



## **CLASS PROFILE - MEDICAL CLASS OF 2019**

The class profile is a Rochester tradition that I hope will help you to “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. Importantly, I want to share with you the outstanding accomplishments of your classmates, your breadth and depth of experiences, and celebrate with you the diversity of your class across every conceivable measure. As you know, we pride ourselves as the “liberal arts” of medical schools captured in our emphasis on small group learning, teaching faculty accessibility, our biopsychosocial approach to medical practice, our supportive and nurturing learning environment, and our belief that medicine is indeed a “social science,” as recently articulated by our current President of the Association of American Medical Colleges.

Each year’s class looks like the best class to ever matriculate at Rochester, and your class is no exception. This year we had 5,741 applications from AMCAS and



reviewed 5,266 applicants who completed our application. Of the completed applications, 46% were from female and 54% were from male applicants. About 24% of the applications were from New York residents and the remainder from out-of-state. The admissions committee, faculty, and students interviewed 657 applicants this year for our 104 places in the class. Your class includes 50 women, 54 men and ranges in age from 21 to 35. The average age of your class is 23.5 years and about 40% of your class is 24 years old or older. 70% of your class has been out of college for a year or more before entering medical school.

You have 3 Jennifers in your class, and 2 of each of the following names: Alexandra, Allison, Andrew, Brendan, Daniel, Joseph, Justin, Matthew, and Michael. We also have an Ariana and Armond, an Edward and Elaine, an Erica and Erin, a Jesse and Jessica, a Katherine and Kathleen, a Mariah and Maya, a Rachel and Raphael, and a Stephanie and a Steven!



44% of you identify as non-Caucasian. All of you are citizens or permanent residents of the United States, but 8 of you were born outside the United States. Places of birth include: Ghana, India, Iran, Korea, Nigeria, Pakistan, and South Africa.

35 members of your class are New York state residents. 15 members of your class hail from Massachusetts, 8 from California, 6 from Pennsylvania, 5 from New Jersey, 4 from Washington state, and 3 each from Florida, Illinois, Maryland, Texas, Utah, and Virginia. Also, 2 each from Connecticut, Louisiana, and Michigan. 22 different states are represented in your class and other states include: Colorado, Indiana, Minnesota, North Carolina, New Hampshire, Ohio, and Oregon.

About 27 of you majored in Biology or some variation of that major, 15 in Neuroscience, 9 in Biochemistry, 6 each in English/Comparative Literature, Molecular Biology or Psychology, 5 in Anthropology, 4 in Chemistry, Economics or Public Health, 3 each in Biomedical Engineering,



Developmental Biology, or Religion, and 2 each in Music, Physics, Political Science or Spanish. Other majors included Business Science, Emergency Services, Evolutionary Biology, French, Geology, Hispanic Studies, History, Kinesiology, Middle Eastern Studies, Philosophy, and Sociology. 40% of you majored in a Social Science or Humanities rather than the Natural Sciences. About 60% of you double-majored, 13 of you double-minored, and 11 of you have Masters degrees.

Among our special matriculation programs, 7 of you entered under our Rochester Early Medical Scholars Baccalaureate-MD program, 7 as Bryn Mawr Post-Baccalaureate students, 10 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, 7 of you deferred admission for one year and now join your class. 10 of you have alumni or faculty affiliations, and 19 of you are members of groups that are underrepresented in medicine.



You attended 59 different colleges and universities as undergraduates. 16 of you attended the University of Rochester as undergraduates, 5 attended Johns Hopkins, 4 each attended Bowdoin, Cornell, Duke, and Swarthmore. 3 each attended BYU, Colgate and Xavier, and 2 each attended Dartmouth, Hamilton, Macalester, Middlebury, Princeton, UC-Berkeley, Delaware, Notre Dame, Westminster College, and Yale. Other schools included: Bard, Beloit, Boston College, Brown, Bryn Mawr, CUNY-Hunter, Chicago, Columbia, Connecticut, Davidson, Florida, Florida International, Harvard, Holy Cross, Indiana, Luther, Michigan, New York University, Ohio State, Pennsylvania, Providence, Rice, Richmond, Sarah Lawrence, Southern Utah, St. John Fisher, St. Lawrence, Stanford, SUNY-Stony Brook, SUNY-Geneseo, UC-Davis, UCLA, Vassar, Virginia, Washington, Wash U-St. Louis, Wheaton, and Williams. Most of you graduated with Latin Honors, Departmental Honors, or University Honors.

In addition to personal or family travel experiences, many of you held volunteer or work positions overseas



and/or participated in study abroad programs. Many of you participated in volunteer mission, health and/or research experiences in a number of different countries. Seven of you participated in AmeriCorps, Teach for America, or the MATCH program, committing a full year or two after college in service to those most in need. Several of you were Fulbright Scholars or Researchers, and about 80% of you are at least bilingual, including several who are proficient in American Sign Language. Additionally, over 85% of your class has participated in research projects in college and beyond. Not counting international travel for pleasure, over 85 members of this class participated in an international study, mission, health, or volunteer work-related experience overseas. You've been to over 50 different countries, from Ecuador to England, Morocco to Mongolia, Guatemala to Ghana, Barbados to Bhutan, Sierra Leone to Senegal, France to Fiji, Taiwan to Tunisia, and New Zealand to Zambia.

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. Three of you have received Health Professions Scholarships, 2 from the Army and 1 from the Navy. One of you worked with small teams in high-needs schools on Chicago's west side, one wrote MCAT questions for Khan Academy while another classmate won the Khan Academy MCAT video-making competition in 2014. Another took driving lessons this summer in New York City (brave soul). One of you started your own company to address global inequity by obtaining fabrics abroad to create clothing for retail sale, and then sharing the profits with those providing the fabrics. Another spent five years as a special education teacher in New York City public schools, several of those years as a Teach for America volunteer. 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!

In your free time you've enjoy music, dancing, cooking and eating, intramural sports of all types, jogging, creative writing, swimming, yoga, art, travel, photography, rhythmic gymnastics, snowboarding, and wakeboarding. You've played in university marching bands, collected sports cards, joined a Hogwarts Club, embraced paragliding, been a firefighter, a figure skater, a coach, and like scrapbooking or brewing your own beer (come see me later).

You've been active in orchestras, bands, theatre, debate teams, dance groups, vocal groups, and at least 11 of you were college varsity athletes. Your sports included soccer, track and field, baseball, fencing, lacrosse, volleyball, swimming, squash, and skeet and trap shooting. See if, over the next several days, you can guess which one of you deferred entrance into medical school to train with the Women's US National Lacrosse Team. She was a 2014 First



Team All-American, an Academic All-American, and the 2014 NCAA leader in points and assists per game.

Thirty-one of your parents are physicians, 4 are dentists, and at least 13 of your parents are physician assistants, nurse practitioners, physical therapists, or registered nurses. Additionally, many of your parents are teachers, spanning the continuum from preschool to college professors. 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, focused, open-minded, and responsible. And, you listed your weaknesses, and we all have them, but several caught my eye. One of you commented that you tend to let “perfect be the enemy of good.” Some of you also listed “being afraid to ask for help.” Let me assure you, in the months ahead you will need to “ask for help,” and you should never feel self-conscious about doing so. Medicine is an arduous journey but not one you need to take alone. Rochester prides itself as an accepting, nurturing, and supportive learning environment, and my hope for all of you is that you will avail yourself of that resource, embodied in your fellow classmates, faculty, Advisory Deans, and staff.

I think it is probably best to end here. 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.

You've made it, you are in medical school, so relax, learn all you can, and enjoy the journey. 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, meaning "always better." Welcome and congratulations!