



CMS NEWS

The Chicago Medical School Newsletter

SUMMER 2020
ISSUE 17

COMMENCEMENT

The Class of 2020 celebrated their graduation with a virtual event.

PAGE 12

A MESSAGE ON DIVERSITY FROM DR. OLIVIER

Dr. Olivier, Assistant Dean for Diversity and Learning Environment, describes new diversity and inclusion efforts at CMS.

PAGE 18

CARING FOR THOSE WHO CARE FOR OTHERS

A panel of hospital leaders, program directors, residents, and psychiatrists discussed the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on healthcare workers.

PAGE 20



GetMePPE Chicago Update

In the spring issue, RFU students detailed their involvement in COVID-19 response efforts — from gathering and distributing personal protective equipment (PPE) to providing packaged meals to families in need. In this article, student organizers of GetMePPE Chicago provide an update on the group's latest activities during the pandemic.

In March, the Chicago Medical School Class of 2021 was pulled from rotations while the medical community fought the greatest pandemic of the modern age. From March to June, the students watched as their attendings and

continued on page 3

IN THIS ISSUE:

- Cover GetMePPE Chicago Update
- 2 Dean's Message
- 6 CMS Students Help Fight the Spread of COVID-19 in Lake County
- 7 CMS Students Provide Aid to Underserved Communities
- 8 Student Dean Corner
- 9 Dr. Chatterjee Receives "Phronesis" Award from AAMC
- 10 Faculty Awards Ceremony
- 11 Staff Recognition & Awards
- 12 Commencement
- 14 Annual Awards Ceremony
- 15 Gold Humanism Honor Society Induction Ceremony
- 16 AQA Induction Ceremony
- 18 A Message on Diversity from Dr. Olivier
- 19 Updates from the Office of Excellence in Diversity and Inclusion
- 20 Caring for Those Who Care for Others
- 22 Residents and Fellows Graduation & Awards
- 24 Welcoming Our New Residents and Fellows
- 26 Alumni News
- 27 Staff Corner: Kristen Patterson
- 28 School & Department News

Contact Information:

Office of the Dean
Chicago Medical School
Rosalind Franklin University
3333 Green Bay Road
North Chicago, IL 60064
www.rosalindfranklin.edu/cms



Dean's Message

Greetings from the Dean's Office!

As summer comes to a close, despite the inexorable march of the COVID-19 global crisis, we are delighted to welcome the CMS Class of 2024 as well as all our returning students to the 2020-21 academic year! It is a time of new beginnings, which is always exciting, despite the difficulties

of this year. While learning looks different right now and in-person ceremonies, activities and events are temporarily suspended, there will be a time (hopefully) in the not-too-distant future when this will be behind us. Our entire CMS community continues to work together supporting and encouraging one another every day. These are unprecedented times and we recognize that everyone is dealing with personal and professional challenges on many levels while navigating uncharted waters. My hope, like yours, is for the pandemic to abate soon so that we can all return to some semblance of normality!

In spite of the current environment, we have celebrated many exciting milestones over the past several months. As you read through this edition of the CMS Newsletter, you will see that we've had many events, albeit, observed in unique ways. From celebrating extraordinary students at honor society inductions and commencement to staff and faculty award ceremonies, we have a host of inspiring examples that demonstrate not only the exceptional work taking place at CMS, but also our resilience and creativity!

I am also excited to share with you that we have completed the long awaited accreditation site visits by the Liaison Committee on Medical Education (LCME). In the interest of safety, the visits were shifted from in-person campus visits to virtual ones. The first set of meetings took place in late July with the second one, which included students and residents, in mid-August. Over 125 members of our faculty, staff, and students participated in months of preparation, devoting countless hours of their time. My heartfelt thanks to each and every one who contributed to this important process. While the results will not be available from the LCME until later this fall, we feel confident that we were well prepared and presented a clear and compelling picture of the great work we are doing here at CMS.

As I close this letter on a late summer day, let me once again welcome the Class of 2024 and wish your family, friends, and you good health, and a safe and productive academic year.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "A. Chatterjee". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Archana Chatterjee, MD, PhD
Dean, Chicago Medical School
Vice President for Medical Affairs, Rosalind Franklin University

GetMePPE Chicago Update

continued from cover

residents in Chicago continued to risk their lives to care for patients without proper personal protective equipment (PPE). Seeing this immediate need, six CMS students sprang into action and founded **GetMePPE Chicago**, along with medical students from the other major Chicagoland medical schools including Northwestern, Midwestern, Loyola, UIC, and Rush. Through their hard work and dedication, they were able to provide over 50,000 N95 respirators, 300,000 face shields, and numerous other types of PPE and sanitation equipment.

Almost 100 medical students have since volunteered within the organization to find, purchase, and deliver PPE to high-risk healthcare facilities in Chicago. “I am thankful to have been able to work alongside such a passionate group of students and assist in coordinating our volunteer efforts. The volunteer response was extraordinary, with health professional students from across Chicago, and even medical students from other states, stepping up to participate,” said founding member **Stephanie Kaszuba**, CMS ’21.

RFU students alone contacted over 4,000 local businesses regarding PPE donations, led by founding member **Lindsay Edwards**, CMS ’21. At times when there were no supplies to be found, **Alex Clos**, CMS ’21, creatively tackled the shortages. In describing his nickname within the group, “DIY guy,” Alex stated, “The maker mentality really resonated with me because — like medicine — it employs both technical skill and creativity to innovate solutions to problems. I’ve definitely learned more about sewing and 3D printing than I ever anticipated from medical school, but I love the opportunity to contribute to new PPE designs through the continued work with IL PPE Network.”

By networking and collaborating with other volunteer organizations and private companies, the

group quickly became an important epicenter for creating and distributing PPE across Chicago and the Midwest. **Allison Martin**, CMS ’21, founding member, recounted her work facilitating the distribution of Boston Scientific face masks across Illinois and nine other Midwest states as an immensely satisfying experience, stating, “Being able to work with such a great corporate partner, and to be able to say yes to so many people — getting them a crucial PPE item that at the time could not be purchased anywhere — was amazing.”

In April, after supply chains were able to catch up with the demand for PPE in hospitals, GetMePPE Chicago transitioned to supplying items to nursing



“DIY Guy” Alex Clos performs a qualitative fit testing of an N95 under a home-made hood.

Cover image: Lindsay Edwards, Stephanie Kaszuba, and Ashley Cohen are pictured distributing KN95's to hospitals.

homes in at-risk communities. **Sara Khan**, CMS '21, began working through the Illinois Department of Public Health website to seek out and contact the facilities that were being hit the hardest so that they knew they were not alone in this fight.

"I am very proud of how much my nursing home team accomplished in such a short period of time. **Jordan Newman** (CMS '21) and **Elianna Fred** (CMS '22) helped me with data management for all the nursing homes in Cook County. Our team was able to contact and deliver to over 100 nursing homes in less than thirty days!" recounted Sara.

Her successor **Aliza Siddiqui**, CMS '24, originally became involved through the organization as an undergraduate working with one of GetMePPE's partners Medical Supply Drive. "When we saw the initial panic due to the lack of PPE available for health care professionals due to the influx of patients who contracted COVID-19, we wanted to do everything possible to fill these gaps," she stated. Earlier this spring, she received the exciting news that she was accepted to CMS; she recently entered her first year of medical school as the lead for needs assessment within the group.

With the organization growing in size and scope, the importance of data management was not lost on **Zhaoyang "Vill" Wen**, CMS '23. She was one of several data volunteers who initially helped set up automatic emails and organized donation data in March. She will stay in GetMePPE as the data lead. "My goal is to protect healthcare workers by making sure GetMePPE runs smoothly from the data standpoint to my uttermost ability," she said. "I have a team of highly motivated and capable data volunteers who have been providing, and will continue to provide, data analysis for the team." Ongoing projects include plans to be able to project and map donations as well as gauge volunteering satisfaction.



An appreciative volunteer from the Renaissance collaborative, a social service organization in South Chicago, receives a donation of PPE and hand sanitizer.

As the founding members returned to their clinical duties, the organization faced a major transition in not only leadership, but focus as well. **Alyssa Kessel**, CMS '21, joined the team to lead the Community Outreach committee focused on preventing infection spread through the community. She stated, "We weren't satisfied with just stockpiling PPE and waiting for a second wave to hit the hospitals, when there were large groups of people around us struggling to obtain the basic tools they needed to protect themselves from contracting the virus."

Instead, the committee took a proactive approach, refocusing the PPE distribution to get protective gear into the hands of communities that were at the highest risk for contracting the virus and who may not otherwise have access to the means to protect themselves. The small committee of three, including Sujit Johnston, COP '23, called every domestic violence shelter, safe house, and homeless shelter within Lake and Cook County to offer protective gear to support both their staff and clients.

"With every delivery and every 'thank you' I am reminded that we are positively impacting the local

organizations,” said **Nahae Kim**, CMS '23. “That’s the most satisfying part — knowing that I’m connecting with and giving back to the community that’s currently supporting me.”

With this new demographic requiring different PPE needs, **Adrienne Degonia**, CMS '23, took on the role of Volunteer and PPE Solicitation Coordinator. She oversees the PPE solicitation efforts and organizes volunteers to accomplish specific tasks, ranging from PPE fabrication to working on the fundraising and PR teams. When discussing why she chose to dedicate her summer to the group, Adrienne stated, “I wanted to do anything I could to protect the safety of those on the frontlines of the COVID-19 crisis, from healthcare providers to community workers. I may not be able to serve these communities as a physician yet, but I can do my part to get them the protective equipment they need!”

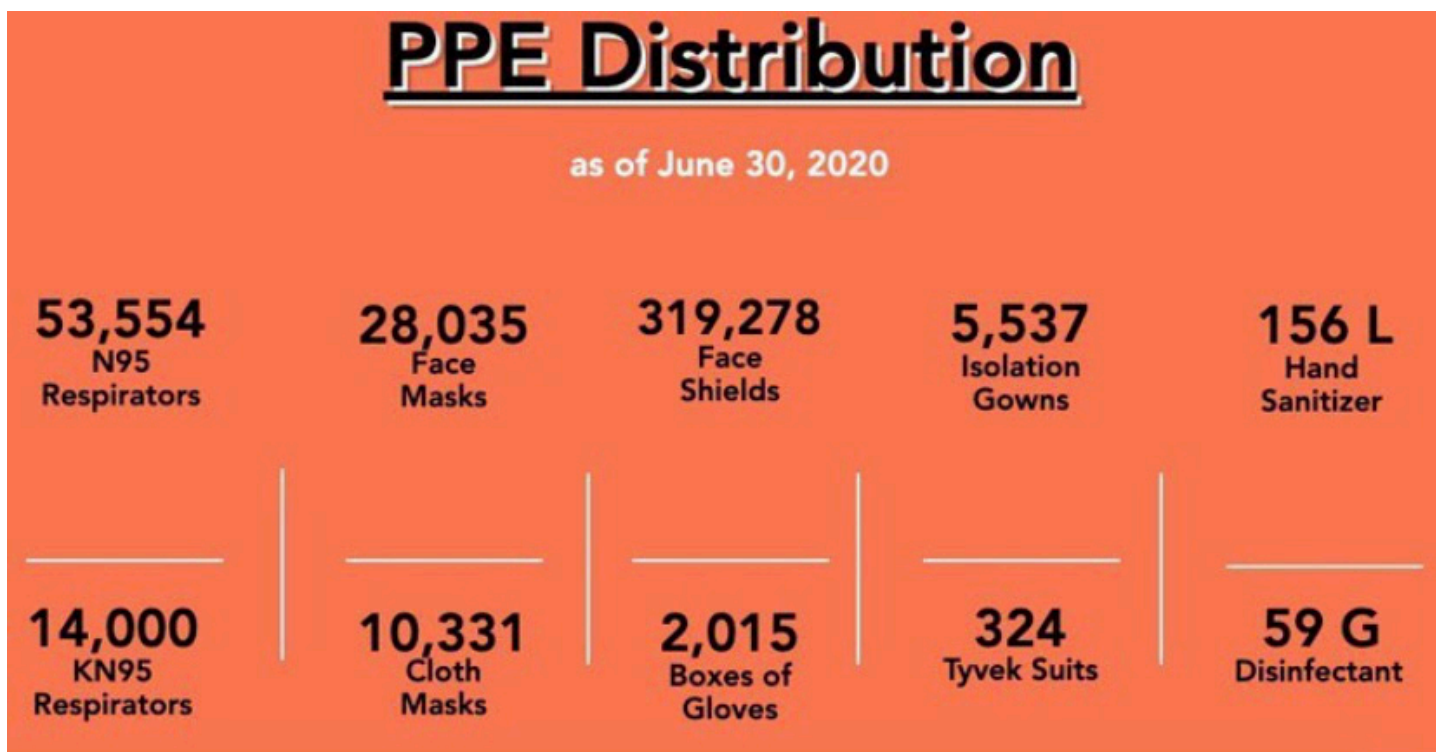
As more organizations voiced non-PPE needs, **Sean Hormozian**, CMS '23, joined the group to develop fundraising initiatives and develop collaborative partnerships with other RFU student groups to provide these products. “As society begins to open

up, I believe that we can foster this transition and make it easier for individuals in our communities,” he said while discussing plans to set up a fundraising campaign to allow the RFU and alumni community to share in the group’s efforts.

As needs change, GetMePPE continues to adapt to help organizations fight and prevent the spread of COVID-19. However, their objective has not changed, as summarized by one of the group’s founders, **Ashley Cohen**, CMS '23: “Our goal and hope is that we will no longer need to exist. We will be here for as long as there are needs, but we hope that supply chains will be reestablished and that the government will step in to enact meaningful change in a clearly broken PPE distribution process.”

Additional information is available by contacting RFUcovidResponse@gmail.com or getmePPEchi@rfums.org. ■

Article provided by CMS Class of 2021 student leaders. All images credited to GetMePPE Chicago.



CMS Students Help Fight the Spread of COVID-19 in Lake County

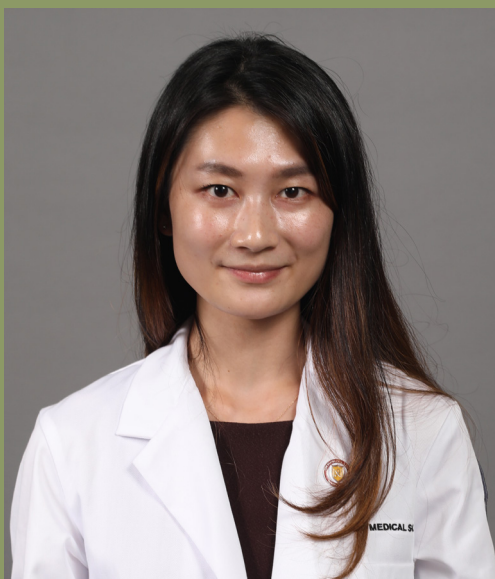
A group of Chicago Medical School students have spent their summer working with the Lake County Health Department to help stop the spread of COVID-19 in the community. **Ali Farooqui, Kaiesha Lewis, Sophia Yang, Judith Soto-Lopez, Chase Skarda, Justin Dreyfuss, Corbin Pagano, Robert Schoneich, Ashwinn John, and Omar Sadek**, all CMS '23, have been conducting case investigations

and contact tracing for Lake County residents who tested positive for the virus. This important work has been an excellent learning experience for the students and has given them an opportunity to give back to their community in a time of crisis. Ali Farooqui and Sophia Yang share their thoughts below.



"This experience has given me an opportunity to directly work with my community during such an unprecedented time. Case investigation and contact tracing are akin to obtaining a patient's history of present illness. Tactful responses and basic epidemiology continue to serve us well as we progress through new cases coming in every day. Undoubtedly, this pandemic has exacerbated existing health disparities present amongst BIPOC populations. Through case investigation and contact tracing, we can mitigate this pandemic and the damaging effects it has had on marginalized communities."

— **Ali Farooqui**, CMS Class of 2023



"Over the past few weeks working as a case investigator and contact tracer, I have learned a lot about how the virus has impacted peoples' lives and the emotional, economic, and social challenges people face as they start isolating or quarantining at home. Part of my job as a case investigator is to help people feel supported and heard and provide any resources and information to help make their isolation/quarantine period a little easier. Most people I talk to are grateful for the support and guidance during this difficult and confusing time. Overall, this internship has been a positive learning experience. I feel good about making an impact and helping to slow down the spread of the virus in our local county."

— **Sophia Yang**, CMS Class of 2023 ■

CMS Students Provide Aid to Underserved Communities During Pandemic



In June, **Kaiesha Lewis** and **Telisa Woulard**, both CMS '23, volunteered with the Creating Pathways and Access for Student Success (CPASS) Foundation to help underserved communities impacted by COVID-19. The students, along with other volunteers from the CPASS Foundation, assembled and distributed COVID-19 care kits to vulnerable populations. ■

Photographs provided by the CPASS Foundation.





Student Dean Corner

Each quarter, student dean Courtney Harris will give updates on the projects she will be working on throughout the year.

To my classmates and colleagues,

The past few months have certainly proven to be an unusually challenging time for medical education, both broadly and at our very own institution. Amidst the global pandemic and fight for racial justice, students at Chicago Medical School have led protests, supplied the greater Chicago area with personal protective equipment, and found themselves eagerly returning to the clinical environment. I have found myself both humbled and inspired by my peers, and look forward to seeing the continuing work and progress that stems from these uncertain times.

Facing my first few months as Student Dean was more challenging than anticipated, but I am grateful to our immediate past Student Dean Matthew Christensen for his guidance and support along the way. As a brief personal introduction, I was born in central Illinois and grew up around the state before my family relocated to St. Louis, Missouri just in time for me to start middle school. I completed my undergraduate studies at the University of Missouri in the spring of 2018 before joining the Class of 2022 in the fall of 2018. I've been deeply involved in advocacy efforts while pursuing my education, and prioritize addressing health disparities both in the clinical setting and legislative space.

One of my largest undertakings as Student Dean thus far has been facilitating the development of the Allyship Toolkit (<https://bit.ly/AllyshipToolkit>), a compilation of resources specifically aimed at healthcare professional students to combat racism in medicine. This is by no means an inflexible tool, and instead is designed to grow and change as students identify meaningful additions to the list, which can be suggested using the Google form linked at the bottom of the toolkit.


In the coming months, I am looking forward to the next virtual LCME visit, where students will have the opportunity to share their experiences with members of the review team, in addition to a variety of other student-led initiatives. If you have ideas I could assist with, please reach out to student.deancms@rfums.org.

All the best,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Courtney Harris".

Courtney Harris
CMS Student Dean
CMS Class of 2022

CMS Dean Archana Chatterjee Receives “Phronesis” Award from the AAMC

A portrait of Archana Chatterjee, MD, PhD, Dean of CMS and Vice President for Medical Affairs for RFU. She is a woman with grey curly hair, wearing a dark grey blazer over a white blouse with a large bow and a pearl necklace. She is smiling and standing in front of a blurred background of a modern building with large windows.

Archana Chatterjee, MD, PhD, Dean of CMS and Vice President for Medical Affairs for RFU, received the 2020 Carole J. Bland Phronesis award from the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC) Group on Faculty Affairs. The award honors members of the faculty affairs community who exemplify the spirit of phronesis — an ancient Greek word for practical wisdom — through dedicated and selfless promotion of faculty vitality.

Individuals who demonstrate phronesis are innovators, mentors, leaders, and skilled educators and academicians who advance faculty vitality in academic medicine and science. Nominated by her peers, Dr. Chatterjee was also highlighted as a “model of accountability and sincerity,” who has made outstanding contributions to the AAMC’s Group on Faculty Affairs, Group on Women in Medicine and Science, and Group on Diversity and Inclusion.

Congratulations to Dr. Chatterjee for receiving this honor! ■

Faculty Awards Ceremony

The university's annual Faculty Awards Ceremony was held virtually on June 22 to recognize outstanding research, teaching, service, and mentoring at RFU. Congratulations to the Chicago Medical School faculty members who were honored during the ceremony!



Beth Stutzmann, PhD, director of the Center for Neurodegenerative Disease and Therapeutics, associate professor of neuroscience, received the Morris L. Parker Research Award, presented to a senior faculty member who has demonstrated national and international meritorious research in medicine or health sciences.

"Beth is an accomplished, well-respected senior scientist and a wonderful role model for our graduate students," said nominator Dr. Judy Potashkin. "Her accomplishments, enthusiasm for research, and collaborative spirit make her a fantastic colleague."

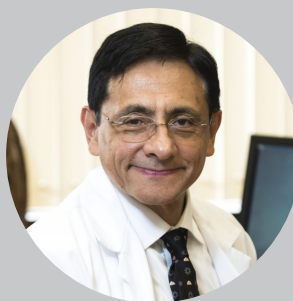


Paul Hung, MD, psychiatry residency program director and assistant professor of psychiatry and behavioral sciences, who is an alumnus of both CMS and its psychiatry residency program, received the

Lawrence Medoff Award, presented to a faculty member for outstanding performance in clinical sciences in the area of research, teaching, or clinical care.

"His contributions are primarily in clinical care and teaching, and you may have heard him speak on campus, but it's his dedication to the patients at

Lovell and his rapport with the residents that are most obvious," said nominator Dr. Ann Snyder. "He's a valued colleague, and we can be very proud of him as an alumnus."



Hector Rasgado-Flores, PhD, professor of physiology and biophysics, received the RFU Excellence in Service Award, presented to a faculty member who has made outstanding service contributions to the university. Dr. Rasgado,

who has worked at CMS since 1987, has developed numerous programs at RFU, including the INSPIRE program, the Individualized Strategic Enhancement Program (ISEP), and the Underrepresented in Medicine (UiM) Peer Tutoring Program.

"Dr. Rasgado's contributions to this university are immense, and his impact is enormous. Whether he is reaching out to students at local high schools, or our UiM students in pipeline programs, or teaching medical students at Chicago Medical School, his enthusiasm and dedication are infectious," said nominator Dr. Nutan Vaidya. "Over the years that I have known Dr. Rasgado, I have admired his service to this university. His example has made me want to emulate him."



Rosanne Oggoian, DO, assistant professor of pediatrics, received the RFU Excellence in Teaching Award, presented to a faculty member to recognize expertise in fostering student learning.

"Dr. Oggoian is a paragon of dedication, compassion, and thoughtfulness. She works tirelessly for the students of CMS and Scholl

in her role as ECR [Essentials of Clinical Reasoning] lab director, and she does this in an incredibly empathetic and attentive manner that models all the aspects of a compassionate clinician that are

impossible to teach from a textbook,” said nominator Dr. Melissa Chen. “Dr. Oggoian is unparalleled in this institution in the level of care and love she puts into her teaching and mentoring.” ■

Staff Recognition & Awards

The university’s 14th annual staff recognition and awards ceremony was held virtually on June 30 to honor the staff members who go above and beyond to contribute to the RFU mission. Congratulations to the Chicago Medical School staff members who received awards or nominations this year!



Josue Vasquez, supervisor of undergraduate medical education specialists in the Clinical Sciences Department, received the Rising Star Award, awarded to staff members who have achieved substantial results in a short period of time

and have shown significant potential to shine.

“Josue is extremely dedicated to ensuring our students have the best possible educational experience and continuity of care from clerkship to clerkship. Our department is so fortunate to have him; he is not given enough praise or recognition for the jobs he has accomplished in his short time here,” said the staff member who nominated Josue.

“He works diligently and truly cares about the well-being of our team and our students.”



Maria Ramirez, undergraduate medical education specialist for pediatrics and neurology, received the Photo 51 Impact Award, presented to an

employee who demonstrates a high degree of initiative in job responsibilities; displays exceptional dependability; demonstrates leadership qualities; and has exhibited a commitment to the university’s core values of civility, diversity, excellence, innovation, integrity, scholarship, and teamwork.

“Maria has taken it upon herself to provide outstanding support and service to faculty, students, and staff. She is a wonderful ambassador for our university in assisting students, faculty, and staff as they navigate clerkships, policies, and university administration,” said the person who nominated her for the award. “Maria has also volunteered as a translator for the ICC [Interprofessional Community Clinic] for several years and promotes best practices for interprofessional health care.”

Danielle Priester, M4 education specialist, and **Ed Rotchford**, director of accreditation, were also nominated for this award. Additionally, **Crystal Gutierrez**, administrative coordinator for medical education; **Gina Hartlaub**, administrative assistant for the CMS Office of Student Affairs and Education (OSAE); **Marissa McCarthy**, undergraduate medical education specialist for family medicine and internal medicine; and **Lori Wasion**, administrative coordinator, OSAE, received nominations for the Unsung Champion Award, which recognizes staff members who work continuously to ensure the success of the university and often do so behind the scenes and without visible recognition. ■

Commencement

Congratulations to the Class of 2020!

The CMS Class of 2020 celebrated their graduation during the university's 106th commencement ceremony, held virtually on May 29. "RFU Class of 2020, you've earned a special place in our history," RFU President and CEO **Dr. Wendy Rheault** said in her opening address. "You are the first class to attend a virtual commencement ceremony — but more importantly, you are the first graduates since World War II to join the healthcare and biomedical professions at a time of global crisis. I know that you are all up to the challenge."

Riya Bhavsar, CMS '20, delivered the graduate address, expressing how proud she was of her fellow graduates and everything they had done to get to that moment. "Here we are today, scattered across the country but together in this moment to celebrate this incredible milestone," she said. "We are about to face health care during a pandemic, and though we may bring with us our fears, we also bring with us the courage to step up and do something. We have the power to affect so many lives."

The commencement address was delivered by Michael Bleich, PhD, RN, senior professor and director of the Langston Center for Innovation in Quality and Safety at Virginia Commonwealth University School of Nursing. Dr. Bleich urged the graduates to follow the examples of scientists and healthcare workers like Rosalind Franklin and Florence Nightingale, who pursued scientific breakthroughs and were devoted to empathetic patient care.

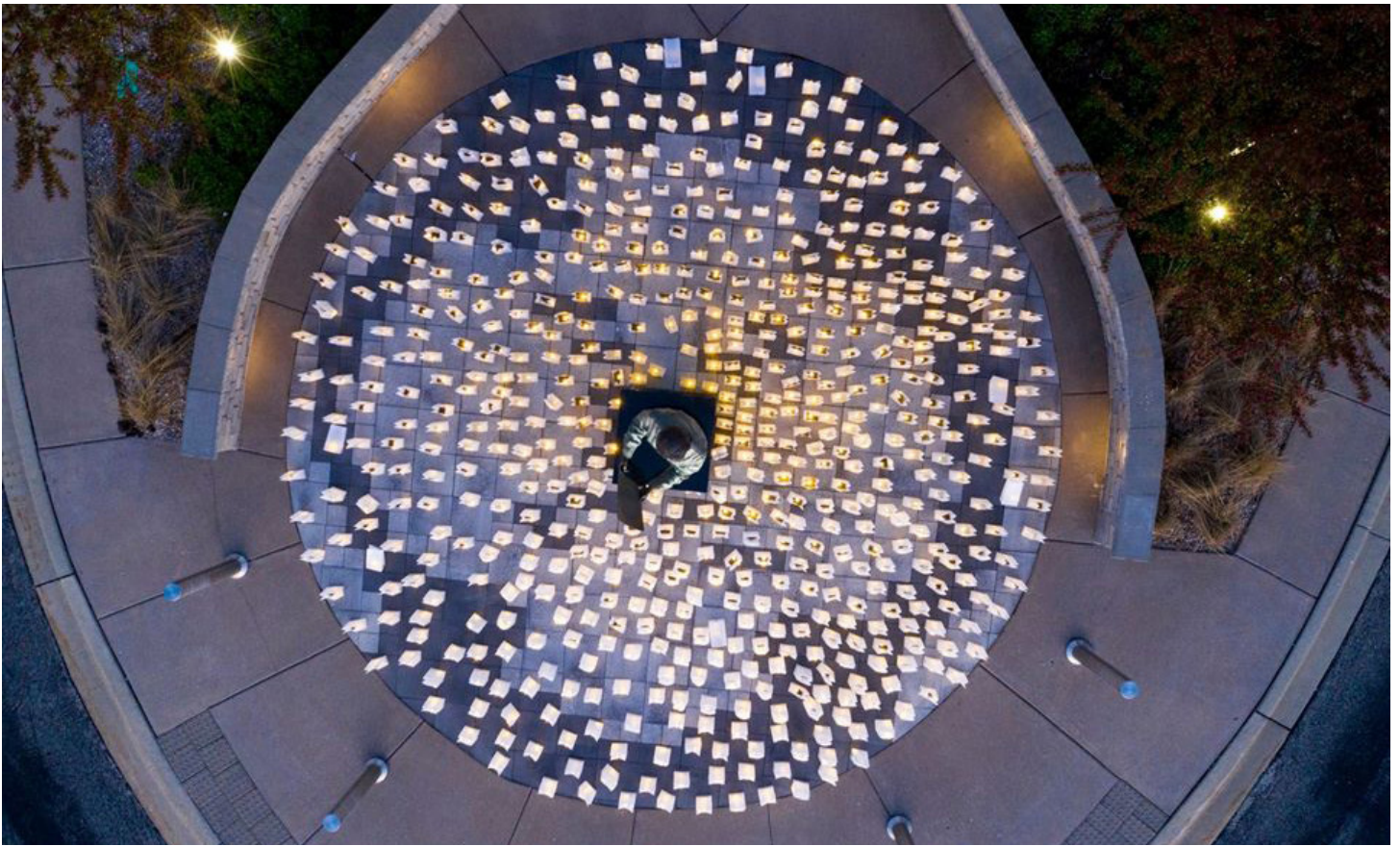
He also encouraged the graduates to pursue leadership roles and advocate for healthcare improvement. "You know the change you want to see happen, and you are

intent on delivering it," he said. "You instill hope for the world, so lead with that intention."

After the CMS graduates were formally awarded their degrees through a video presentation, **Archana Chatterjee**, MD, PhD, dean of CMS, concluded the medical school's ceremony. "I want to congratulate each of you on this special day celebrating your remarkable accomplishments," she said. "Especially at these extraordinary times, the world needs you more than ever before. It's an important time to enter the field of medicine. Yours is a calling, a commitment to the spirit of health and well-being, and I applaud you for the path you have chosen." ■



Riya Bhavsar, CMS '20, delivered the graduate address through a virtual platform.



The RFU Office of Student Affairs set up 634 lanterns as a tribute to each of the university's graduates in the Class of 2020.

Annual Awards Ceremony

CMS students received the following awards at the university's Annual Awards Ceremony.

Ronald M. Reifler Primary Care Award

The Ronald M. Reifler Primary Care Award is awarded to a graduate who will be continuing their career in primary care. This award commemorates Mr. Reifler's love of learning and enthusiasm for helping others to reach their potential.

Bethlehem Atoma, MD '20

John J. Sheinin, MD, PhD, DSc Research Award

The John J. Sheinin, MD, PhD, DSc Research Award is presented for originality and creativity in a research project conducted while a medical student.

Rachyl Morgan Shanker, CMS '21

MD with Distinction in Research

The MD with Distinction in Research Award is awarded to medical students who complete a substantial committee-refereed research program during the course of their medical studies.

Humdoon Latif Choudhry, MD '20

Natasha Scaria, CMS '21

Rachyl Morgan Shanker, CMS '21

Kelly Walters, MD '20

Melvyn Leichtling, MD '48 Oncology Research Award

The Melvyn Leichtling, MD '48 Oncology Research Award was established in 1977 to give assistance to students who submit an outstanding research proposal related to the field of oncology.

Aisha Patel, CMS '21

Martin Gecht, MD '44 Memorial Award

The Martin Gecht, MD '44 Memorial Award honors Dr. Gecht's love of the Chicago Medical School and commemorates his commitment to the community. The award recognizes student efforts in community service projects including development, leadership, assessment and inspiration of community projects.

Noor Anne S. Syed, MD '20

CMS Dean's Award for Service to the School

The CMS Dean's Award for Service to the School was established in 1974 to give recognition to graduating students who have been active in school functions and have demonstrated a continuing interest in the future of the school.

Esther T. Banh, MD '20

Mansi Katkar, MD '20

Hunter Edward Launer, MD '20

Neil Patel, MD '20

Leila Nicole Patterson, MD '20

Claire Ziemba Scott, MD '20

Jillian Stariha, MD '20

Ronald Bangasser, MD '75 Memorial Award

The Ronald Bangasser, MD '75 Memorial Award commemorates the commitment that Dr. Bangasser, CMS Class of 1975, had for organized medicine and service to his colleagues. The recipient of this award has demonstrated leadership in medical school, a training which will follow into his/her life in organized medicine.

Esther T. Banh, MD '20

Eugene J. Rogers, MD '46 Memorial Award for Excellence in Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation

The Eugene J. Rogers, MD '46 Memorial Award for Excellence in Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation is awarded to a graduate who will be continuing their career in the specialty of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation.

Manraj Dhesi, MD '20

USPHS Excellence in Public Health Award

The USPHS Excellence in Public Health Award is awarded by the U.S. Public Health Service to medical students who are involved in public health issues in their community, as well as to increase awareness of the Public Health Service and its mission to protect, promote and advance the health and safety of our nation.

Emily Root, CMS '21

Senior Independent Project Award

CMS students have the option of participating in a Senior Independent Project. Each student works with a faculty advisor throughout the process who evaluates their progress. These students are being recognized for their outstanding efforts on their senior independent project.

Alexandria Alverdy, MD '20

Shayna R. Levine, MD '20

Nutrition in Clinical Sciences Award

The Nutrition in Clinical Sciences Award is presented to the graduating student with the most outstanding performance in the degree track..

Kristi Kline, MS '19 ■

Gold Humanism Honor Society Induction Ceremony



Twenty-seven graduating medical students were inducted into the Gold Humanism Honor Society (GHHS) during a virtual ceremony held on May 27.

The GHHS is an organization, sponsored by the Arnold P. Gold Foundation, that recognizes medical students, physician-teachers, and other exemplars for their integrity, clinical excellence, leadership, compassion, and dedication to service. The mission of the GHHS is to elevate the values of humanism and professionalism within the field of medicine and to integrate those values into the educational environment of the future.

Students are nominated by their peers and approved by faculty and staff.

Congratulations to the 2020 inductees:

Bethlehem Atoma
Esther Banh
Riya D. Bhavsar
Chrisoula Cheronis
Oliver Drewry

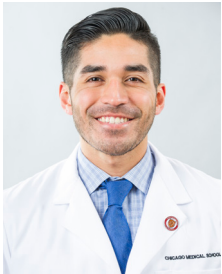
Charlotte Formeller
Anton Garazha
Sarah Guistolisi
Chelsea Karson
Douglas Klein
Shayna R. Levine
Abigail Nelezen
Timothy Nguyen
Leila Patterson
Richard Peluso
Amber Fearon Plant
Zara Fatima Quader
Andre Quihuis
Ilana Quinlan
Rachel Reed
Jillian Stariha
Noor Syed
Sean Tubridy
Kelly Walters
Stephanie Wang
Maia Winkel
Elizabeth Zharovsky ■

Alpha Omega Alpha Induction Ceremony

Chicago Medical School held its annual Alpha Omega Alpha (AQA) induction ceremony on May 26. During a celebration held via Zoom, students and residents were inducted into the national honor

medical society in recognition of their scholarly achievement, professional conduct, excellence in teaching, and service. ■

Class of 2020 Initiates



Mohammed Abbas*



Amanda Beneat*



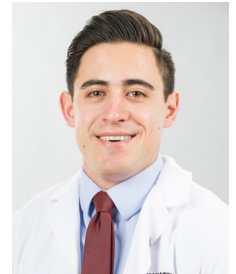
Natalie Buslach



Deven Carroll



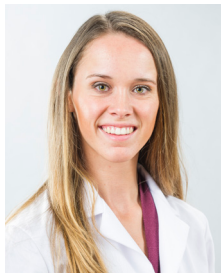
Chrisoula Cheronis



Ian Clapp



Marie Cumigad



Amber Fearon*



Charlotte Formeller



Zachary Green



Tyler Kaplan



Joshua Kogan



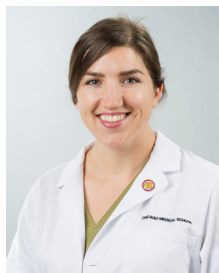
Kate Koppersmith



Shayna Levine*



Alexander Levy



Emily Marré



Megan Middleton



Abigail Nelezen



Jade Nguyen



Timothy Nguyen*



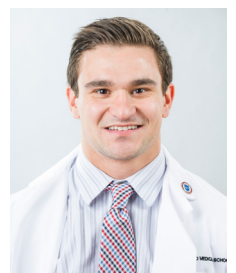
CherilynMae
Palochak*



Neil Patel



Ricky Patel

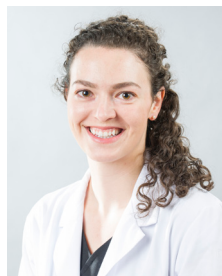


Richard Peluso

**elected as juniors*



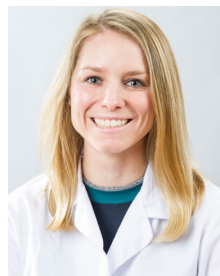
Ilana Primack



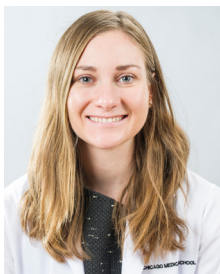
Rachel Reed



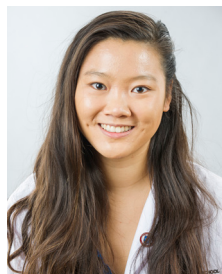
Lauren Schultz



Claire Scott



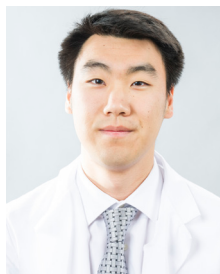
Kelly Walters



Stephanie Wang

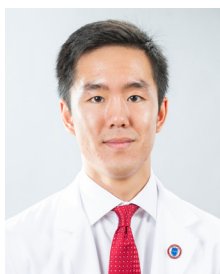


Ellen Wright



Eric Zhang

Class of 2021 Initiates



Dennis Lee



Jordan Newman



Emilia Norlin



Paul
Pantapalangkoor



Uros Rakita



Charlotte van
Schooten



Drew Weinstein

***Congratulations to all the initiates
and award recipients!***

Award Recipients

Resident Award Recipients:



Karam Khaddour, MD
Internal Medicine
Resident, RFUMS



Mina Sohrabi, DO
Pediatric Resident,
Advocate Health
Care

Ashley Evans Professionalism Recipient:



Lauren Schultz
CMS Class of 2020



A message on diversity and inclusion from Dr. Mildred MG Olivier

To the Chicago Medical School community:

CMS is where I went to medical school, and where I have held academic positions in the department of ophthalmology since 1993. I currently serve as the Assistant Dean for Diversity and Learning Environment within the newly expanded Office of Excellence in Diversity and Inclusion (OEDI), and through the years I have served on many local and national commissions and task forces addressing healthcare disparities.

Now more than ever initiatives to increase our workforce to reflect the population, to increase diversity of ideas in our profession, and to help decrease systemic racism resulting from centuries of unequal treatment, and to educate ourselves by listening to the people for whom we work, needs to be intentional.

The events of the past few months have brought much shock, sadness, anger, and reflection to our nation. Sensitivity and cultural expertise/competency are skills needed as we educate our colleagues and communities.

All of us who go into medicine are motivated by wanting to make the world better. An important place to start is by addressing the gap in the kind of health care that exists for far too many people. Ours is a diverse population, and the rate of change is accelerating. However, culture and language affect people's beliefs about health, healing, and wellness, as well as how

they perceive illness, diseases and their causes. These differences impact the behaviors of people needing medical care and their attitudes toward healthcare providers. The providers themselves may be hampered in delivering care by their own cultural assumptions and limited experience with people of different backgrounds. Such things compromise patients' access to care. To address the challenge, today's medical schools must prepare new physicians to meet the future needs of our patients and communities.

The OEDI has a team of diverse individuals putting together programs to try to make sustainable changes in our environment. The Diversity Advisory Council (DAC) was one of the changes we made to monitor our goals in this space. DAC has members from committees and student representatives so that we can increase resources given to and communication regarding our efforts.

I hope you will reach out to me and this department with constructive solutions to the concerns you may have.

Sincerely,

Mildred M.G. Olivier, MD '88

Assistant Dean for Diversity and Learning Environment
Office of Excellence in Diversity and Inclusion (OEDI)
Office of Academic Learning Environment ■

Updates from the Office of Excellence in Diversity and Inclusion (OEDI)

CMS has created a new role, **Director of Learning Environment Diversity**, to lead the medical school's efforts in addressing health care disparities and equity throughout the curriculum. **Dr. Carl Lawson**, RFU Director of Interprofessional Global Health, has accepted this role in an interim capacity. Dr. Lawson will ensure the development and delivery of training, initiatives, and other opportunities to address diversity, inclusion, and health disparities meeting the needs of CMS students, faculty, and administrators. He will serve as a proactive, creative resource and consultant to students, faculty, and administrators on issues and initiatives relating to diversity, equity, and health disparities and will work with the Office of Faculty Development to improve diversity education and sensitivity among faculty and staff.

The medical school's **Diversity Advisory Council (DAC)** has added two student representatives: **Kaiesha Lewis**, CMS '23, Student National Medical Association (SNMA) Representative, and **Jennifer Alvarez**, CMS '22, Latino Medical Student Association (LMSA) Representative. The DAC is devoted to monitoring CMS diversity initiatives for specific outcomes, including recruitment, development, retention, and advancement of students whose communities are under-represented in medicine.

Dr. Mildred MG Olivier and **Dr. Nutan Vaidya** have launched a new series titled **"Virtual Diversity Dialogues: Women of Color in Medicine,"** held once a month via Zoom. This event invites women faculty

of color in CMS to meet for a "casual evening with peers." Invited guest speakers so far have included **Archana Chatterjee**, MD, PhD, Dean of CMS and RFU Vice President for Medical Affairs, and Aletha Maybank, MD, MPH, Chief Health Equity Officer and Vice President of the AMA.



The OEDI has begun a new digital series titled "Celebrating Diversity at Chicago Medical School" to recognize and celebrate the many people who make CMS an exceptional place to work and learn. The first theme of the series, **"A Spotlight on Women Faculty of Color,"** is an adaptation of a photo series that went up on campus just before the work from home order went into effect. This digital spotlight, distributed through campus email each month, allows the CMS community to get to know our outstanding faculty even while they are working from home. ■

Caring for Those Who Care for Others:

Examining the Mental Health Consequences of a Pandemic on Healthcare Workers



Institutional officials, residency and fellowship program directors, residents, and staff physicians met over Zoom to discuss the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the mental health and well-being of healthcare providers, and how their institutions handled the crisis.

The CMS Office of Academic Learning Environment hosted a panel titled **“Mental Health Consequences of COVID-19,”** held via Zoom on June 17. The panel addressed the many psychological implications of the coronavirus pandemic and its aftermath, from the perspective of hospital leaders and healthcare workers who were on the front lines of treating patients infected with the virus.

“The pandemic is not only an infectious disease crisis, but also a human crisis,” said panel moderator **Nutan Vaidya**, MD, explaining that healthcare workers have had to deal with anxiety, stress, grief, uncertainty, and fear while treating patients during the pandemic.

During the first section of the panel, institutional officials from Chicago-area hospitals discussed how their hospitals responded to the COVID-19 crisis.

Panelists in this section included **William Rhoades**, DO, chief medical officer and vice president of medical management at Advocate Good Samaritan Hospital in Downers Grove; **Frank Maldonado**, MD, chief medical executive for the Captain James A. Lovell Federal Health Care Center (FHCC), a pulmonary and critical care specialist, and professor of medicine at CMS; and **Les Zun**, MD, MBA, medical director of the Lake County Health Department Community Health Center and assistant dean for faculty talent enhancement and professor of emergency medicine at CMS.

The three healthcare leaders talked about the steps their institutions have been taking to address the mental health and well-being of their residents and other staff. A common theme was the importance of clear communication at a time when healthcare

workers were facing lots of uncertainty and policies were changing almost daily.

“Six weeks [during the pandemic] has been like six years in other aspects of medicine,” Dr. Rhoades commented, while explaining how rapidly policies and procedures changed during the early weeks of the pandemic as new information about the virus became available.

The panelists also talked about what they could have done differently, if they had known in March everything that they know now about the scope and magnitude of the pandemic; what lessons they had learned from the pandemic and their response to it; and how they cared for their own well-being during this time of stress.

The second section of the panel featured residency program directors and healthcare providers who shared their experiences during the pandemic, as well as experts in psychiatry who discussed the long-term effects — such as PTSD — that society will face following this unprecedented pandemic. Panelists in this section included **Sonali Khandelwal**, MD, associate program director of the internal medicine residency program at Rush University; **Ranjana Gokhale**, MD, director of the pediatric gastroenterology fellowship program at the University of Chicago; **Anish Munagala**, MD, a resident in the CMS internal medicine residency program at the FHCC; **Shima Goyal**, MD, a staff physician in the Lake County Health Department; **Chandra Vedak**, MD, clinical associate professor of psychiatry and behavioral science; and **Dima Arbach**, MD, assistant program director of the CMS psychiatry residency program at the FHCC.

The program directors discussed how they looked after the well-being of their trainees, helping them avoid burnout even as the residents faced grueling schedules to meet the need for healthcare workers as numbers of hospitalized patients increased. “As

a program director, I’ve seen first-hand the front-line responders who have worked the past three months seven days on, two days off, and back on seven days,” said Dr. Khandelwal. To help combat burnout and discouragement, she conducted “wellness rounds” every few days, doing things like bringing in meals and homemade snacks, talking to residents and making sure that everyone was okay on a personal level.

Dr. Gokhale echoed the need to demonstrate care and compassion to trainees, noting that her institution provided childcare and transportation costs to fellows when needed, and also made undergraduate housing — which had been empty since universities had evacuated students from their campuses — available to fellows who wanted to isolate from their family members to avoid the risk of bringing the virus home to their medically vulnerable or immunocompromised relatives.

Dr. Munagala shared his experiences from a resident’s point of view, emphasizing how much he appreciated the support he received from hospital staff. While he was spending the entire month of May working in the ICU of St. Mary’s Hospital, for example, staff organized lunches for the residents each day with food donated by local restaurants. “It’s really those small things that make the biggest difference for us, when you’re coming into work every day and just seeing death constantly,” he said, recalling that he had to pronounce the deaths of fourteen patients in three weeks, including five in one night.

Above all, the panelists called attention to the necessity for healthcare providers to look after their own physical and mental well-being, not neglecting their own needs even while they are looking after others. “I can’t emphasize enough the need for personal well-being,” said Dr. Goyal. “I mention this to every resident, medical student, and fellow I train. If I can’t take care of myself, I can’t take care of my patients.” ■

Congratulations to Our 2020 GME Graduates!

The 2020 classes of Chicago Medical School's graduate medical education programs celebrated their graduation in a virtual ceremony on June 5. Congratulations to all the residents and fellows who graduated, and the residents who received awards during the FHCC Internal Medicine awards ceremony.

Northwestern Medicine McHenry Hospital Internal Medicine Residency Class of 2020



Farai E. Chiwocha



Adam Kedzia



Karam Khaddour



Dipesh Ludhwani



Nadiia Marenych



Mohammed Nasaruddin



Belaal Sheikh

Captain James A. Lovell Federal Health Care Center Psychiatry Residency Class of 2020



Elie R. Crystal, DO



Farhad Daniel Hayatghaib, MD



Derek Yaukin Ho, MD



Ladan Khazai, MD



David X Moy, MD



Krushen Pillay, DO



Arifa Uddin, MD

**Captain James A. Lovell Federal Health Care Center
Internal Medicine Residency Class of 2020**



Zaid Abood



Waseem Ahmed



Raghda Al Anbari



Alaa Alsakaty



Amrit Bhaskaria



Edgar Davila



Gagandeep Gover



Ali Hamoudi



Kumar Nadipalli



Raval Veeramachaneni

**Captain James A. Lovell Federal Health Care Center
Internal Medicine Fellows Class of 2020**



Imtiaz Ismail



Sarabjeet Singh



Harish Reddy Patlolla



Andriy V. Havrylyan



Kamran Hejazikenari



Harijot Sandhu



Rana Wajahat



Dinesh Jethu Belani



Anup Kumar



Aswin Nukala

Congratulations to Our Internal Medicine Residency Program Award Recipients:

Max H. Weil Excellence in Clinical Teaching Award:

Daniel J. Rausa, DO

Outstanding Medical Intern:

Shreya Desai, MD

James B. Hammond Humanitarian Award:

William Cotter, MD

Eric Gall Professionalism Award:

Imtiaz Ismail, MD ■

Outstanding Graduating Medical Resident:

Raghda Al Anbari, MD

Welcoming Our New Residents and Fellows

Chicago Medical School is happy to welcome 30 new residents and 9 new fellows to our graduate medical education programs.

Internal Medicine Fellows



Hassan J. Hashm, MD



Clifford Hecht, MD



Belaal Sheikh, MD



Rakesh Doshetty,
MD



Nadiia Marenych,
MD



Evan Sternberg, MD



Anand Trivedi, MD



Esteffania Villegas
Santamaria, MD

*Not pictured:
Wafa Wael
Dawahir, MD*

Internal Medicine Residents — FHCC



Ammar Ahmed, MD



Jonathan Bell, MD



Megan Biggs, MD



Seth Heithaus, MD



Todd Johnson, MD



Kenneth Joseph, MD



Piotr Krolikowski, MD



Hiteshwar Mangat,
MD



Aathi Lakshmi
Mariappan, MD



Javairia Quraishi, MD

Internal Medicine Residents — Northwestern Medicine McHenry Hospital



Thiago Gagliano, MD



Jashan Gill, MD



Shrey Gole, MD



Ram Khatri Chhetri, MD



Gowthami
Koorapati, MD



Delaram Majlesi, MD



Arvin Mallari, MD



Om Parkash, MD



Sonika Prasad, MD



Shirly Samuel, MD



Artem Sharko, MD



Jishna Shrestha, MD



Grace Ying, MD

Psychiatry Residents



Elizabeth Augustine, MD



Sally Chu, MD



Alexandre Cupler, MD



Gina Rickert, DO



Ravneet Singh, MD



Ryan Stefancik, DO



Neelpreet Toor, DO

Alumni News

George L. Bakris, MD '81, professor of medicine and director of the Comprehensive Hypertension Center at the University of Chicago School of Medicine, discussed hypertension myths in the “Merck Manuals Medical Myths” podcast released on June 3 (season 2, episode 3).

Z. Leah Harris, MD '87, was named chair of Dell Medical School at the University of Texas at Austin and Dell Children's Medical Center Med's Department of Pediatrics, as well as physician-in-chief at Dell Children's Medical Center, part of Ascension Seton. Dr. Harris will also serve as a professor of pediatrics and director of the Dell Pediatric Research Institute.

David A. Kulber, MD '88, professor of surgery, Cedars Sinai Medical Center and USC Keck School of Medicine, director of hand and upper extremity surgery and program director of the Marilyn and Jeffrey Katzenberg Hand fellowship, received the USC Plastic Surgery Residency Guiding Hand Award.

Eric A. Brown, MD '89, was appointed co-leader of the breast cancer multidisciplinary team at the Barbara Ann Karmanos Cancer Institute in Detroit, MI.

Kevin D. Watkins, MD '93, MPH, was elected president of the New York State Association of County Health Officials.

Gail Cresci, MS '00, PhD, RD, LD, CNSC, was named the 2020-21 president-elect for the American Society of Parenteral and Enteral Nutrition board of directors. She also organized and chaired a symposium titled “Targeted Approaches for In Situ Gut Microbiome Manipulation.”

William R. Hartman, MD '03, PhD '99, appeared May 10 on “CBS Sunday Morning” and May 18 on WGN-TV Morning News discussing how transfusions of convalescent plasma donated by individuals recovered from COVID-19 may help heal patients currently battling the disease.

Alison B. Evert, MS '06, RD, CDE, received the Medallion Award from the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics in recognition of her outstanding leadership and contributions to the profession. The Medallion Award is presented to academy members who demonstrate dedication to the high standards of the nutrition and dietetics profession through active participation, leadership and service to others.

Tatiana Kelil, MD '12, assistant professor of clinical radiology in the UC San Francisco Department of Radiology and Biomedical Imaging, was selected as a John A. Watson, PhD Faculty Scholar for the 2020-21 academic year.

Stanley Bazarek, MD '17, PhD '15, a research resident in neurosurgery at Brigham & Women's Hospital in Boston, MA, was awarded a Neurosurgery Research Education Foundation and Medtronic 2020-21 research fellowship grant for his project “Transplantation of Human Induced Pluripotent Stem Cell-Derived Spinal Motor Neurons to Restore Function following Peripheral Nerve or Spinal Cord Injury.”

Adam Carlton, MS '18, MD '19, a neurosurgery resident at the University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston, was interviewed for the article “Cherokee Doctor Embarks on Lengthy Journey to Become Brain Surgeon,” published in the Cherokee Phoenix.

Jasmine Westbrook, MS '19, RD, LDN, co-founder of EatWell Exchange, Inc., a nonprofit specializing in nutrition education and accessibility of healthful foods in underserved communities, authored “My Experience as a Black RDN in a White Dominated Field” for Stone Soup, a guest blog written by members of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics. ■

STAFF CORNER

Get to know the people who make CMS a great place to study and work!



Kristen Patterson

Laboratory Research Assistant,
Dr. Joseph Reynolds' Lab
Center for Cancer Cell Biology, Immunology and Infection
Time at CMS: 2 years

Kristen Patterson works in the lab of Joseph Reynolds, PhD, in the university's Center for Cancer Cell Biology, Immunology and Infection. Her job duties include maintaining the lab's mouse colony and records, as well as handling most other areas of laboratory maintenance, from preparing reagents to ordering supplies and communicating with vendors. Specifically, Kristen is currently assisting on Dr. Reynolds' VA-funded grant project to research Gulf War Veterans' Illnesses (GWVI) in mouse models.

Kristen earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Molecular Genetics from State University of New York at Fredonia. She then worked as a research technician at the University of Chicago for almost nine years, before coming to CMS in 2018.

"My favorite thing about working at CMS is the small community," Kristen said. "It's wonderful to be able to know and recognize people outside of my immediate lab and department. The smaller community here brings about a warmth and familiarity that is sometimes lacking in larger communities."

Kristen's efforts are well appreciated in the lab. "Kristen contributes to CMS by helping make the research enterprise more efficient. She is also quick to help out researchers from other laboratories and does not mind going the extra mile to ensure common equipment in our research center is functioning properly," said Dr. Reynolds. "She brings a 'can-do' attitude to work every day and is never hesitant to take on new challenges. Overall, Kristen has an outstanding personality and gets along well with everyone in the lab and the research center."

Outside of work, Kristen enjoys reading lots of books, and describes herself as a big movie fan as well. She also fosters cats and kittens for Spay and Stay, a local trap, neuter, release (TNR) non-profit organization that helps control feral cat populations in Lake County. ■

School & Department News

Awards & Accomplishments

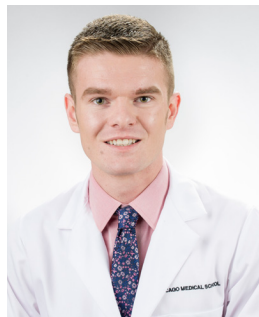


Diane Bridges, PhD, RN, director of distance education and project specialist and associate professor of medical education, has been named Co-Chair of the American Interprofessional Health Collaborative (AIHC) Scholarship Committee beginning July 1, 2020.

The AIHC promotes the scholarship and leadership necessary to develop interprofessional education and transform health professions education across the learning continuum, for students, practitioners, and educators.

She has also been appointed to the Health, Interprofessional Practice and Education (HIPE) Editorial Board for a second two-year term (2020-2022) beginning July 1, 2020. HIPE is a peer-reviewed, open access journal dedicated to increasing the availability of high-quality evidence to inform patient care and practitioner education from an interprofessional perspective.

Sam Bunting, CMS '21, and **Sarah Garber**, PhD, professor of physiology and biophysics and RFU director of interprofessional studies, received a grant from the Gilead Sciences Foundation for their research related to HIV prevention education in the health professions. Their project, titled "Evaluating Knowledge of Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis for HIV Prevention Among Health Professionals in Training in the United States," will investigate gaps in knowledge



Sam Bunting

regarding Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP) for HIV prevention among an interdisciplinary group of health professions students and will extend previous work to include evaluation of how implicit biases may interfere with trainees' clinical decision making about PrEP.

Matthew J. Christensen, ENS, MC, USNR, CMS '21, was recently appointed as Assistant Vice Chair of the Government Services (GS) Committee within the Emergency Medicine Residents Association (EMRA). In this position, he will be serving as a national student leader of military emergency medicine, functioning as an advocate and representative for U.S. Navy medical students across the country while working with the other GS Committee leaders to coordinate nationwide operations relevant to military medical students.



Carolyn Cook, CMS '22, has been elected to two leadership positions within the Student National Medical Association (SNMA). She has joined the Region II E-board as a Minority Association of Pre-medical Students (MAPS) Liaison. The goal of MAPS is to increase the pipeline of minorities into all health professions. She also joined the National leadership as the Co-Vice Chair for the Diversity Research Committee. This committee is dedicated to increasing the amount of research specifically reflecting the experiences and concerns of minority medical students.



School & Department News



Mirek Dundr, PhD, Center for Cancer Cell Biology, Immunology and Infection, assistant professor of cell biology and anatomy, received a one-year, \$6,000 grant from MultiplexDX Inc. for his research study “The Analysis of

Nanostructural Functional Organization of Cajal Bodies.”

Olivia Ekean, CMS '23, was selected for the 2020-21 Chicago Area Schweitzer Fellows Program. Schweitzer Fellows design and implement innovative projects that address the unmet health needs of underserved Chicago residents. This year-long service learning program exposes students to real-world interprofessional, collaborative care and aims to develop lifelong leaders in service. Olivia's proposed project for her fellowship includes prescription drug education, health literacy classes, and overall wellness checks and structured counseling for underserved populations in Chicago's South Side who are experiencing substance (opioid) abuse.



Courtney Harris, CMS '22, Student Dean, has been appointed Vice Chair of the Committee on Legislation & Advocacy in the Medical Student Section of the AMA. We wish Courtney much success in her new role!

Courtney was also interviewed for the February issue of *Physician Advocate*, a publication of the Illinois State Medical Society (ISMS). Courtney talked about her experience with organized medicine and her work with the ISMS and the AMA.



Michelle Hastings, PhD, director of the Center for Genetic Diseases and professor of cell biology and anatomy, was awarded a four-year, \$2.3 million grant from the National Institutes of Health for her research project “Reading Frame Correction for

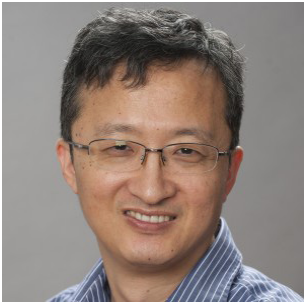
the Treatment of Batten Disease.” The study is focused on finding therapeutic options for Batten disease, a devastating neurodegenerative disorder. The grant was awarded in collaboration with colleagues in the Pediatrics and Rare Diseases group at Sanford Research, Sioux Falls, SD, led by neuroscientist Jill Weimer, PhD.

Armon Khosraviani, CMS '23, was chosen to participate in the 2020 NIDDK Medical Student Research Program in Diabetes at Stanford University. This selective two- to three-month program is funded by the National



Institutes of Health and allows medical students during the summer between the first and second year to conduct diabetes-related research under the direction of an established scientist at a NIH-supported Diabetes Center. Although the program was unfortunately cancelled due to the pandemic, we congratulate Armon for the honor of being selected.

School & Department News



Hongkyun Kim, PhD, Center for Cancer Cell Biology, Immunology, and Infection, associate professor of cell biology and anatomy, received a \$39,405 equipment supplement award from the National Institute

of General Medical Sciences of the National Institutes of Health (NIH) for his research project “A Genetic Study of BK Channel Trafficking and Regulation in *C. elegans*.” This award supplements the initial NIH grant of \$337,426.

.....

Dennis Lee, CMS '21, in collaboration with his mentor, Orin Bloch, MD, won second place for Best Glioma Abstract at the 2020 AANS/CNS Tumor Section Satellite Symposium for his work titled “Diffuse Astrocytic Glioma, IDH-Wildtype, with Molecular Features of Glioblastoma: Differentiating Factors from Low-Grade Diffuse Astrocytomas.”



.....



Neelam Sharma-Walia, PhD, Center for Cancer Cell Biology, Immunology, and Infection, associate professor of microbiology and immunology, served as reviewer on the National Cancer Institute Special Emphasis Panel “ZCA1-SRB - P (O1)” SEP-6: NCI

Clinical and Translational R21 and Omnibus R03 Review.



In April 2020, **Alvin Singh**, CMS '21, was appointed to the position of Student Interest Group in Neurology (SIGN) National Student Advisor. In this role, Alvin serves on a Work Group composed of American Academy of Neurology (AAN) Education

Committee members seeking to prioritize highly needed resources, enhance engagement, and develop programming for students interested in Neurology.

- Alvin contributed to “Virtual Resources for SIGN Chapters”, a document created in April and disseminated to over 120 U.S. medical schools to address student needs during quarantine. The document compiled a list of ready-to-use SIGN activity materials and suggested virtual options as SIGN chapters continue to offer events at their institutions in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- On May 13, 2020, an AAN Work Group designed and distributed a needs assessment survey to address the challenges that students interested in Neurology face in the wake of COVID-19. An Executive Summary was developed, presenting the survey results with recommendations for actionable steps to further support and engage student learners.
- May 29, 2020 marked the first in a series of AAN-sponsored webinars called “Neurology in Focus”. Sayona John, MD, Medical Director of the Neuroscience Intensive Care Unit at Rush University Medical Center, reviewed the pathophysiology, clinical features, and treatment options for COVID-19 patients including the neurological manifestation of the disease. Alvin moderated the Q&A section of this webinar. The next session in this series (date TBD) will center on virtual residency interview resources.

School & Department News

Presentations & Publications

Carolyn Cook, CMS '22, presented her summer research project "Survey of the Use of Physician Review Websites in Patients Under Orthopaedic Care" as a podium presentation at the International Society for the Advancement of Spine Surgery (ISASS) conference in San Juan, Puerto Rico on February 26.



Joanna Dabrowska, PhD, PharmD, Center for Neurobiology of Stress Resilience and Psychiatric Disorders, associate professor of cellular and molecular pharmacology and neuroscience, presented an online seminar titled "Oxytocin Facilitates Fear Memory to Predictable Threats by Inhibiting Output Neurons of the Bed Nucleus of the Stria Terminalis (BNST)" as part of the Neuropsychiatry Translational Research Fellowship program organized by VA Boston



Healthcare System, Boston University School of Medicine, and Harvard Medical School.



Eugene Dimitrov, MD, PhD, Center for Neurobiology of Stress Resilience and Psychiatric Disorders, assistant professor of physiology and biophysics, published an article titled "Sex Differences in the Development of Anxiodepressive-Like Behavior of Mice Subjected to Sciatic Nerve Cuffing" in the March 2020 issue of *Pain*.

Members of the Center for Neurobiology of Stress Resilience and Psychiatric Disorders including **Nicole Ferrara**, PhD, postdoctoral research associate; Eliska Mrackova, Lake Forest College summer intern; Maxine Loh, graduate student; **Mallika Padival**, lab manager; and **Amiel**



Dr. Amiel Rosenkranz

Rosenkranz, PhD, director of the Brain Science Institute and professor of cellular and molecular pharmacology, co-authored "Fear Learning Enhances Prefrontal Cortical Suppression of Auditory Thalamic Inputs to the Amygdala in Adults, but Not Adolescents," published in the *International Journal of Molecular Sciences*.

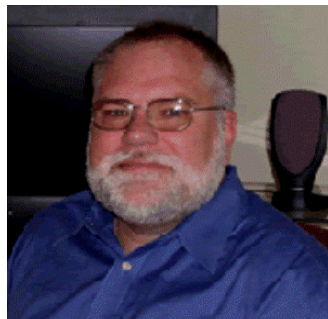
Michelle Hastings, PhD, director of the Center for Genetic Diseases and professor of cell biology and

School & Department News

anatomy, and **Robert Bridges**, PhD, professor of physiology and biophysics and director of cystic fibrosis research, co-authored “Antisense Oligonucleotide-mediated Correction of CFTR Splicing Improves Chloride Secretion in Cystic Fibrosis Patient-derived Bronchial Epithelial Cells,” published in *Nucleic Acids Research*.



Dr. Michelle Hastings



Dr. Robert Bridges



Dr. David Mueller

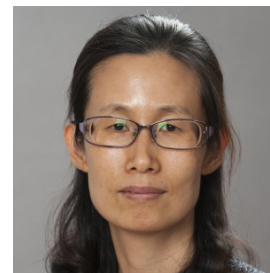
David Mueller, PhD, Center for Genetic Diseases, professor of biochemistry and molecular biology, along with collaborators from laboratories in India and Italy, have a manuscript titled “A Candidate Multi-epitope Vaccine Against SARS-CoV-2” in press with the Nature journal *Scientific Reports*. The corresponding author, **Anurag Srivastava**, PhD, is a former RFU postdoc and current faculty member at Garden City University, India. Dr. Mueller recently obtained permission to expand the aims of his NIH grant to include the development of novel vaccines against the



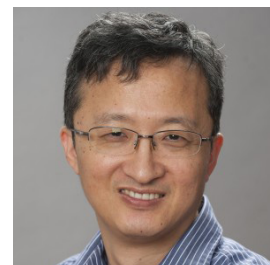
Ginu Kurian

coronavirus. **Ginu Kurian**, CMS '23, is working on another novel candidate vaccine against coronavirus in the Mueller lab and in collaboration with Dr. Srivastava.

Kelly Oh, PhD, research assistant professor of cell biology and anatomy, and **Hongkyun Kim**, PhD, Center for Cancer Cell Biology, Immunology, and Infection, associate professor of cell biology and anatomy, co-authored “Alcohol Induces Mitochondrial Fragmentation and Stress Responses to Maintain Normal Muscle Function in *Caenorhabditis elegans*,” published in the *FASEB Journal*.



Dr. Kelly Oh

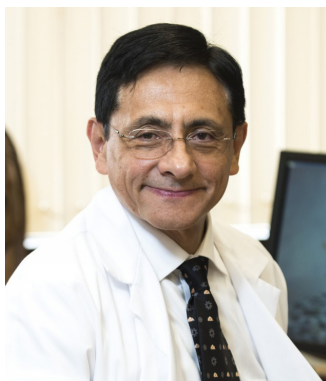


Dr. Kelly Oh

Dr. Kim also co-authored “BK Channel Density Is Regulated by Endoplasmic Reticulum Associated Degradation and Influenced by the SKN-1A/NRF1 Transcription Factor,” published in *PLoS Genetics*, with Timothy Cheung, PhD, a recent graduate from the university’s Interdisciplinary Graduate Program in Biomedical Sciences (IGPBS).

Judith Potashkin, PhD, Center for Neurodegenerative Diseases and Therapeutics, professor of cellular and molecular pharmacology, and **Virginie Bottero**, PhD, research associate and lecturer of microbiology and immunology, co-authored the article “Bioinformatic Analysis Reveals Phosphodiesterase 4D-Interacting Protein as a Key Frontal Cortex Dementia Switch Gene,” published in the *International Journal of Molecular Sciences*.

School & Department News



Hector Rasgado-Flores, PhD, professor of physiology and biophysics and director of diversity, outreach and success, co-authored the article “It Just Weights in the Back of Your Mind: Microaggressions in Science,” published in the *Journal of Women and*

Minorities in Science and Engineering.

Dr. Rasgado-Flores was also named a member of the Latino Medical Student Association (LMSA) National Physician/Faculty Advisory Council.

.....

Laurine Tiema-Benson, MPH, CMS '22, was one of three students selected to present her project at the 2020 United Healthcare/National Medical Foundation Diverse Medical Scholars Program virtual event on June 10. Her presentation was titled “Assessing Barriers to Healthcare Utilization by African Americans at a Student-led Pro Bono Clinic.” Under the mentorship of **Melissa Chen**, MD, assistant professor of medicine and clinical director of RFU’s Interprofessional Community Clinic, Laurine interviewed 25 community leaders — including politicians, healthcare leaders, religious leaders, and nonprofit leaders — and put together a paper, slideshow, and poster presentation. Her outreach efforts and community contacts will be critical to the ICC’s ongoing efforts to serve our local community.



Laurine Tiema-Benson



Dr. Janice Urban



Dr. Amiel Rosenkranz

Janice Urban, PhD, director of the Center for Neurobiology of Stress Resilience and Psychiatric Disorders and professor and discipline chair of physiology and biophysics, and **Amiel Rosenkranz**, PhD, director of the Brain Science Institute and professor of cellular and molecular pharmacology, co-edited *Handbook of Amygdala Structure and Function*, a new volume in the Handbook of Behavioral Neuroscience series.

CMS faculty and staff members who contributed chapters to this volume include: **Nicole**

Ferrara, PhD, postdoctoral research associate; **Jaime Vantrease**, PhD, postdoctoral research associate; and Dr. Rosenkranz (“Protect and Harm: Effects of Stress on the Amygdala”); **Joanna Dabrowska**, PhD, PharmD, associate professor of cellular and molecular pharmacology and neuroscience (“Neuronal Diversity of the Amygdala and the Bed Nucleus of the Stria Terminalis”); Dr. Urban (“Neuropeptide Y and Amygdala Circuitry: Modulation of Stress-related Behavior”); and Dr. Ferrara (“Pituitary Adenylate Cyclase-activating Polypeptide (PACAP) in Stress, Pain and Learning”).

Events and Other News

Several long-term staff members were recently honored for their decades of contributions to RFU. Chicago Medical School staff members included:

- **June Mayor**, Research Lab Manager, Center for Proteomics and Molecular Therapeutics — 22 Years
- **Vilmary Friederichs**, Research Center Administrator, Center for Brain Function and Repair — 26 Years

School & Department News

- **Cecilia Pena-Rasgado**, Senior Research Associate, Center for Genetic Diseases — 28 Years
- **Mary (Gina) DeJoseph**, Senior Research Associate, Center for Neurobiology of Stress Resilience and Psychiatric Disorders — 31 Years
- **Paula Taylor**, ECR Course Coordinator, Clinical Sciences Department — 32 Years
- **Mitch Beales**, Research Associate, Cellular & Molecular Pharmacology, Department of Foundational Sciences and Humanities — 40 Years



Vilmary
Friederichs



Paula Taylor



Mitch Beales



Violinist and activist DBR

Daniel Bernard Roumain (DBR). DBR is known for his genre-bending performances and as a leader in the arts industry. For the final part of the concert series, DBR was joined by one of Chicago Medical School's own faculty members: **Hector Rasgado-Flores**, PhD. In addition to being a professor of physiology and biophysics and the director of diversity, outreach and success at CMS, Dr. Rasgado-Flores is a conservatory-trained pianist.

Mildred MG Olivier, MD '88, assistant dean for diversity and learning environment, hosted a three-part virtual concert series in April and May with accomplished violinist and activist

Among his many accomplishments, he wrote a piano suite about the chemical elements, commissioned by the Colegio Nacional in Mexico. Dr. Rasgado-Flores played a selection from that suite, *Los Elementos*, when he joined DBR on May 14.

Shiva Barforoshi, CMS '21, and **Neelum Aggarwal**, MD '92, served as co-captains of the Rush Heart Center for Women's 2020 Chicago CycleNation team. The American Heart Association's annual CycleNation campaign promotes physical activity and raises funds for stroke and heart disease research. This year's virtual event promoted a fitness challenge to stay healthy at home. Shiva and Dr. Aggarwal's team raised more than \$1,700 toward researching the cardiovascular implications of COVID-19.



Shiva Barforoshi



The CMS Faculty Development Talks podcast is back from hiatus with new episodes and a new look. Join Assistant Dean for Faculty Talent Enhancement, **Dr. Leslie Zun**, as he talks with colleagues and experts in a range of disciplines about teaching, learning, and faculty development in medical education. Episode 8, featuring **Dr. Stuart Goldman**, Associate Dean of Clinical Affairs, is available now on Apple Podcasts, LibSyn, and the RFU website at <http://bit.ly/CMS-FD-Talks>. ■

SAVE THE DATE

ROSALIND FRANKLIN UNIVERSITY *of* MEDICINE AND SCIENCE | SYMPOSIUM SERIES



HERSTORY UNDER THE MICROSCOPE

5th ANNUAL WOMEN IN SCIENCE AND HEALTHCARE SYMPOSIUM

SEPTEMBER 10 • 3-5 P.M.

REGISTER FOR THE VIRTUAL EVENT AT [HTTPS://RFU.MS/WISH20](https://rfu.ms/wish20)



HERSTORY UNDER THE MICROSCOPE

5th ANNUAL WOMEN IN SCIENCE AND HEALTHCARE SYMPOSIUM

ROSALIND FRANKLIN UNIVERSITY *of* MEDICINE AND SCIENCE

HERSTORY Under the Microscope: Celebrating Rosalind Franklin's 100 Year Legacy

Exploring the past and future of women in STEM:

To mark the 100th anniversary of Rosalind Franklin's birth, our 5th annual WiSH Symposium will feature a new perspective on Dr. Franklin's contributions and posthumous treatment by the field. Women have advanced dramatically in STEM and healthcare professions, but there is further to go. The symposium will draw lessons from the past as we seek to understand and solve the ongoing under-representation of women in STEM and healthcare leadership, a loss of talent that today's global challenges can ill-afford.

SEPTEMBER 10 • 3-5 P.M.

REGISTER FOR THE VIRTUAL EVENT AT [HTTPS://RFU.MS/WISH20](https://rfu.ms/wish20)



ROSALIND FRANKLIN
UNIVERSITY
of MEDICINE AND SCIENCE

CHICAGO MEDICAL SCHOOL