIATRY
NEUROSCIENCE AND CELL BIOLOGY	RADIATION ONCOLOGY
NEUROSURGERY	RADIOLOGY
OBSTETRICS, GYNECOLOGY AND REPRODUCTIVE SCIENCES	SURGERY

MAJOR INSTITUTES

THE CARDIOVASCULAR INSTITUTE OF NEW JERSEY
CHILD HEALTH INSTITUTE OF NEW JERSEY
THE INSTITUTE FOR NEUROLOGICAL THERAPEUTICS
WOMEN'S HEALTH INSTITUTE

