



CLASS PROFILE - MEDICAL CLASS OF 2020

The class profile is a Rochester tradition and one 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.

Each year’s class looks like the best class to ever matriculate at Rochester, and your class is no exception. This year we had 6,581 applications from AMCAS and reviewed 6,200 applicants who completed our application. Of the completed applications, 48% were from female applicants and 52% were from male applicants. About 23% of the applications were from New York residents and the remainder from out-of-state. The admissions committee, faculty, and students interviewed 628 applicants this year for our 104 places in the class. Your class includes 54 women, 50 men, and ranges in age from 21 to 34. The average age of your class is 23.7 years and about 36% of your class is 24 years old or older. Sixty-five percent of your class has been out of college for a year or more before entering medical school.



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You have 3 Catherines (one spelled with a K) in your class, and 2 of each of the following names: John, Marina, Rebecca, Sarah, Sean, and Thomas.

Fifty-five percent of you identify as non-Caucasian. All but one of you are citizens or permanent residents of the United States, and 20 of you were born outside the United States. Places of birth include: Afghanistan, Bangladesh, China, Egypt, Germany, Guatemala, Haiti, Hong Kong, India, Korea, Nigeria, Pakistan, Singapore, Tajikistan, Turkey, and Vietnam.

Forty-two members of your class are New York state residents. 11 members of your class hail from California, 9 from New Jersey, 6 from Pennsylvania, 4 from Minnesota, and 3 each from Massachusetts, Michigan, and Texas. Also, 2 each from the states of Connecticut, Utah, Virginia, and Washington. Twenty-one different states are represented in your class and 2 of you are from Canada, 1 from Singapore, and 1 from Vietnam.

About 42 of you majored in Biology or some variation of that major, 13 in Chemistry or Biochemistry, 9 in Neuroscience, 6 in Psychology, 5 in an Engineering field, 3 each in Math and Microbiology, and 2 each in each English, History, and Public Health. Twenty-six of you double majored, and other majors included American Sign Language, Anthropology, Classics, Hospital



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Administration, Kinesiology, Latino Studies, Physics, Political Science, and Studio Art. Forty percent of you majored in a Social Science or Humanities rather than the Natural Sciences. About 25% of you double-majored, and 10 of you have Masters degrees.

Among our special matriculation programs, 10 of you entered under our Rochester Early Medical Scholars Baccalaureate-MD program, 3 as Bryn Mawr or Johns Hopkins Post-Baccalaureate students, 9 of you as part of our Early Assurance Program, and 8 of you are MD/PhD matriculants in our NIH-funded Medical Scientist Training Program. Eight of you have alumni or faculty affiliations, and 22 of you are members of groups that are underrepresented in medicine.

You attended 63 different colleges and universities as undergraduates. Thirteen of you attended the University of Rochester as undergraduates, 5 each attended Cornell and Xavier University, 3 each attended Duke, Hamilton, Johns Hopkins, Cal-Berkeley, and Wesleyan. Two each attended Brigham Young University, Canisius, Carleton, Dartmouth, Holy Cross, McGill, Penn State, SUNY-Geneseo, and Tufts. Almost all of you graduated *Cum Laude*, *Magna* or *Summa Cum Laude*, many with Departmental or University Honors, and about of fifth of your class were elected to *Phi Beta Kappa*.



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You've participated in many of the standard volunteer experiences, both in clinical settings and community outreach, which we've come to expect of Rochester medical students. A sampling includes hospice, Habitat for Humanity, volunteer ambulance service, Big Brothers-Big Sisters programs, 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 in Africa, Asia, the Caribbean, and South America. A large number of you also have done research as undergraduates, and presented and/or published the results of your studies. 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! Welcome to the real world.

Of note, one of you competed in the 2010 World Tumbling Championships in France. Two of you spent a considerable period of time working on the Navajo Reservation, one of whom served in a Public Health capacity on reservations in AZ, NV, and UT, and back east in the Penobscot Nation in ME. You've been Fulbright scholars, worked with refugee youth supported by a \$10,000 Peace Grant, 6 of you were Teach for America or AmeriCorps volunteers, and 5 were Peace Corps participants (working in Cameroon, Dominican Republic, Fiji, Ghana, Liberia, and Namibia), giving several years of



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your time before medical school to serve in developing countries and underserved inner cities throughout America. One of our engineering majors designed and installed a solar power unit in Haiti as part of a Projects for Peace initiative, another of you served on a hospital ship bringing medical assistance to Fiji and Vanuatu, one of you spent 2 years as a missionary in the Ukraine, and another made 7 service trips to Guatemala in addition to being an AmeriCorps volunteer. Many of you participated in Global Brigades and similar international outreach activities as college undergraduates, or helped with family farming here or abroad, most notably in Kerala and Tanzania where you taught organic farming.

In your free time you've enjoyed music, dancing, cooking and eating, intramural sports of all types, jogging, creative writing, swimming, yoga, art, travel, photography, rhythmic gymnastics, equestrian competitions, snowboarding, and skiing. You've played in university marching bands, been an athletic mascot at Johns Hopkins (a Blue Jay for those who wish to know), a college cheerleader, varsity athletes in basketball, lacrosse, soccer, and swimming, competed in figure skating as a member of both the US and French National Teams, but not at the same time, and an Uber driver! You've been active in orchestras, bands, theatre, debate teams, competitive dance groups, and vocal groups. One of you spent last summer on active duty in the US Air Force, and another of you has written, staged, and produced 3 murder mysteries. You also are a "class of



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hikers and campers," and several of you have hiked portions of the Appalachian Trail, the Lewis and Clark trail, the Sierra Nevada in CA, and the Camino de Santiago across northern Spain. Upstate NY is a "hiking and camping Mecca," and I hope you will take advantage of that as a way to decompress.

Several of you speak four languages in addition to English, including Urdu, Arabic, Spanish, Bangla, Hindi, Dutch, Tajik, Russian, Turkish, French, German, Hungarian, Fula, and a Kamwe dialect. Others among you enjoy carpentry, camping, and home-brewing. One of you is a Philadelphia Eagles fan (sorry!) and at least 2 of you own and operate photographic businesses.

Fifteen of your parents are physicians, 9 are nurses, 4 are pharmacists, and one is a physical therapist. 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



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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 is both a "perfectionist and a procrastinator," which you correctly noted was "not a great combination." Another one of you listed "hoarding all my resources in Settlers of Catan;" I only know what this means because my granddaughter and I played this board game once and she did the same thing. She also won! And, one of you got your first tattoo this past year; don't worry, I suspect you are not alone. 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, your faculty, the Advisory Deans, and our staff.

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



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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. 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!