



## **CLASS PROFILE - MEDICAL CLASS OF 2018**

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 5300 applications from AMCAS and reviewed 4864 applicants who completed our supplemental application. Of the completed supplemental applications, 46% were from female and 54% were from male applicants. About 25% of the applications were from New York residents and the remainder from out-of-state. The admissions committee, faculty and students interviewed 655 applicants this year for our 104 places in the class. Your class includes 55 women, 49 men and ranges in age from 20 to 33. The average age of your class is 24 years and about 44% of your class is 24 years old or older. 65% of your class has been out of college for a year or more before entering medical school.

You have 3 Jennifers and 3 Michaels in your class, and 2 Adams, Allisons, Daniels, Hannahs, Heathers, Howards, Jasons, Jonathans, Laurens, Matthews, Michelles and Samuels in your class.

53% of you identify as non-Caucasian. All of you are citizens or permanent residents of the United States, but 17 of you were born outside the United States. Places of birth



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include: Belarus, Canada, China, Haiti, India, Nepal, Nigeria, Pakistan, Philippines, Puerto Rico, Russia, and South Korea.

42 members of your class are New York residents, although many of you attended colleges outside of New York state. 10 members of your class hail from California, 10 from Pennsylvania, 8 from Massachusetts, 4 from New Jersey, 3 from Maryland and Washington, and 2 each from Connecticut, Georgia, Missouri, Oregon, and Virginia. 23 different states are represented in your class and other states include: Arizona, Colorado, Delaware, Florida, Kentucky, Louisiana, Michigan, North Carolina, New Hampshire, Tennessee, Texas, and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico and Canada.

About 28 of you majored in Biology or some variation of that major, 9 in Neuroscience, 8 in Biochemistry, 7 in Chemistry, 6 in Psychology, 5 in Anthropology, 4 in Molecular Biology, 3 each in Biomedical Engineering, English, Mathematics, and Sociology, and 2 each in Brain and Cognitive Science, Chemical Engineering, Economics, Environmental Studies, Microbiology, and Philosophy. Other majors included Accounting, Finance, Genetics, Geography, History, Immunology, Music, Optics, Religion, Romance Languages, and Women's Studies. About 20% of you double majored, many in a science and non-science discipline, and 13 of you have Masters degrees and one of you your PhD in Neuroscience.

Among our special matriculation programs, 8 of you entered under our Rochester Early Medical Scholars



Baccalaureate-MD program, 5 as Bryn Mawr Post-Baccalaureate students, 5 of you as part of our Early Assurance Program, and 7 of you are MD/PhD matriculants in our NIH-funded Medical Scientist Training Program. And last year, 6 of you deferred admission for one year and now join your class. 11 of you have alumni or faculty affiliations and 19 of you are members of groups that are underrepresented in medicine.

You attended 58 different colleges and universities as undergraduates. 21 of you attended the University of Rochester as undergraduates, 4 attended Pittsburgh, and 3 each attended Amherst, Colgate, Cornell, Dartmouth, Swarthmore, Washington, and Williams. 2 each attended Bowdoin, Brown, Duke, Hamilton, Tufts, Union, and Yale. Others schools included Bentley University, BYU, Boston College, Brandeis, Calvin College, Carleton, College of William and Mary, Colorado College, Columbia, Emory, our own Eastman School of Music, Gallaudet, Harvard, Juniata, Johns Hopkins, McGill University, Missouri University of Science and Technology, Northeastern, Northwestern, Penn State, Princeton, St. John Fischer, SUNY-Buffalo, SUNY-Geneseo, University of Arkansas, Cal-Berkeley, Cal-Santa Cruz, Chicago, Connecticut, Georgia, Massachusetts, Miami, Notre Dame, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Richmond, Texas, Toronto, Utica, Washington University, Wellesley, Wesleyan, and Xavier University. Most of you graduated with Latin Honors, Departmental Honors, or University Honors, and about 30% of you graduated *Phi Beta Kappa*.



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. Eleven of you participated in the Peace Corps, Teach for America, MATCH programs, or the AmeriCorps programs, committing a year or two after college in service to those most in need. Four of you were Fulbright Scholars or Researchers, and over 80% of you are bilingual, including 5 or 6 of you who are proficient in American Sign Language. Additionally, 98% of your class has participated in research projects in college and beyond. Not counting international travel for pleasure, 94% of this class participated in an international study, mission, health or volunteer work-related experience overseas. That has to be a new Rochester record!

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. A sampling includes Hospice, Habitat for Humanity, volunteer ambulance service, literacy volunteers, soup kitchens, homeless shelters, Planned Parenthood, nursing homes, camps for the disabled, therapeutic horseback riding, and, of course, numerous hospital, shadowing, and ambulatory clinic experiences, some rural and many in underserved inner cities or in developing countries. One of you worked with a Sex Outreach Program in the slums of Nairobi, Kenya, and a number of others among you worked under similar conditions in India, Southeast Asia, several countries in Central and South



America, and in American inner cities across the country. 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 baristas, 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 is a flight-instructor, another has been a US Foreign Service Consular Officer, one of you just completed your two-year commitment in the South Korean military as an English translator for the US Army, another a CPA, a certified nursing assistant, a nurse practitioner, sports team coaches and trainers, a nationally-ranked chess player, and spouses and parents.

In your free time you enjoy music, dancing, cooking and eating, intramural sports of all types, jogging (one classmate said "slowly"), creative writing, swimming, yoga, art, travel, photography, snowboarding and wakeboarding but not "waterboarding," reading, bird-watching, visiting museums, martial arts, playing board games, Netflix, hiking, rock climbing, gardening, volunteering, singing, costuming for comic conventions, and one of you even listed sleeping!

You've been active in orchestras and college marching bands, theatre, debate teams, dance groups from ballet to



hip-hop, vocal groups, and 11 of you were college varsity athletes. Your sports included rugby (ouch!), although you were an Academic All-American; football, soccer, track and field, crew, field hockey, and Nordic and alpine skiing. See if, over the next several days, you can guess which one of you was a varsity pole-vaulter (hint: she is not a he).

Thirty-seven of your parents are physicians, 3 are dentists, a number are registered nurses, and some of your parents are college professors and/or researchers. 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.

Finally, you identified your strengths, many of which included empathy, being good listeners, compassionate, patient, focused, and responsible. And, several of you march to a different drummer and listed your strengths as “food connoisseur,” “pondering life,” and your “fatal charm.”

I think it is probably 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



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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.

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.

May I be the first of many to say "Meliora," Rochester's motto, which means "always better." Welcome and congratulations!