



CLASS PROFILE - MEDICAL CLASS OF 2016

The class profile is a Rochester tradition and is an effort to help you “connect” with each other, especially during this first week of medical school when everything is so new, exciting and daunting, all at the same time. Each year’s class looks like the best class to ever matriculate at Rochester and your class is no exception.

This year we had over 5100 applications from AMCAS and reviewed 4677 applicants who completed our supplemental application, an increase of about 200 over last year. Of the completed supplemental applications, 2144 were from female and 2533 were from male applicants. About 24% of the applications were from New York state residents and the remainder from out-of-state. The admissions committee, faculty and students interviewed 622 applicants this year for our 104 places in the class. Your class includes 53 women, 51 men and ranges in age from 21 to 34. The average age of your class is 23.6 years and about 35% of your class is 24 years old or older.



You have 4 Andrews, 4 Daniels and 4 Sarahs in your class, followed by 3 Hannahs, 3 Jasons and 3 Katherines, and you have 2 Davids, Elizabeths, Erics, Erins, Laurens, Nicholases, and Tiffanys. The most popular last name is Lee, spelled either “LEE” or “LI,” of which there are 5. Alas, only one “John,” my mother’s personal favorite!

About 33% of you identify as non-Caucasian. All but one of you are citizens or permanent residents of the United States, but 16 of you were born outside the United States. Places of birth include: China, Columbia, England, Nigeria, South Korea, Switzerland, Taiwan, Uzbekistan, and Vietnam.

38 members of your class are New York state residents, although many of you attended colleges outside of New York. 8 hail from California, 7 from Massachusetts, 6 from Connecticut, 5 each from Louisiana and Ohio, 4 from New Jersey and Washington, and 2 each from Florida, North Dakota, New Hampshire, Oregon, Pennsylvania,



Tennessee, Texas, and Utah. 26 different states are represented in your class and other states include: Arizona, Colorado, Georgia, Iowa, Idaho, Maryland, Maine, Minnesota, North Carolina, and the District of Columbia.

About 43 of you majored in Biology or some variation of that major, 10 each in Chemistry or Neuroscience, 7 in Biochemistry, 4 in Psychology, 3 each majored in Anthropology, English, and Microbiology, and 2 each in Economics and History. Other majors included Art, Biophysics, Bioresource Research, Business, Classics, Exercise Science, Finance, Information Science, Human Development, Latin American Studies, Math, Nursing, Philosophy, Physical Therapy, Public Health, and Urban Studies. 44 of you minored in a subject and 11 of you have Masters Degrees, 5 of them in Public Health. 2 of you have Doctorates, 1 in Biology and 1 in Pharmacy.

Among our special matriculation programs, 6 of you entered under our Rochester Early Medical Scholars Program, 10 as Bryn Mawr, Johns Hopkins or Associated



Medical Schools of New York Post-Baccalaureate Programs, 6 are part of our Early Assurance Program, and 8 are MD/PhD matriculants in our Medical Scientist Training Program. And last year, 2 of you deferred admission for one year and now join your class. 10 of you have alumni or faculty affiliations and 20 of you are members of groups that are underrepresented in medicine. For the 6th consecutive year, Rochester is in the top 15% of all US allopathic medical schools in the percentage of underrepresented students in its first-year class.

You attended 56 different colleges and universities as undergraduates. 12 of you attended the University of Rochester as undergraduates, 10 attended Cornell, and 5 each attended Johns Hopkins, Penn and Xavier. 4 each attended Duke and Williams. 3 each attended SUNY-Buffalo and Washington University. 2 each attended BYU, Brown, Canisius, Colgate, Dartmouth, and Washington. Other schools attended included Amherst, Arizona State, Bates, Boston University, BYU-Idaho, Bryn Mawr, Cal State-Sacramento, Carleton, Columbia, Georgia Southern,



Guilford, Ithaca, Jackson State, Kenyon, Loyola, Maryville, Miami of Ohio, Nazareth, Niagara, Occidental, Oregon State, Penn State, Pomona, Providence, Rochester Institute of Technology, St. John Fisher, St. Olaf, Stanford, Swarthmore, TCU, Utah, UCLA, Colorado, Florida, Maryland, New Hampshire, Notre Dame, Vanderbilt, Wellesley, Wesleyan, and Whitman College. Most of you graduated with Latin Honors and many in your class graduated *Phi Beta Kappa*, *Phi Kappa Phi*, *Tau Beta Pi* and/or with departmental or University Honors.

In addition to personal or family travel experiences, and study abroad programs, many of you held volunteer or work positions overseas. Many of you participated in volunteer mission, health and/or research experiences in a number of different countries, from Argentina to Uganda and almost everywhere in between. The most common destinations were Costa Rica, Belize, Nicaragua, Haiti, Honduras, India, Ethiopia, Mexico, Cambodia, Guatemala, Gambia, Somalia, Peru, Ecuador, Panama, Bolivia, Thailand, New Guinea, Russia and the Federated States of Micronesia, which



includes over 600 islands and I am assuming that you didn't get to all of them! Three of you served as Americorps volunteers, several were Teach for America participants, you've worked for World Vision in Cambodia, CARE International, City Year, UNICEF, and 1 of you was a Peace Corps volunteer in South Africa. Countless others volunteered in various outreach or medical mission trips here and abroad. I hope many of you will take advantage of our International Medicine programs over the next 4 years or our Global Health Pathway, and continue to expand your horizons while lending a hand to our brothers and sisters abroad.

You've participated in many of the standard volunteer experiences, both in clinical settings and community outreach, which we've come to expect of our medical students. Hospice, Habitat for Humanity, volunteer ambulance service, soup kitchens, homeless shelters, Planned Parenthood, nursing homes, camps for the disabled and, of course, numerous hospital, shadowing, and ambulatory clinic experiences, some rural and many in



underserved inner cities. Many of you are EMT, CPR or Wilderness Training certified, and you've volunteered in the PICU, NICU, SICU, ICU, CCU and have accumulated some large IOUs, most in the form of student loans.

Interestingly, you've been bartenders, baby sitters, tutors, aides to the physically and mentally challenged, classroom teachers, first responders, technicians of all varieties, lifeguards, campus news editors, crisis hotline counselors, and volunteers in just about every conceivable community agency one can imagine. Of special interest, one of you was a Consultant to the International Organization of Migration, another played "pickleball" with residents of a retirement home (combination of ping-pong, badminton and tennis), a swim teacher for autistic children, and a volunteer for Raptor Trust, which saves injured and orphaned birds.

In your free time you enjoy dancing, cooking, art, yoga, rock climbing, hiking, boating, horseback riding, and one of you is into freeboarding, snowboarding, and wakeboarding, but not all at the same time! Thankfully, no one was into



waterboarding. Most of you are musical, with the majority of those playing the piano, violin, flute, guitar, saxophone, and drums, while many others enjoy singing.

Of course, about 98% of you have done research in some capacity or another, most in the natural sciences but many others in the social sciences and humanities. Equally impressive are the number of you with published peer-reviewed articles and meeting abstracts. Outside of the lab, some of you were college varsity athletes, several in Division I NCAA sports. Your athletic pursuits included soccer, lacrosse, softball, sprint football, basketball, wrestling, swimming and water polo. Finally, most of you are at least bilingual, with some of you fluent in 3 or more languages.

Twenty-five of your parents are physicians, including 3 couples, 2 are dentists, many hold PhDs and are college professors and several are registered nurses. For many of you, your parents are truly an inspiration, if for no other reason than they were always there for you. It is truly remarkable and inspiring to see all that you have achieved in



such a short period of time and, for many of you, against all odds. A number of you are the first in your family to graduate from college and many have held work-study jobs throughout college just so you could attend. And, you've excelled; as students, as volunteers, as young parents, and as humanists, ready to begin careers in academic medicine, teaching and research, or private practice, and hopefully *always* as advocates for your patients.

I think it is best to end here. You've done so much and time only permits me to capture a superficial glimpse of who you *really* are. I hope during the weeks ahead that you will take the time to seek each other out, get to really know each other, support one another, and establish friendships that will last a lifetime. Be nice to the person sitting next to you because there is a fair chance that some of you will form lasting partnerships, professional and personal. If you don't believe me, let me share with you an updated Class Profile from our Class of 2012, which just graduated last May. 22 members of that class just matched as couples for their residency training. 12 members of the class became



engaged or married a fellow class member, and 10% of the class have had or have been raising children during medical school.

You've made it, you are in medical school, so RELAX, LEARN, and ENJOY. To paraphrase a cartoon in the *New Yorker* magazine, you may view the next 4 years as attending medical school, but your parents may view it as raising the debt ceiling! Regardless, our hope is that you will marshal all of your unique talents and interests for the benefit of your patients and for the profession of medicine. Welcome and congratulations!