

University Wide Commencement Ceremony

The University will celebrate all members of the Class of 2022 during a [University-wide, in-person ceremony](#) on Friday, May 13, at 11 a.m. in Fauver Stadium on the River Campus. The University-wide event is a return to Rochester's traditional, annual weekend of commencement exercises, and President Sarah Mangelsdorf will confer your medical degrees during this ceremony.

School of Medicine and Dentistry Diploma Ceremony

The School of Medicine and Dentistry (SMD) will hold a ceremony specifically for our graduating medical students on Saturday, May 14, at 3 pm in Kodak Hall. Students will receive their diplomas and be personally recognized at the SMD celebration.

We invite you to attend both ceremonies, as they will be unique and special occasions for you, your fellow UR graduates, and family and friends. Please note the following information on guests:

- **University-wide ceremony on May 13:** Each graduate will be provided with a limited number of tickets to the ceremony in Fauver Stadium to share with family and friends. More information will be shared in the coming weeks so that you can plan accordingly.
- **SMD ceremony on May 14:** Tickets are not required for admission to the SMD ceremony at Eastman Kodak Hall. You may invite as many guests as you like.

You can review the full commencement weekend schedule [here](#)

Pandemic health and safety protocols will continue to play a factor in planning for commencement. Like everything that's happened since COVID began, these plans are subject to change. You can also visit the [Commencement 2022 website](#) throughout the spring semester for FAQs, contact details, and other information.

Student Prizes and Awards

Many students have distinguished themselves by exceptional academic performance. A list of the 2022 prestigious awards and recipients are noted below.

The American Academy of Neurology Medical Student Prize for Excellence in Neurology established in 2001. This prize recognizes excellence in clinical neurology among graduating medical students. It is awarded annually to a graduating medical student who exemplifies outstanding scientific achievement and clinical acumen in neurology or neuroscience, and outstanding personal qualities of integrity, compassion, and leadership — **Laura Duclos Owlett**

The American College of Emergency Physicians Award recognizes a graduating medical student with the intention to pursue a career in emergency medicine and who has demonstrated outstanding patient care and involvement in medical organizations and the community — **Stephanie Torrez**

The Rudolph Angell Award, established in honor of Dr. Angell, a graduate of the medical school (1937), by his friends and colleagues, recognizes a graduating medical student who “by

virtue of outstanding performance in internal medicine and high personal standards, exemplifies the ideals of the art and science of the practice of medicine” — **Christian Talcott Griffin**

The Robert L. Caldwell Prize in Surgery established by the Department of Surgery, in honor of Dr. Caldwell, a graduate of the medical school (1961) and residency (1969). This prize is awarded to a fourth year student who performed at the highest level during surgical rotations — **Madelaine Allen Hack**

The Class of 1976 Prize awarded by the alumni of that class to a graduating medical student in recognition of promise to become an outstanding clinical teacher — **Nina Camille Rizk**

The Class of 1996 Community Service Award, established by this class as their class gift, is presented to a medical student entering fourth year who has shown exemplary volunteer efforts to better his or her community — **Shannon Smith Cleary**

The Jules Cohen Award for Advancing Medical Education, inaugurated in 1997 and named for a distinguished graduate of the School and former senior associate dean for medical education, is awarded to the graduating senior medical student who has contributed most meaningfully to the improvement of the medical school curriculum — **Christian Talcott Griffin and Racquel Kristie-Kay Whyte**

The Bryce Collier Prize awarded to a medical student whose performance demonstrates exceptional qualities of responsibility and devotion in the compassionate and understanding care of the sick — **Jessica Kate Vasington Meyer**

Costanza Community Impact Award, is presented to a Distinction candidate whose work exemplifies outstanding community engagement with the greatest potential for sustainable impact on the health of the community – **Veronica Git-Yee Yu**

Creative Initiative in Community Health Award is given to a Distinction candidate whose work generates a new partnership initiated by the candidate that developed into a meaningful, creative and impactful project where the candidate integrated the new partner for sustainability beyond the project and the student’s involvement – **Jessica Kate Vasington Meyer and Shireen Saxena**

The Dean’s Award is presented to a fourth-year medical student in recognition of excellent academic achievement and outstanding accomplishment in research – **Joseph Orville Edward Haynes**

Fiscella Excellence in Community Health Award presented to a Distinction candidate whose work demonstrates significant scholarship in community engagement through academic rigor, robust evaluation, and substantial dissemination— **Amundam Sosso Mancho and Sara Elizabeth Peterson**

The Department of Family Medicine Commencement Award was established in 2013 and is presented to a graduating medical student who has demonstrated a commitment to compassionate, relationship-centered primary care of patients and families with special sensitivity to underserved or marginalized populations — **TyLia Marie Johnson**

The Glasgow-Rubin Achievement Citations are awarded by the American Medical Women’s Association to those women whose academic work is of consistent high quality — **Alexandra**

Olivia DeSousa; Emily Gore; Madelaine Allen Hack; Rachel Seelye Sage Hunt; Nina Camille Rizk

The Robert J. Haggerty Prize in Pediatrics was established by the Department of Pediatrics in 1988 in honor of its former chair, Robert J. Haggerty (1964–1974), a “dedicated clinician, teacher, and investigator who focused on the whole child, the family, and their community as the model for pediatric care” – **Hannah N. Mbonny**

The Robert J. Joynt, M.D., Ph.D. Prize for Excellence in Clinical Neurology established in 1987. This prize is named after Dr. Robert J. Joynt, founding chair of the Department of Neurology and former vice president and vice provost of the School of Medicine and Dentistry, who exemplifies outstanding scientific achievement and clinical acumen in neurology, and outstanding personal qualities of integrity, compassion and leadership. This prize is awarded annually to a graduating medical student who best demonstrates both outstanding academic excellence in clinical neurosciences and professional qualities shown by Dr. Joynt – **Elizabeth Leah Gerber Saionz**

The Robert E. Kates Award is awarded to a graduating student who has demonstrated excellence in both clinical medicine and in research by qualifying for the M.D. and Ph.D. degrees in the combined program or by earning the degree Doctor of Medicine with Distinction in Research – **Laura Duclos Owlett**

R. Knight Steel Award for Excellence in Geriatric Medicine is awarded to honor a medical student who has shown leadership and a strong commitment to the field of Geriatrics and Aging - **Anna Gershteyn**

The Charles D. Kochakian Award in Endocrinology and Nutrition, established in recognition of Charles D. Kochakian, Ph.D., graduate of the medical school in 1936, is awarded to a medical student for research in the field of endocrinology and/or nutrition – **Rachel Seelye Sage Hunt**

The Dean Brenda D. Lee Award, established by the Class of 2005 Student National Medical Association members, is given to a graduating medical student who demonstrated outstanding commitment to community service, mentoring students in the educational pipeline, and improving the health status of diverse patient populations via patient care, research, and/or teaching – **Amundam Sosso Mancho**

The Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology Commencement Award is awarded to a graduating medical student in recognition of outstanding performance in Obstetrics and Gynecology – **Tiffany Luyu Mei**

Department of Psychiatry Commencement Award presented to a fourth-year medical student who has given evidence of unusual promise of creative scholarship in the field of psychiatry by clinical scholarship, by participation in research, or both – **Andrew David Stoner**

The Society of Academic Emergency Medicine Prize awarded for excellence in emergency medicine from the Society of Academic Emergency Medicine, is given to a student who has demonstrated outstanding proficiency and contributions in emergency medicine – **Ella Purington**

The Jack I. Stein Memorial Prize, formerly the Jack I. Stein Memorial Lecture and Visiting Professorship was established in 1973 in memory of Dr. Stein, an esteemed graduate of this School and resident in the Department of Psychiatry, by gifts from his family, friends, and colleagues. This prize is to be awarded annually to a resident or medical student with a proven interest in psychiatry who demonstrates the highest standards of scholarship for the benefit of patients, students, residents, and faculty – **Grace Elizabeth Benitez**

The Doran J. Stephens Prize is awarded by the alumni of the School of Medicine and Dentistry to a graduating student who shows promise of developing the personal and professional qualities that distinguished the late Dr. Stephens, a graduate of the first class of the School, an inspiring teaching, talented investigator, and kindly and able physician – **Omar El Charif**

The Medical Society of the State of New York Community Service Award is awarded by the Medical Society to a graduating medical student who has donated time and effort to outstanding community service while in school — **Rachel Kristina Moyer**

The United States Excellence in Public Health Award designed to recognize medical students who are involved in public health issues in their community as well as to increase awareness of the United States Public Health Service and its mission to protect, promote and advance the health and safety of our nation. — **Arielle Brooke Schecter**

USPHS Military Student Award awarded to graduating students who are military commissioned. – **Rachel Kristina Moyer-Air Force; Peter Joseph Sobraske-Army**

The Kenneth Woodward Memorial Award established in memory of Dr. Kenneth Woodward, a graduate of the School of Medicine and Dentistry. Dr. Woodward was the first African-American to complete the pediatric residency program at the University of Rochester and was a former associate dean for minority affairs at the School of Medicine and Dentistry. Shortly after his death, his family established a memorial fund to recognize students who have outstanding prospects for careers in improving the health status of underserved patients – **Hannah N. Mbonya**

Humanism, Humanities, Education and Research Pathways

The Gold Humanism Honor Society recognizes students, residents and faculty who are exemplars of compassionate patient care and who serve as role models, mentors, and leaders in medicine. – **Shannon Smith Cleary; Omar El Charif; Owen Robert Calvert Dean; Patrick Murray Hebble; Catherine Lyndaker; Amundam Sosso Mancho; Spencer Matson; Jessica Kate Vasington Meyer; Betsy Rojas; Eliot Sachsenmeier; Arielle Brooke Schecter; Veronica Git-Yee Yu**

The Leonard Tow Humanism in Medicine Award awarded by the Arnold P. Gold Foundation, in recognition and honor of students and faculty members who exemplify compassion in the delivery of health care services. The goal of humanism in medicine is to ensure that those involved in direct patient care embody the highest level of sensitivity, cultural competence, dignity, and respect for the patients and families served – **Olga Alvarez-Lopez**

Health Humanities & Bioethics/Deaf Health/Latino Health Pathways: The Division of Medical Humanities and Bioethics offers the following pathways to provide medical students with an enriched experience throughout their four years of medical school: Health Humanities, Bioethics, Deaf Health and Latinx Health.

Health Humanities Pathway: **Grace Elizabeth Benitez; Emily Gore; Filip Koritysskiy; Joloire L. Lauture; Tiffany Luyu Mei; Sara Elizabeth Peterson; Veronica Git-Yee Yu**

Bioethics Pathway: **Abbie McFarlan Chase; Shannon Smith Cleary; Anna Gershteyn; Emily D Rosenthal**

Deaf Health Pathway: **Sarah Hancock; Cindy Hongmei Jiao; Lauren Nicole Kozakiewicz; Savannah Jane Morehouse; Autumn Leslie Saizan; Arielle Brooke Schecter; Racquel Kristie-Kay Whyte**

Latinx Health Pathway: **Olga Alvarez-Lopez; Anusha Amaravathi; Anuk Burli; Camille Ezran; Cesar Andres Hernandez; Catherine Lyndaker; Alejandra Patricia Rodriguez; Stephanie Torrez**

Medical Education Pathway prepares students for academic careers by providing practical experience through both large and small group teaching and participation in professional development activities. **Alexandra Olivia DeSousa; Omar El Charif; Christian Talcott Griffin; Madelaine Allen Hack; Olivia Frances Pappano Lynch; Steven Siyao Meng; Nina Camille Rizk; Alejandra Patricia Rodriguez; Elizabeth Leah Gerber Saionz; Colleen Louise Schneider; Racquel Kristie-Kay Whyte**

Academic Research Track (ART) is a program that provides selected students, who are strongly motivated to pursue an academic career in medicine that encompasses research with a broad and deep exposure to basic, clinical, educational or translational research, involving both didactic and mentored research experiences through an enriched medical school curriculum. **Alejandra Patricia Rodriguez; Elizabeth Leah Gerber Saionz; Shireen Saxena; Racquel Kristie-Kay Whyte**

Global Health Pathway is an elective program available to selected medical students who have an interest or demonstrated commitment to careers that include global and public health. Knowledge will be gained through a didactic lecture series, direct experiences and independent projects. **Alexandra Maria Buda; Owen Robert Calvert Dean; Lauren Gochenaur; Madelaine Allen Hack; Amundam Sosso Mancho; Steven Siyao Meng; Sara Elizabeth Peterson; Betsy Rojas; Shireen Saxena; Andrew David Stoner**

Resident Awards

The Class of 1990 Resident Teaching Award is presented each year to a resident physician in appreciation of outstanding teaching – **Andrew Huang, MD**

Faculty Awards

Keith Miner Ford Award for Excellence in Teaching is awarded each year to a member of the faculty selected by the graduating class – **Sergiy Nadtochiy, PhD**

The Leonard Tow Humanism in Medicine Award awarded in recognition and honor of students and faculty members who exemplify compassion in the delivery of health care services. The goal of humanism in medicine is to ensure that those involved in direct patient care embody the highest level of sensitivity, cultural competence, dignity, and respect for the patients and families serve – **Amy E. Blatt, MD**