



CLASS PROFILE - MEDICAL CLASS OF 2023

The class profile is a Rochester tradition. It has a 2-fold purpose. Primarily it is an effort to help you “connect” with each other, especially during this first week of medical school when everything is new - exciting but clearly daunting. Secondly, it is a pause where we all can marvel at the accomplishments, potential and talent for the future of medicine sitting in front of us today.

This year we had approximately 5800 applications from AMCAS that were reviewed. Of the completed applications, 2600 were from female applicants, 2800 were from male applicants and 20 were from self-disclosed, non-conforming gender applicants. Our 36-person admissions committee interviewed 674 of these almost 6000 applicants, for 104 places in the class. Your class includes 50 women, 53 men, and 1 nonbinary student. The average age of your class is 23.95 years (.95=342 days) and 50% of your class is 24 years old or older. And while age is irrelevant to your progress and potential, the spread in years is 21 to 34. This is in concordance with national trends.

Forty-three of you identify as non-Caucasian and 21 of you are considered historically underrepresented in medicine. All of you are citizens or permanent residents of the United States, but 17 of you were born outside of the mainland United States including China, Korea, Canada,



Belarus, Ghana, Albania, India, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Serbia, Switzerland and the Ukraine. You speak an unbelievable number of languages: Spanish, French, Italian, Urdu, Hindi, Mandarin, Taiwanese, Cantonese, Serbo Croatian, and Russian to just start off the list

Twenty-nine members of your class are New York state residents, 10 hail from MA, 8 each from CA and NJ, 7 from PA, 4 each from MD and TX, 3 each from CT, IL, MI, VA, WA and 2 each from FL, GA, KY, MO and OH. Twenty-five different states of legal residents are represented in your class, and other states of residence include: HI, KS, LA, MN, NH, UT, and WI.

About 26% of you majored in Biology or some variation of that major, 12 of you majored in Neuroscience, 8 in Public or Global Health, 8 in Psychology, 10 in Biochemistry, 6 in Chemistry, 4 in the Engineering fields. Three each majored in Anthropology, and Microbiology. Two each majored in Economics, English, Psychology, Business, Finance, Statistics, and Journalism, and 1 each majored in Music, Math, Physics, Computer Science, History, Sociology Chinese and Theater Arts. Five of you have Master's degrees including Public Health, Human Nutrition, Global Development, Molecular Genetics and Chemistry. Two of you have doctoral degrees – one in Chemistry and one in Pharmacology.



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Among our special matriculation programs, 7 of you entered under our Bryn Mawr affiliation, 1 from our Johns Hopkins affiliation, and 2 Associated Medical Schools of New York Post-Baccalaureate programs. Eleven are part of our 8-year Rochester Early Medical Scholars Baccalaureate/MD Program, 10 are part of our Early Assurance Program, 2 join from our joint MD-MBA and 6 remarkable young women and men join as future clinician scientists in our 8-year, NIH funded MD/PhD, Medical Scientist Training Program.

You've attended 54 different colleges and universities as undergraduates. In addition to the 19 students from Rochester; 6 each attended Cornell and Princeton; 4 each from Brigham Young University and Xavier of Louisiana, 3 each from Columbia, Johns Hopkins, and UCLA. 2 each from CUNY City College, Duke, Grand Valley State, Harvard, Juniata College, New York Univ, Rochester Institute of Technology, Univ. of Notre Dame, Univ. of Pennsylvania, Univ. of Toronto, Washington U in St. Louis, and Wesleyan Univ. 1 each attended Amherst, Brown, CA Institute Technology, Carleton, Carnegie Mellon, Hunter, Case Western Reserve, Dartmouth, Hamilton, Holy Cross, John Carroll Univ, Manhattan College, McGill Univ, Nazareth College, Northeastern, Oberlin, Santa Clara Univ, Smith, Spelman, Binghamton, Swarthmore, Truman State, Tufts, Chicago, Florida, Maryland-Baltimore, Michigan, Pittsburgh, Washington, Wisconsin, Vanderbilt, Vassar, and last but not least...Villanova. Sadly, no one from UC Berkeley – go bears!



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. The awards that you have collectively won is a true testament to your academic prowess and we are humbled before your accomplishments. But in addition to these acknowledged awards, we know that you have had even more accomplishments that don't come with a certificate.

Your desire to deeply and meaningfully work in communities around you has led you to work in AmeriCorps, Teach for America and as Fulbright awardees. One of you served in the Peace Corps for 2 years working in rural villages in Tanzania improving the ecology of the community. In addition to your rich personal experiences globally, 40% of you worked or learned in an overseas setting. From Haiti to Nepal, Ecuador to Uganda, Peru, Guatemala and Mexico to Beijing, you have been impacted by what life looks like outside the confines of your hometowns and you are better for it. The University of Rochester celebrates this diversity and we hope an equal or greater number of you continue your global reach in this phase of your transformation.

In order to be accepted to this school, it is a must that you worked outside your comfort zones; that you have shown heart and passion far surpassing



others. Many of you have worked with the agencies in our inner cities, tribal reservations, rural settings and international sites, trying to reach those who suffer some of the greatest disparities in health care in our world. **All** of you have volunteered in various outreach programs, alternative summer breaks and health care brigades and other college or religious sponsored organizations, to make an impact on health and wellness of communities. If there is a hospital unit or service, someone in this room has volunteered in it and more importantly, LOVED working within it. The Class of 2023 has reached out to those in need, regardless of the inconvenience, distance or personal hardship encountered.

You have unique interests and accomplishments as well. To name a few, you have designed and implemented drone delivery of medications on Navajo reservations, you have built low income housing from recycled plastics, you have been foster parents, juvenile detention counselors, and immigration center volunteers, and you have worked to revitalize the Mohawk language. You have designed curriculum, robots and programs all to improve the lives of those around you. That creative and innovative spark is the essence of how progress is made. In your future, make time to do the deep work it takes to be creative. The University of Rochester is fertile soil for your ideas to take root, don't lose the opportunity to harness the power of your class's talents and skills to be collaborative innovators.



You have not been just premedical students in your previous lives. Many of you are EMT, CPR or Wilderness Trained certified. In addition, some of you have been certified in finance, education, sexual assault and substance abuse counseling. You have been school teachers, missionaries, peer tutors for athletes, the disabled and disadvantaged. You have also had real jobs and know the value of clocking in and clocking out and living paycheck to paycheck as financial analysts, teachers, waiters, bartenders, fast food employees, nannies and coaches. Each job or experience you have held, has taught you about grit and resilience. For those of you who worked part time, full time and sometimes, don't forget the lessons of these jobs, they are true for your "job in medicine" - be on time, be prepared, be respectful and be respectable.

To relax you have a wide variety of interests, many common, but lots that are uncommon. I envy the time over the next 4 – 8 years you will have to learn about each other. And the person who has a passionate love of skin care rituals, please stop by my office at your first break. Your class has a true love for yoga, golf, hiking, crafting, meditation, bouldering, microbrewing and dance – ballet, bhangra, hip hop and ballroom, to name a few. This is a class of foodies – cooking, baking, canning, fermenting and eating... for the record, you have a friend in Dr. Lambert and myself - Admissions will be glad to absorb any leftovers. We have a FULL orchestra of musical ability and talent within this class. We have music directors of ensembles, acapella members, church choir singers and band



members. You have used your musical skills to not only soothe yourself, but others. In a city that is home to the Eastman School of Music, you have a unique opportunity to continue to play and appreciate the best music in the world. **PLEASE DON'T STOP** loving and playing music, you will be grateful you kept practicing in about 10ish years.

Holy Toledo are you fit and competitors! We have team members from Varsity D1-D3 athletics in sports such as track and field, volleyball, baseball, skiing, soccer, crew, field hockey, fencing and rugby. We have exceptional club athletes representing tennis, lacrosse, hockey, dance, triathlons, table tennis and martial arts. This could be the most athletic class I have admitted; for full disclosure, you are the 2nd class I have admitted. Seriously, **DON'T STOP** taking care of your body in the upcoming years.

I am particularly proud of the sheer number of people concerned about the disenfranchised in their communities, combatting racism, sexism, misogyny, xenophobia, ableism and ageism; populations often ignored. This is a class overflowing with advocates and advocacy – the number of people who have worked as community organizers, in organized politics and on committees to make a change is simply breathtaking. From intimate partner violence, rape, suicide prevention, deportation and the bias against transgender populations, you are there for your communities 24x7. **PLEASE DON'T STOP** caring for those who have no one to care for them.



All of you have shown deep curiosity and a need to answer questions with scientific rigor. Most of you have done so in the natural sciences but also in mathematics, humanities, sociology, and anthropology. You have not only engaged in clinical, lab and bench work, but also qualitative work and all of you have done quality work. Twenty of you have been full time research coordinator and assistants, spending at minimum 1000 hours or greater in improving our understanding of the world around us. The tenacity, attention to detail and intelligence it takes to scratch the itch of curiosity is a life-long lesson in medicine. Equally impressive are the number of you with published peer-reviewed articles and meeting abstracts. I personally resonate with the number of you that spoke of research as a lesson in failure and humility; yet you found satisfaction and growth despite that. You have published in a vast array of disciplines such as mathematics, engineering, emergency medicine, vascular surgery, pediatrics, neurology, burn care, plastics and oncology. This class has an unnatural love of glial cells and gene sequencing. Your scientific inquiry was a significant contributor to our desire to have you in this class. Your admiration and awe of the scientist that trained you, is something that we admire, as research is a key pillar in our institution's mission. **DON'T STOP** being curious. That quality will change the lives of your patients and the world around you.



For many of you, medicine is a family business, 31 of you have parents that are in medicine as techs, medical assistants, nurses, physicians and dentists. But 63 of you have no relatives in medicine. Your parents are mill workers, farmers, department store workers, writers, lawyers, teachers, taxi drivers, product sales specialists, counselors, educators and researchers across the spectrum of our educational system. As you can see, many of you have absolutely no family to model your patient care and advocacy passions on. However, for most of you, your parents are your inspiration, if for no other reason than they were always there supporting you and showing you the power of your potential.

It is 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. Regardless of how you have arrived here, you have excelled and surpassed every milestone set before you. Your presence here today confirms not only excellence, but grit and determination. Class of 2023, you are about to transform yourselves. Over the next 4 years, you will all become physicians. When this is over, you will have everything you came here with and **so much more**. So, in the next 1460 days, get to really know each other, for you are each other's resilience and wellness. Your individual talents and skills and capabilities have gotten you to the seat you are currently sitting in; however, it is time to look around this room and realize that it is your collective success that will change the lives of your future patients and communities forever.



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Welcome to the University of Rochester. Welcome Class of 2023. We stand in awe of your accomplishments, talent and potential... *Meliora!*