



## **CLASS PROFILE - MEDICAL CLASS OF 2021**

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 6000 applications from AMCAS and reviewed 5857 applicants who completed our supplemental application. Of the completed supplemental applications, 2804 were from female and 3053 were from male applicants. About 22% of the applications were from New York State residents and the remainder from out-of-state applicants. The admissions committee, faculty, and students interviewed 604 applicants this year for our 104 places in the class. Your class includes 55 women, 49 men and ranges in age from 20 to 35. The average age of your class is 25 and 63% of your class is 24 years old or older.

You have 3 Michelles, 3 Daniels, and 3 Davids in your class, along with 2 Jennifers, 2 Jessicas, 2 Johns, 2 Julias, 2 Kevins, 2 Michaels, and 2 Stevens.

About 49% of you identify as non-Caucasian and 24 of you are underrepresented in medicine. All of you are citizens or permanent



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residents of the United States, but 18 of you were born outside the United States. Places of birth include: Brazil, Canada, China, Ecuador, England, France, India, Jamaica, Nepal, Nigeria, Peru, the Philippines, Serbia, and Ukraine.

Thirty members of your class are New York state residents, although many of you attended colleges outside of New York state. Twelve hail from California, 8 from Massachusetts, 7 from Washington state, 6 from New Jersey, 5 from Texas, 4 each from Ohio and Pennsylvania, 3 from Colorado, and 2 each from Connecticut, Louisiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Tennessee, Utah, and Wisconsin. Twenty-six different states are represented in your class, and other states of residence include: Florida, Indiana, Maryland, Mississippi, New Hampshire, New Mexico, Rhode Island, South Dakota, Virginia, and Vermont.

About 35% of you majored in Biology or some variation of that major, 13 of you majored in Neuroscience, 8 of you majored in Public or Global Health, 8 in Psychology, 7 in Biochemistry, and 5 in Chemistry. Two each majored in Economics, English, Mathematics, Microbiology, Music, Political Science, and Sociology. Other majors included Anthropology, Business, Computer Science, Emergency Medical Services, Environmental Studies, Foreign Languages, Geology, Government, Mass Communications, Nursing, and Philosophy. Fourteen of you have Masters degrees, several in Public Health, and 1 of you has your PhD in Biomedical Engineering.



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Among our special matriculation programs, 7 of you entered under our Bryn Mawr, Johns Hopkins, or Associated Medical Schools of New York Post-Baccalaureate Programs, 8 are part of our 8-year Rochester Early Medical Scholars Baccalaureate/MD Program, 6 are part of our Early Assurance Program, and 6 of you join 2 current medical students in our MD/PhD NIH-funded Medical Scientist Training Program.

You've attended 64 different colleges and universities as undergraduates. Twelve of you attended the University of Rochester as undergraduates, 5 attended Amherst, and 4 each UC-Berkeley and Cornell University. Three each attended Bowdoin, Brown, and Johns Hopkins University. Two each attended Boston College, Brigham Young, Carleton, Harvard, SUNY-Buffalo, Michigan, Notre Dame, and Whitman College. At least 23 of you participated in a Post-Baccalaureate program prior to matriculation. Most of you graduated with Latin Honors, including a large number who were *Summa* or *Magna Cum Laude*. Additionally, many in your class graduated *Phi Beta Kappa*, *Phi Kappa Phi*, *Tau Beta Pi* and/or with departmental or university Honors. Congratulations to all of you.

In addition to personal or family travel experiences, many of you held volunteer or work positions overseas. Twelve of you served as AmeriCorps volunteers, several were Teach for America participants, and 3 of you were in the Peace Corps, serving in Ethiopia, Senegal, and Zambia. One of you



is a Gilman Scholar, spending a service and education year in Thailand under the sponsorship of the US Department of State, and others have worked with the National Health Corps or other agencies in our inner cities. Countless others have volunteered in various outreach or medical mission trips abroad, either independently, or as part of various groups such as Global Brigades and other college or religious sponsored organizations. I hope many of you will take advantage of our International Medicine programs over the next 4 years and continue to expand your horizons while reaching out to those most in need.

You've done many of the standard volunteer experiences, both in clinical settings and community outreach, which we've come to expect of medical school applicants. Hospice, Habitat for Humanity, volunteer ambulance service, soup kitchens, homeless shelters, Planned Parenthood, nursing homes, camps for the disabled, Big Brother and Big Sister mentors 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.

Interestingly, you've been elementary or high school teachers, phlebotomists, tutors for your university athletes, waiters and waitresses, actors, paid researchers, and little league coaches. You enjoy craft beer brewing, have worked in a French bakery, worked for NGO's, have been a manager for your NCAA Division One basketball team, which by the way is



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a perennial top 10 team, or a home healthcare assistant. One of you was a member of the Mississippi State Marching Band, another an American Conservation Trail Crew member in South Lake Tahoe (a really tough “gig”), a member of the Rural Health Service Corps, a Human Rights Investigator in Eastern Europe, and a LGBTQ Rights Advocate. One of you toured with a professional golfer for a year, was a tutor for his children, and has been to 31 different countries in the last 5 years. Others among you have been farm workers, medical interpreters, a military medic, a practicing nurse, one of you has assisted Agent Orange victims and taught monks English in Southeast Asia, and others were, and continue to be, politically active. One of you worked in a circus camp and was a member of our UR Strong jugglers program, and juggles fire torches, knives, clubs, rings, and balls. Next week all of you will be juggling classes and your first-year medical school curriculum! Finally, 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.

For most of you, your resumes suggest you really care about the underserved residing in our local communities, as well as those nationally and internationally. You are a well-traveled class and I hope you will continue to explore new ideas and places, engage in critical thinking, and expand your boundaries as you begin your medical journeys. Remember Mark Twain’s advice, “Travel is fatal to bigotry, prejudice, and narrow mindedness.”



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Of course, almost all of you have done research in some capacity or another, most in the natural sciences but many others in the social sciences, humanities, and engineering fields. Equally impressive are the number of you with published peer-reviewed articles and meeting abstracts. Many of you are at least bilingual and one of you speaks 5 different languages! I've been impressed in general with the number of pianists, musicians and vocalists in this class. Additionally, many of you enjoy cooking, cycling, painting, photography, traveling, meditation, and dance including at least one belly dancer but also Bhangra, ballet, tap, jazz, salsa, and modern dancing.

Most of you are athletic in the conventional way, while others have been members of your college varsity athletic teams including 4 swimmers, one of whom was Captain of her National Championship team. We have an All-American diver in the class, 2 varsity soccer players, and a softball star and All-America Scholar Athlete who played for two different NCAA-Division One softball teams, and then coached a Division One team while completing her Master's degree.

Eighteen of your parents are physicians, 16 are nurses, 8 are pharmacists, and 3 are physical or occupational therapists. Also, many of your parents are teachers across the spectrum of our educational system.



For many of you, your parents are truly an inspiration, if for no other reason than they were always there supporting you. It is truly remarkable and inspiring to see all that you have achieved in such a short period of time and, for some of you, against all odds. Your presence here today confirms that you have excelled; as students, as volunteers, as young parents, and as humanists, ready to begin careers in private practice, or academic medicine, teaching and research, and hopefully *always* as advocates for your patients.

In your biographical sketches, you listed some of your weaknesses, spanning everything from being shy to being confrontational. Some of you are concerned about stress, motivation, multitasking, hubris, procrastination, or being distracted by tweeting, texting, Facebook, YouTube, and Snapchat. And, we have a “neat freak” in the class. But, most of all, I want to focus on your list of eclectic strengths. Your resilience, empathy, integrity, discipline, patience, work ethic, flexibility, curiosity, inclusivity, compassion, optimism, and humility.

Finally, I’ve read many essays that open or close with a famous quotation, so let me close with this one from Sir William Osler. “The practice of medicine calls equally for the exercise of the heart and the head.” I encourage you to “bloom where you are planted” and make the most of this opportunity, and learn all you can as you owe it to those who someday will place their trust in your healing hands.



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I think it is best to end here. You are truly a diverse medical school class and an interesting group of young people. Time only permits me to capture a superficial glimpse of who you *really* are. So, I hope during the weeks ahead that you will take the time to seek each other out, get to really know each other, and establish friendships that will last a lifetime. If you are not already, please strive to become collaborative learners. And, 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 are in medical school, so RELAX, LEARN, and ENJOY the journey. Ultimately, 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, congratulations, and *Meliora!*