



CMS NEWS

The Chicago Medical School Newsletter

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Cover Image: *Graduating members of the Class of 2022 celebrate their Commencement.*

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!



These past couple of weeks have been filled with exciting energy as we welcomed the Class of 2026 to campus for orientation, their White Coat Ceremony, and the beginning of classes. Voices fill the halls, the DNA Café is bustling, and students are beginning to find their way around campus and meet new friends. It has been absolutely refreshing to have the entire week of orientation conducted on campus as well as the beautiful White Coat Ceremony with family and friends gathered together.

Before I share more about the Class of 2026, I want to highlight CMS' excitement earlier this summer when we held the first in-person Commencement since the pandemic began. The Class of 2022 had a picture-perfect day to celebrate; not only for achieving their degree in medicine, but to be acknowledged for all of the challenges, trials, and difficulties they overcame while they completed their studies during the darkest days of the pandemic. This class certainly achieved their "degree" in resilience! Family and friends came from all corners of the country to join the 204 CMS graduates at the Credit Union 1 Arena in downtown Chicago for the big celebration. Our hats are off to you, Class of 2022!

The first-year students arrived on campus during the week of August 7th for a week-long orientation and is the largest class ever at CMS with 194 students; 42 of which are the first in their families to go to college. This year, as compared to last, socioeconomically disadvantaged students who were accepted for admission more than doubled! There are 88 students with this background compared to 37 students last year. Again, this year, the class is composed of about half men and half women with the number of women being slightly higher. We are excited to welcome more Black students this Fall — last year only one student (out of a total of 13 admitted) decided to join CMS, while 8 students (out of a total of 19 admitted) decided to pursue their medical school journey at CMS this year. We are also privileged to have 9 students of Latin descent in the class. From a geographical perspective, there are students from 26 states who hail not only from Illinois and our neighboring states of WI, MI, IN, and MN, but from as far away as CA and NY. Members of the class attended many prestigious institutions including Harvard, Vanderbilt, and Washington Universities. The Class of 2026 comes in with an average GPA of 3.6, and an average MCAT of 511, as well as over 7,700 hours of clinical experiences. Collectively, they represent a melting pot of individuals coming together from diverse backgrounds and places with a single purpose — becoming a physician.

The culmination of Orientation Week was the moving and symbolic White Coat Ceremony that took place on Saturday, August 13th with family and friends gathered with the Class of 2026 on campus. It was a wonderful return to life as we knew it before the pandemic. **Dr. Romeo Ignacio Jr.**, a CMS alumnus and retired Navy captain, provided the inspiring keynote address and following the Oath of Geneva, everyone gathered for a lovely reception outside. This ceremony truly marks the official beginning of our students' medical education.

Earlier this month we welcomed **Amanda M. Simanek**, PhD, MPH, who is the Founding Director of the Michael Reese Research and Education Foundation Center for Health Equity Research at Rosalind Franklin University. A generous grant from the Michael Reese Research and Education Foundation has allowed us to establish a Health-Equity Research Center. The funding will help foster research collaborations that aim to improve health inequities and prevent adverse health outcomes across the lifespan. A social epidemiologist, Dr. Simanek joins RFU from an associate professor post in the Joseph J. Zilber School of Public Health at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. She earned a Master of Public Health degree in International Health Epidemiology and a doctorate in Epidemiologic Science from the University of Michigan. Dr. Simanek described her research as aiming to identify pathways by which social disadvantage shapes health inequities across generations and the lifecourse. The Center's cores will focus on community engagement and investigator development, as well as data management and bioinformatics. She will work closely with RFU faculty and students as well as community organizations and healthcare providers to shape the mission and goals of the Center. Please join me in welcoming Dr. Simanek.

We are also excited to welcome **Lalita Prasad-Reddy**, PharmD, MS, BCPS, BCACP, CDCES, FCCP as the Assistant Dean for Basic Science Education and Vice Chair of Foundational Sciences and Humanities (FSH) on September 6th. In the Assistant Dean role, Dr. Prasad-Reddy will be responsible for administrative leadership of the pre-clerkship/basic science portion of the educational program (Phase I) and will work with faculty and the Curriculum Committee to ensure

that basic science content is appropriately reinforced in Clinical Phases 2 and 3. As Vice Chair of FSH, she will help ensure that the infrastructure for course administration, assessments, and improvement are optimized and faculty are informed of important policies and trends in medical education.

Dr. Prasad-Reddy most recently served at Chicago State University College of Pharmacy as Assistant Dean for Student Affairs and Clinical Associate Professor of Pharmacy Practice. She also served as a Clinical Pharmacy Specialist in internal medicine at Rush University Medical Center, and at Rush Medical College as the Associate Discipline Director of Pharmacology for the pre-clerkship curriculum and an Assistant Professor in the Department of Internal Medicine. Dr. Prasad-Reddy has published widely in peer-reviewed journals and presented extensively on local, state, and national levels spanning from pharmacy and medical organizations to large multidisciplinary meetings on both chronic disease topics and hot topics in healthcare academia. She earned her Doctor of Pharmacy from Creighton University in Omaha, Nebraska, and received a Master of Science degree in Health Communication from Boston University. Dr. Prasad-Reddy completed her Pharmacy Practice Residency at the University of Chicago Medical Center and her Ambulatory Care Residency at Indiana University Health/Butler University in Indianapolis, Indiana. Please join us in welcoming Dr. Prasad-Reddy!

I hope that you have enjoyed the summer months and been able to take a little time from your regular daily routine for relaxation and reflection. As we move into the Fall and the winter months ahead, let us approach the season with joy and thanksgiving, but also with caution as we continue to navigate the ever-changing characteristics of COVID-19. I wish your families, friends and you good health!

Sincerely,



Archana Chatterjee, MD, PhD
Dean, Chicago Medical School

Commencement

Celebrating the Class of 2022

Rosalind Franklin University celebrated its 108th Commencement on June 3, honoring the Class of 2022 and some members of the Class of 2020 who were also in attendance. Families, friends, and faculty gathered at the Credit Union 1 Arena in Chicago for the first fully in-person ceremony since 2019.

President and CEO **Wendy Rheault**, PT, PhD, FASAHP, FNAP, DipACLM, expressed her pride in the graduates and the entire RFU community for

demonstrating resolve and empathy during the ongoing pandemic. She called on the Class of 2022 to apply the lessons they learned both on and off campus to create a healthier, more equitable future.

“You represent the generation of students who succeeded against unforeseen odds to complete your education while at the same time serving your community with courage and compassion,” Dr. Rheault said. “You will now enter professions that



are in urgent need of your talent, your commitment, and your desire to make an impact.”

The graduate address was given by College of Health Professions graduate **Meera Tavathia Odunewu**, MS '22, who commended the resilience of her fellow graduates and encouraged them to have hope for the future, always asking themselves what kind of positive impact they want to make on the world.

“I believe that the future for the Class of 2022 is very bright, as the challenges we faced only made us stronger,” she said. “We stood resilient in the face of everything that was thrown our way, and this resilience is what will make us future leaders in our fields.”

David A. Edwards, PhD, a scientist, writer, and inventor who is renowned for his pioneering work

in inhalation drug and vaccine delivery for diseases including diabetes, tuberculosis, and diabetes, received an honorary degree from the university and delivered the ceremony’s keynote address. He spoke to graduates about the importance of becoming innovators and pioneers, especially in small but meaningful ways. Graduates might not think of themselves as pioneers, Dr. Edwards explained, because society’s perception of a pioneer is usually someone who leaves everything behind to make a grand journey into uncertainty.

“In my experience, however, those pioneers who innovate for a lifetime bring about change in small, mindful ways that teach and trigger adaptation with and

around family, friends, and patients they care for,” he said.

After the graduates received their degrees, **Sidharth Mahapatra**, MD '09, PhD '07, a pediatric intensivist at Children’s Hospital and Medical Center and director for research – pediatric critical care medicine at the University of Nebraska Medical Center, welcomed the new graduates into the family of more than 20,000 RFU alumni.

Dr. Mahapatra shared some of the lessons he learned at the beginning of his career, including the importance of learning from failure and the value of acknowledging what can and cannot be controlled. He also talked about the privilege of maintaining and upholding trust between physician and patient, saying, “In my view there is no higher privilege than being given the chance to impact the course of your patients’ lives.”

At the conclusion of the commencement ceremony, **Kimberley Darey**, MD '04, an obstetrician-gynecologist, chief medical officer, and vice president of medical affairs at Elmhurst Hospital, led the graduates in reciting the Oath of Geneva.

A total of 637 graduates were honored during the ceremony, including 204 from Chicago Medical School. Graduates from 2020 who missed a chance to cross a stage in person due to COVID restrictions were also invited to attend.

Congratulations to the Class of 2022! We are so proud of everything our graduates have achieved so far, and we wish them the best of luck in the next stage of their careers. ■







Congratulations, CMS Class of 2022!

Awards & Honors

Congratulations to our outstanding students who received the following distinctions and awards.

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.

Jack William Armitage, MD '22

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.

Adriana Maria Fresquez, MD '22

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.

Sarah Marie Laudon, MD '22

Yanhan Ren, MD '22

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.

Jaleesa M. Harris, MD '22

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.

Jennifer Alvarez, MD '22

Adriana Maria Fresquez, MD '22

Courtney Ellen Harris, MD '22

Lisandra Ochoa, MD '22

Simone Elizabeth Raiter, MD '22

Ashley Rebecca Schaefer, MD '22

Kelsey Lynn Spear, MD '22

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.

Courtney Ellen Harris, MD '22

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.

Shirali M. Shah, MD '22

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.

Jim Zhang, Class of 2023

CMS Student Service Award

The CMS Student Service Award recognizes a student who has demonstrated excellent achievement in working with persons and communities that are underrepresented in medicine.

Jaleesa M. Harris, MD '22 ■



Alpha Omega Alpha Induction Ceremony

Chicago Medical School held its annual Alpha Omega Alpha (AOA) induction ceremony on May 31. Students, faculty, and alumni were inducted into the national honor medical society in recognition of their scholarly achievement, professional conduct, excellence in teaching, and service. Awards were also given to residents in recognition of their excellence in teaching and patient care.

Students, faculty, alumni, and residents were happy to celebrate their accomplishments together during the first in-person induction ceremony in three years. The day of events also included a luncheon and a special AOA Grand Rounds presentation titled "Racism Is a Public Health Crisis," delivered by **David Ansell**, MD, MPH, Senior Vice President, Community Health Equity at Rush University Medical Center.

Class of 2022 Initiates

Arjun Ahuja	Christopher Hamilton	Lisandra Ochoa	A. Isabella Shanker
Thomas Alter	Courtney Harris*	Paras Patel	Kelsey Spear
Jennifer Alvarez	Thaddeus Hawley	Akshay Patke	Jacqueline Story-Remer
Casey Aman	Daniel Hivick	Sydney Rabin	Irmina Swiostek
Kelsey Bacidore	Harshita Jain	Simone Raiter	Palwasha Syar
Alison Cottrell	Lindsay Karson	Uros Rakita	Laurine Tiema-Benson
Co Duong	Simon Lalehzarian	Yanhan Ren*	Madelaine Wade
Elianna Fred	Grant Lewin	Alissa Resnikoff	Alexander Woods*
Adriana Fresquez*	Peter Lorenz*	Ashley Schaefer	Ellen Yang
John Fudala	Madeline Newman	Shirali Shah	*inducted during their M3 year
Allison Gelfond	Brianna Norris	Zachariah Shalginewicz	

Class of 2023 Junior Initiates

Sean Hormozian	Taylor Lewis	Peter Nesper	Danielle Wales
Jordan Larson	Ricardo Lopez-Betancourt	Rachel To	

Alumni Initiates

Clive Fields, MD '88
Chief Medical Officer and Co-Founder, VillageMD

David Walner, MD '90
Pediatric Otolaryngologist
Professor of Surgery and Pediatrics at CMS

Faculty Initiates

Gordon Pullen, PhD
Associate Dean for Basic Science Education

Resident Award Recipients

Megan Biggs, MD, PGY-3
Internal Medicine Resident (FHCC)

Sally Chu, MD, PGY-3
Psychiatry Resident

Stephanie A. Whyte, MD '96, MBA
Senior Medical Director at Aetna

Cynthia Y. Abban, MD '12, PhD '10
Dermatologist at Aurora Health Care
Assistant Professor of Medicine at CMS

Ashley Evans Professionalism Award Recipient

Mohammed Akhter, CMS '22

Jashan Gill, MD, PGY-3
Internal Medicine Resident (Northwestern Medicine)

Hans Wang, MD, PGY-4
Psychiatry Resident ■

1. Archana Chatterjee, MD, PhD, dean of CMS, celebrates with students, including Rachel To, Danielle Wales, and Taylor Lewis, all CMS '23. 2. Dr. Michael Zdon presents the Ashley Evans Professionalism Award to Mohammed Akhter, CMS '22. 3. Ricardo Lopez-Betancourt, CMS '23; Lisandra Ochoa, CMS '22; Laurine Tiema-Benson, CMS '22; Cynthia Y. Abban, MD '12, PhD '10; Adriana Fresquez, CMS '22; Stephanie A. Whyte, MD '96, MBA; Dr. Archana Chatterjee; Simone Raiter, CMS '22; and Mildred M.G. Olivier, MD '88. 4. Grant Lewin, CMS '22, displays his AOA certificate. 5. Lisandra Ochoa, CMS '22, with her family. 6. Alumni initiates Cynthia Y. Abban, MD '12, PhD '10, and Stephanie A. Whyte, MD '96, MBA. On page 9: From left to right: Alexander Woods, Sydney Rabin, Anna Shanker, Grant Lewin, Madeline Newman, Alison Cottrell, and Christopher Hamilton, all CMS '22.





Gold Humanism Induction Ceremony

On June 1, twenty-seven members of the CMS Class of 2022 were inducted into the Gold Humanism Honor Society, an international organization that recognizes medical students for their integrity, clinical excellence, leadership, compassion, and dedication to service. Students are nominated by their peers and approved by faculty and staff.

Congratulations to the inductees:

Jennifer Alvarez
Kelsey Bacidore
Carolyn Cook
Co Duong
Kelechi Emuchay
Adriana Fresquez
Alfonso Gomez
Courtney Harris
Daniel Hivick
Victoria Hooker
Harshita Jain
Susmitha Kowligy
Adam Lewis
Peter Lorenz
Diya Perna
Sharné Morrow

Lisandra Ochoa
Akshay Patke
Ashley Schaefer
Payal Shukla
Vikram Singh
Kalyani Sonarikar
Kelsey Spear
Shahrukh Syed
Matthew Tan
Laurine Tiema-Benson
Yukyee Tsang ■

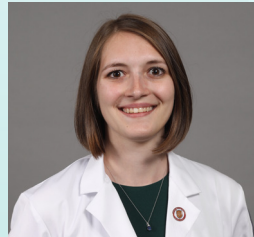


M3 Poster Day

On May 11, Chicago Medical School held its annual M3 Clinical Poster Day. The virtual event featured 103 posters, encompassing a wide array of clinical experiences, presented by members of the CMS Class of 2023. Twenty-nine faculty judges reviewed the posters and conducted virtual presentation meetings with the authors. We thank all of the student authors, clinical mentors, and faculty judges who made this a success, and congratulations to the following award winners!

Educational Value:

“Differential
Diagnosis of a
Small Bowel Mass:
A Case Study”



Taylor Petesch

“Outcomes in Psychiatric
In-Patient Management
in Children in the Foster
Care System”

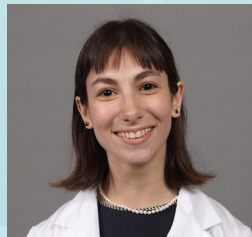


Sanidhya Dhir



Krishna Shah

“Kawasaki, Covid, and
S. aureus Walk Into a
Room. Is This the Start
of a Sick Joke...?”



Julia Rauch



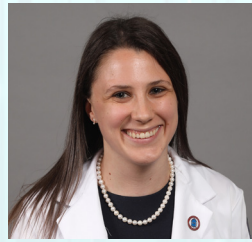
Victoria Vuckovic

“The Diagnosis Is in the
Details: An Unusual Case
of Iron Deficiency Anemia
and Protein-Losing
Enteropathy”



Emily B. Crawford

“A Rare Case of Colon Adenocarcinoma in a Pediatric Patient”



Stephanie Yohay



Aaron Wildman

Team-Based Care:

“A Review of Bile Duct Strictures: An Interdisciplinary Challenge in Diagnosis and Management”



Javier Cruz



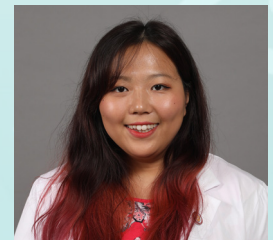
Ali Farooqui

“Ureterovaginal Fistula Diagnosis”



Alexandra Reed

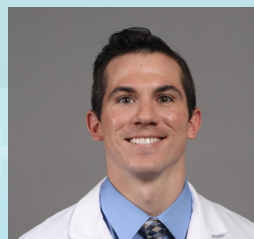
“A Process Improvement Pathway in a Breast Cancer Multidisciplinary Team”



Nahae Kim

Student Presentation:

“A Rare Cause of Stroke in a Young Patient”



Dayken Dawson

“An Unusual Presentation of a Cardiac Myxoma”



Jenny Smith

“The Unknown Impact of a ‘No Visitor’ Policy on a Patient with Delirium”



Emily Clamp

Overall Excellence:

“A Case of Chronic
Diarrhea: Diagnosing
Lymphocytic Colitis”



Kaitlyn Todd

“Pediatric High-Grade
Glioma: An Uncommon
Hemispheric Variant”



Taylor Recek

“A Case of
Gallstone Ileus”

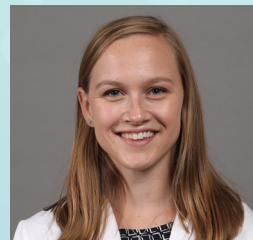


Mustafa Farooqi



Meredith Hazelrigg

“Pancreaticoduodenectomy for
Intramural Duodenal Hematoma in the
Setting of Hemorrhagic Pancreatitis”



Danielle Wales

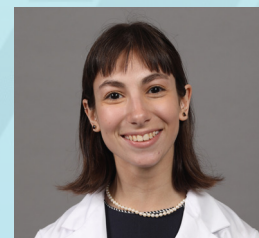


Samiuddin Syed

“Letting the Cat Out of the Bag:
A Challenging Case of
Treatment-Resistant Catatonia
in First Episode Psychosis” ■



Kathryn Kim



Julia Rauch

STAFF AWARDS

Congratulations to Kara Bass and Crystal Gutierrez!



Two CMS staff members were honored at the university's 15th annual Staff Recognition and Awards Ceremony: **Kara Bass**, coordinator for the Department of Foundational Sciences and Humanities (FSH), and **Crystal Gutierrez**, lead administrative coordinator for FSH.

Kara received a Rising Star Award, given to an outstanding staff member who has achieved substantial results in a short period of time and shows significant potential to shine.

"Kara is a wonder. Every job we give her, no matter how complicated, she handles with grace and ease — and ahead of schedule. She joined us in 2020 and quickly became indispensable," said **Lise Eliot**, PhD, executive chair of FSH, noting that Kara is responsible for administering student course evaluation surveys, scheduling CMS classes and overseeing the students' Google calendar, monitoring budgets across all FSH disciplines, and coordinating CME credits for the annual Women in Science and Healthcare symposium series, among many other duties.

"Everyone who works with Kara praises her to the heavens," Dr. Eliot continued. "She's an enormous asset to the university and a joy to work with. Kara Bass is truly a rising star, and we are very lucky to have her on our staff."

Crystal received an Unsung Champion Award, which recognizes an individual for hard work done behind the scenes. This award is given to a dedicated worker who continuously works to ensure the success of the organization without visible recognition, and who displays dedication, humility, hard work, a positive

attitude toward what they are trying to accomplish, and a sincere willingness to help in whatever capacity necessary.

"You couldn't find a more dependable, resourceful, and valuable staff member than Crystal Gutierrez," said Dr. Eliot. "She truly never misses a beat. Tasked with coordinating four extremely complex CMS courses, with 190 students in each, she keeps track of every detail and never drops the ball... Not only does Crystal pay incredible attention to detail, she can solve any problem and does it with cheer and kindness. No matter how heavy the load is, she steps up with a smile and gets the job done. I honestly don't know how we could run our pre-clinical curriculum without her."

Kara and Crystal were chosen for their awards out of 31 total nominees. Addressing everyone who was nominated for an award, RFU President and CEO **Dr. Wendy Rheault** expressed her appreciation for everything the staff members do, saying, "You are the engine behind so much of the day-to-day efforts that move our university mission forward."

RFU Provost **Dr. Nancy Parsley** echoed those sentiments, saying, "Congratulations to every staff member nominated for an award, and congratulations to those who receive awards. Thank you for all that you do for RFU." ■

Student Leadership Awards

In May, LEAD Week — a week of special events to celebrate and recognize student leaders — culminated with the Student Leadership Awards Ceremony, where individuals and student organizations received awards for their commitment, dedication, and service to RFU and the community. Congratulations to the CMS students and organizations who were honored during the ceremony! We appreciate all our student leaders.

Outstanding Educational Service Award

Recognizes a student organization or group that has dedicated their time and resources to furthering the education of RFU students and/or the community.

CMS Mini Medical School

Outstanding Community Service Award

Recognizes a student organization or group that has helped serve the community through clinical service, volunteering, or fundraising activities.

Interprofessional Community Clinic

Outstanding Student Organization Award

Recognizes a student organization that has provided outstanding programs, educational activities, and interactions throughout the year.

Student National Medical Association

Outstanding Established Program Award

Recognizes an organization that has committed their time, energy, and resources to adding to the fiber of our university by hosting a program in which the local and campus community have been participants.

St. Baldrick's Day

Team Unity Award

Recognizes the outstanding contributions of a multicultural organization with strong membership and meaningful programming.

Latino Medical Student Association

Outstanding Collaboration Award

Recognizes multiple organizations that have hosted a program via a singular partnership, strategically collaborating towards a common goal.

SOL Winter Clothing Drive for the Holy Family Soup Kitchen

Rising Rosalind Award

Recognizes students who are intentionally devoted to the highest standard in programming, have unwavering loyalty to organization members, and a deep commitment to social justice.

Alayna Dieter, CHP '22, CMS '26

Emily Mirochnick, CMS '24



Outstanding D&I Peer Mentorship Award

Recognizes an individual who exhibited notable dedication and consistency while participating in a mentorship role.

Yasmine Choroomi, CMS '24

Stewardship Award

Recognizes a student leader who has demonstrated outstanding stewardship and leadership within student organizations while also assisting to develop the leadership abilities of their fellow members.

Jiyeon Park, CMS '24

Outstanding Ambassador Award

Recognizes students who have gone beyond the call of duty to promote RFUMS to prospective students.

Reed Berlet, CMS '24

Jungyun Ko, CMS '24

Shannon Gurley, CMS '24

Outstanding Community Member Award

Recognizes a Student Housing resident who has made a significant impact on the residential community by making a worthwhile contribution to their building or floor, demonstrating leadership skills, or helping to build community within the residential program.

Nahae Kim, CMS '23

Commitment to Research Award

Recognizes a student leader who promotes research and the creation of new knowledge within their

student organization or activity.

Ariel Azhdam, CMS '22

Outstanding Service in Tutoring Award

Recognizes a student who has made a significant impact on the academic success of the classmates they tutored, providing motivation and inspiration.

Sarah Arora, CMS '24

Helix Award

Recognizes an organization or individual that has creatively added to the DNA of RFUMS by showing outstanding dedication, leadership, and contributions to our campus community.

Peter Lorenz, CMS '22

Chicago Medical School Student Leadership Award

Recognizes an awardee from CMS for their demonstration of exemplary leadership qualities.

Rachel To, CMS '23

At-Large Student Leadership Award

Recognizes an awardee from RFU for their demonstration of exemplary leadership qualities.

Sahil Sharma, CMS '25 ■

From left to right: Sahil Sharma, CMS '25, with Dr. Archana Chatterjee. Rachel To, CMS '23; Viral Mistry, SGPS '24; Nahae Kim, CMS '23; and Melanie Klemond, CMS '24. Juan Medina-Echeverria, CMS '25, with Shelly Brzycki. Emily Mirochnick, CMS '24, and Alayna Dieter, CHP '22, CMS '26, with Rachael Lange. Rachel To with Dr. Jeanette Morrison.



CMS Students Present Research at Shriners Children's



Two CMS students gave research presentations at Shriners Children's Hospital in Chicago on July 27 as part of Shriners' Medical Student Research Grand Rounds. **Sahil Sharma** and **Shahzaib Haider**, both CMS '25, represented the Orthopaedic Surgery Interest Group with their presentations.

Sahil, who is president of the interest group, presented "Scoliosis in Osteogenesis Imperfecta Patients." Osteogenesis imperfecta (OI), sometimes referred to as brittle bone disease, describes a heterogeneous collection of heritable skeletal disorders which traditionally present with symptoms of bone fragility. The overwhelming majority of these cases present with pathology that is secondary to a mutation of connective tissue, specifically of Type 1 Collagen. The hallmark indication of osteogenesis imperfecta is bone fragility with a high propensity

towards fracturing under less than anticipated trauma/load. Additionally, patients with OI have a diverse spectrum of symptomatology with an exceedingly high incidence of scoliosis, regardless of typing.

Currently, the surgical intervention protocol calls for posterior spinal fusion surgery; however, there is sparse literature on its impact on the patient's quality of life. The purpose of Sahil's case report is to describe the positive and negative outcomes of spinal fusion surgery on scoliosis in OI patients through the lens of the ICF model that enables measurable progression in the metrics of Body Functions & Structures, Activities, and Participation. With the close mentorship of Dr. Joseph Krzak, Dr. Peter Smith, and Dr. Teresa Cappello, Sahil is presenting a case study of posterior spinal fusion

surgery on a scoliotic patient with osteogenesis imperfecta who was treated at Shriners Children's Hospital in Chicago.

Shahzaib presented "Treatment of Longitudinal Deficiency of the Tibia." Longitudinal Deficiency of the Tibia (LDT), sometimes referred to as tibial hemimelia, is a rare congenital deficiency that presents with a spectrum of pathologies affecting the tibia. Because of the variety of states the tibia may be in, patients' presentations and their subsequent treatment varies as well. Three classification systems exist for categorizing LDT and guiding treatment: Jones, Paley, and Weber. Treatment has been guided

loosely on these classification systems with below-knee amputation and fibular transposition being the most common procedure.

Considering recent improvements in reconstructive options and the presence of multiple classification systems relying on multiple imaging modalities for the treatment of LDT, Shahzaib has been exploring the possibility of a uniform treatment protocol using the most comprehensive classification system. Through the help of Dr. Teresa Cappello and Dr. Jeffrey Ackman, he created a case study of three patients seen at Shriners Children's Hospital. ■

Welcoming New Students to CMS



CMS welcomed incoming students to the community at a special event for M1s from groups underrepresented in medicine. The new M1s had a chance to meet CMS leadership and faculty, as well as recent alumni Dr. Victoria Hooker and Dr. Leslie Amonoo, both from the CMS Class of 2020. The event was sponsored by the RFU Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion; the CMS Offices of Student Affairs and Admissions; and the CMS Office of Excellence in Diversity and Inclusion. ■



Farewell to Dr. Gordon Pullen

Dr. Pullen Retires After 30 Years at CMS

Chicago Medical School bid farewell to **Gordon Pullen**, PhD '82, in June as he retired from his positions as the Associate Dean for Basic Science Education, the Vice Chair of Foundational Sciences and Humanities, and the Discipline Chair of Humanities and Healthcare, after 30 years at CMS.

Dr. Pullen has a long history with CMS. He was first associated with the school (formerly known as the University of Health Sciences/The Chicago Medical School) in 1976 when he enrolled as a graduate student in the Physiology and Biophysics Department, later graduating in 1982.

He officially joined CMS in 1992 as an Assistant Dean for Educational Affairs, working with Dr. Tim Hansen in the Educational Affairs Office, primarily in academic support and working with students preparing for the USMLE Step 1 exam. Over his 30 years of service at CMS, he has held many leadership positions of increasing responsibility.

During his retirement, Dr. Pullen looks forward to catching up on his reading, reviving favorite hobbies, engaging in volunteer community service, traveling when possible, and generally spending more time with his family.

We thank Dr. Pullen for his dedicated service to CMS and wish him a wonderful retirement! ■







White Coat Ceremony

Chicago Medical School celebrated the Class of 2026 on August 13 as the new students attended their White Coat Ceremony, a traditional rite-of-passage event commemorating the beginning of medical students' journey as physicians-in-training. The audience heard from faculty, alumni, and student speakers, culminating in the moment when each member of the Class of 2026 donned their white coat for the first time. The classes' four learning community mentors — the physician-educators who will mentor them throughout their four years of medical school — bestowed the white coats upon the students, symbolically welcoming them to the medical profession.

"Congratulations to each of you for being here as you are on the brink of receiving your white coat and all that it represents: professionalism, caring, trust, authority, and achievement," said **Archana**

Chatterjee, MD, PhD, dean of Chicago Medical School and vice dean for medical affairs, RFU.

U.S. Navy Capt. (Retired) **Romeo Ignacio Jr.**, MD '97, MS '97, MS '93, delivered the keynote address, giving students advice that he had learned from his 24 years in the Navy, where he served as a Naval Surgeon, an educator, and a humanitarian. He explained that just as his Navy uniform had represented the values of honor, courage, and commitment, the physician's white coat represents certain traits that medical students must learn to embody, including trust, empathy, and compassion.

"Treat others with respect and constantly be professional," he said. "Being humble sets the tone for other qualities such as diligence, compassion, and patience. All of these virtues lead to the road to being a good physician."



Dr. Ignacio also advised the students to be courageous, honest, and resilient, with integrity and respect toward all. He concluded by encouraging the students to remain thankful. "The path will be long, and it will be challenging," he told them. "But remember to enjoy this amazing journey in medicine."

Two members of the Class of 2025 addressed their new peers during the ceremony: **Juan Medina-Echeverria**, Class President, and **Raisa Munshi**. Juan reflected on the meaning of the white coat, recalling his first experience wearing it in a hospital setting, during a medical research internship at the Mayo Clinic the summer after his M1 year. He described the experience as bittersweet, because although he found himself being treated with attention and respect, it highlighted how he had not always been treated that way, as a person of color and a former nurse. Juan encouraged his fellow students to treat everyone with respect and to help others during their journey to becoming a physician.

"Don't forget your roots. Don't forget the community where you came from. And don't forget the reason why you're doing this today," he told the Class of 2026. "We want to become doctors not just for our own sake, but because we want to make other people's lives better. We didn't do this for respect or prestige; our mission is to serve."

Raisa talked about the importance of being open to new thoughts and experiences, urging the new students to go beyond their comfort zones, learning from their failures and challenging their perspectives. She also encouraged them to always cultivate their humanity, in order to become compassionate physicians who will work to improve the healthcare field by pursuing health equity and justice for all patients.

"I wish you all the best," Raisa said in conclusion, "and I know that each and every one of you will find your place here in CMS." ■

Welcoming Dr. Amanda Simanek

*Founding Director of RFU's
Michael Reese Foundation
Center for Health Equity
Research*



Chicago Medical School is pleased to welcome **Amanda M. Simanek**, PhD, MPH, who joined the university this summer as founding director of the new Michael Reese Research and Education Foundation Center for Health Equity Research. A \$877,200 grant from our philanthropic partner, the Michael Reese Research and Education Foundation, made the establishment of the new research center possible and helps advance CMS and RFU's commitment to improving health equity.

Dr. Simanek is a social epidemiologist who studies the psychosocial determinants of infectious disease, links between infection and chronic disease, and the pathways by which social inequities in health occur across a lifespan and across generations. Prior to joining RFU, she was an associate professor of epidemiology at the Joseph J. Zilber School of Public Health at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee.

She earned a BA in Women's Studies and Political Science from UW-Madison. She went on to earn a Master of Public Health degree in International Health Epidemiology and a doctorate in Epidemiologic

Science from the University of Michigan School of Public Health.

Dr. Simanek's research related to infectious disease has been published in leading journals including the *International Journal of Epidemiology*; the *Journal of Infectious Diseases*; and *Brain, Behavior and Immunity*. Her research has been funded by the National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities and the Marmot Prince Mahidol Fellowship at the Institute for Health Equity at University College London. Dr. Simanek has also served on multiple expert advisory boards and work-groups during the COVID-19 pandemic — including for the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, the Milwaukee County Unified Emergency Operations Center Epi Intel Team, and the Wisconsin Army National Guard's pandemic response team.

At RFU's new health-equity center, Dr. Simanek will continue her focus on psychosocial determinants of infectious diseases and the underlying pathways between social disadvantage and poor health across generations. The center will facilitate health

equity-focused research projects that “address upstream socio-structural determinants of health and involve interventions aimed at reducing health equities in Lake County, Illinois,” Dr. Simanek said. “Specifically, the center will aim to serve as a resource to researchers, interprofessional trainees, and community partners who wish to engage in health equity-focused research.”

“The Michael Reese Research and Education Foundation congratulates both Dr. Simanek and Rosalind Franklin University,” said William Chamberlin, MD, FACP, chairman of the foundation’s Board of Directors. “The school has made an outstanding choice for its inaugural director. We look forward to substantial contributions to the health of the nation and to Lake County in particular.” ■



Student Dean Corner

Each quarter, student dean Nick Adimi will give updates on the projects he will be working on throughout the year.

Dear fellow classmates:

I would like to introduce myself to you all. My name is Nick Adimi and I am excited to be your new Student Dean for the coming year. I am a current M3 student and am originally from the DC area. I will keep this first introduction short but wanted to say to everyone that I want to be an open resource for you all. All emails are welcome and they do not have to be just related to the Student Dean role.

I am hoping that with COVID-19 restrictions being rolled back more and more, that we can have more on-campus activities and create a friendly and welcoming community. In regards to upcoming projects, I have a couple ideas that I am working on but since I just recently took the position, nothing has much traction. I will keep you all updated when

new items develop. If there are any ideas or suggestions you may have, please do not hesitate to email me at student.deancms@rfums.org.

This has been one of my shorter updates but I hope to have more for all of you in the upcoming months. I am excited for the upcoming year and wish you all the best in your endeavors.

Sincerely,

Nick Adimi
Chicago Medical School Student Dean, 2022-23
Chicago Medical School Class of 2024

Graduate Medical Education (GME) News

Celebrating Our New Graduates

CMS celebrated on June 9 as 22 internal medicine residents, 8 psychiatry residents, and 9 internal medicine subspecialty fellows graduated in the first in-person ceremony in three years. Congratulations to all the graduates, and we wish you the best of luck in the next stage of your careers!



Graduating FHCC internal medicine residents — Front row: Dr. Shubham Agarwal, Dr. Aravind Kuchkuntla, Dr. Azib Shahid, and Dr. Venkata Nagineni; Back row: Associate program director Dr. William Cotter, Dr. Swetha Paduri, Dr. Sumaiya Khaja, Dr. Sreedevi Pallath Harshakumar, Dr. Nehal Patel, Dr. Madeeha Banu, Dr. Shreya Desai, assistant professor Dr. Ashley Wang, and program director Dr. Jonathan Daniels.



Graduating psychiatry residents — Front row: Dr. Allison Lawler, Dr. Loveleen Khehra, Dr. Sherin Vachaparambil, and Dr. Wendy You; Back row: Dr. Pawel Tesmer, Dr. Frank Walch, program director Dr. Paul Hung, Dr. Rajan Iyer, and Dr. Jasleen Singh.



All graduating residents and fellows, along with program directors.

Graduate Medical Education (GME) News



Graduating Northwestern Medicine McHenry internal medicine residents — Front row: Dr. Natalia Dyatlova, Dr. Nissie Pogula, Dr. Nayha Tahir, and Dr. Aneeba Farooqi; Back row: Dr. Annie Skariah, Dr. Yetunde Omotosho, Dr. Robin Sherchan, Dr. Lalitha Vermireddy, Dr. Hafiz Jeelani, Dr. Harvey Patel, and Dr. Aatma Ram.



Graduating cardiovascular disease and interventional cardiology fellows: Dr. Murtaza Mirza, Dr. Neha Patel, Dr. Bobby Diniotis, program director Dr. Sandeep Khosla, and Dr. Gaurav Sharma.

Graduating EMG Fellow

Chicago Medical School's EMG Fellowship (Clinical Electrodiagnostic Medicine) celebrated its graduating fellow on June 17. **Anthony Savino, MD**, graduated from the one-year fellowship and celebrated the occasion with program leadership at Maggiano's in Naperville. ■

Graduate Anthony Savino, MD, with Noel Rao, MD, professor of physical medicine and rehabilitation (PM&R); Bharathi Swaminathan, MD, EMG fellowship director and chair and associate professor of PM&R; and Jeffrey Oken, MD, associate professor of PM&R.



Graduate Medical Education (GME) News

Residency Awards

Psychiatry residents and internal medicine residents (FHCC) were recognized for their outstanding clinical teaching, research, and patient care during awards ceremony dinners held on June 10 and June 12, respectively. Congratulations to all the residents who received awards!

Psychiatry Awards

The winners of the psychiatry residents' annual poster competition, held this past April, received their awards at the graduation dinner. **Allison Lawler**, MD, and **Jasleen Singh**, MD, received first place for their poster titled "Intern Orientation: A Quality Improvement Initiative." **Ali Khoshkish**, MD, received second place for his poster titled "Identifying 'Operator Syndrome': A Unique Constellation of Medical and Behavioral Health-Care Needs of Special Operations Forces." **Pragati Mamtara**, MD, received third place for her poster titled "Inpatient Psychiatric Care for Transgender Youth." **Gary Wu**, MD, received the "faculty choice" prize for his poster titled "Review of Antipsychotic Use in Children with Disruptive Behavior Disorders."

Sally Chu, MD, received the **Collegiality and Humanism Award**, given in honor of Dr. Chandra Vedak, a CMS associate professor of psychiatry and behavioral sciences who completed his psychiatry residency at CMS, also serving as chief resident from 1985-87. This award is given in recognition of "going the extra mile" for fellow residents.

Ryan Stefancik, DO (junior resident) and **Allison Lawler**, MD (senior resident)

received the **Marc Fahami Award for Passion in Psychiatry**, awarded to two residents each year for demonstrating a passion for the field of psychiatry and care of psychiatric patients.

Allison Fassett, MD, was named **Resident Teacher of the Year**, an honor awarded by medical students in Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences for excellence in teaching medical students.

Some faculty also received awards, nominated by psychiatry residents. **Anatoliy Pyslar**, MD, assistant professor, received the **Clinical Teacher of the Year Award**, while **Joshua Williams**, MD, assistant professor, received the **Academic Teacher of the Year Award**. **Jasleen Singh**, MD, graduating resident, and **Lawrence Robbins**, MD, associate professor of neurology, received the **Faculty Service Award**.



Graduate Medical Education (GME) News

Dr. Jasleen Singh also received the **CDR Burke Culture of Excellence Award for Therapeutic Impact**, a special award given by the Captain James A. Lovell Federal Health Care Center (FHCC). The award honors the legacy of CDR David Burke, a pioneering Psychologist Officer who embodied servant leadership excellence in the formative years of the FHCC. Dr. Singh was the first psychiatric resident to ever earn this recognition; the award is typically given to practicing physicians who have already completed their residency training.

Internal Medicine Rewards

Amin Ur Rehman Nadeem, MD, received the **Max H. Weil Excellence in Clinical Teaching Award**, which recognizes an individual with outstanding teaching in a clinical setting.

Jabeen Abutalib, MD, received the **James B. Hammond Humanitarian Award**, which recognizes

an individual who has exhibited humanitarianism for the community or the world.

Nehal Patel, MD, was named **Outstanding Graduating Medical Resident**, while **Aamani Bavanasi, MD**, was named **Outstanding Medical Intern**.

Hassan Hashm, DO, received the **Eric Gall Professionalism Award**, which recognizes the resident or fellow who demonstrates the highest degree of welfare for their patients and aspires to altruism, accountability, excellence, duty, service, honor, integrity, and respect for others and for the health needs of society. ■

Opposite page: *Dr. Jasleen Singh receives the CDR Burke Culture of Excellence Award for Therapeutic Impact, presented by Dr. Vincent Colbert of the FHCC.*

Below, from left to right: *Dr. Ryan Stefancik with psychiatry program director Dr. Paul Hung; Dr. Nehal Patel and Dr. Aamani Bavanasi with internal medicine program director Dr. Jonathan Daniels.*



Graduate Medical Education (GME) News

Resident Wellness Events

Residents from the Northwestern Medicine McHenry internal medicine program gathered in May for a wellness retreat.



Psychiatry residents enjoyed their first wellness event of the new academic year, holding a potluck picnic at Guardian Park on July 14 to relax and enjoy some food while meeting the new residents. ■

Graduate Medical Education (GME) News

Other News

Four residents received awards at Chicago Medical School's Alpha Omega Alpha (AOA) induction ceremony on May 31. **Megan Biggs**, MD, PGY-3, internal medicine resident (FHCC); **Sally Chu**, MD, PGY-3, psychiatry resident; **Jashan Gill**, MD, PGY-3, internal medicine resident (Northwestern Medicine); and **Hans Wang**, MD, PGY-4, psychiatry resident, all received resident awards.

Om Parkash, MD, PGY-3, internal medicine resident, authored an essay titled "The Dilemma of End-of-Life Discussions" which was published on the

Educational Commission for Foreign Medical Graduates' "Journeys in Medicine" blog. In his essay, Dr. Parkash reflected on the scientific and cultural factors that can affect palliative care treatment and end-of-life discussions, and described some of his experiences treating patients in the ICU during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Jasleen Singh, MD, R '22, recent psychiatry residency graduate, authored an article titled "The Complex Role of Oxytocin in Major Depressive Disorder," published in the June 2022 issue of *Clinical and Experimental Health Sciences*.

Gary Wu, MD, PGY-2, psychiatry resident, was first author on an article titled "Forensic Neuropathologic Phenotypes of Fungal Central Nervous System Infections: A Case Series," published in the *American Journal of Forensic Medicine and Pathology*. ■

Recipients of the Alpha Omega Alpha resident awards, counterclockwise from left: Dr. Hans Wang, Dr. Jashan Gill, and Dr. Sally Chu.



Alumni News

California Alumni Visit

CMS Dean Dr. Archana Chatterjee and Dr. Brenda Affinati, Associate Dean for Clinical Affairs, went to Los Angeles in June to visit with CMS alumni in the area.



Alumni News



Dr. Chatterjee and George Rattin, RFU Executive Director of Development, stopped in San Diego in May to visit **CAPT. Romeo C. Ignacio Jr., USN, Ret., MD '97.** ■

Alumni News

Other Alumni News

Raymond S. Yen, MD '86, medical director of cardiology at eviCore Healthcare of Cigna, received the Alumni Seal Award for Service to Occidental College in Los Angeles.

James D. Swift, MD '88, was promoted to chief operating officer of Mednax, Inc., a national medical group of physicians practicing under the Pediatrix® brand.

Matthew N. Denenberg, MD '94, MS '91, was appointed chief of pediatrics for Beaumont Hospital in Royal Oak, Michigan; chair of pediatrics for Oakland University William Beaumont School of Medicine; physician executive for Beaumont Medical Group pediatric subspecialties; and chief of the pediatrics service line for Beaumont Health.

Tony A. Hampton, MD '95, MBA, south Chicagoland medical director of family medicine for Advocate Aurora Health, was recognized by the *Chicago Defender* as one of the 2022 Men of Excellence Honorees.

Stephanie A. Whyte, MD '96, MBA, and **Cynthia Y. Abban**, MD '12, PhD '10, were alumni initiates of the CMS Delta Chapter of the Illinois Alpha Omega Alpha Honor Medical Society.

Mwata O. Dyson, MD '00, MPH, was named president of Volt Impact Partners in Nashville, Tennessee.

Michael F. Huang, MD '02, was appointed chief medical officer of DTx Pharma, Inc., in San Diego.

Kimberley Darey, MD '04, an obstetrician-gynecologist, chief medical officer and vice president

of medical affairs at Elmhurst Hospital, led the recitation of the Oath of Geneva and **Sidharth Mahapatra**, MD '09, PhD '07, welcomed the Class of 2022 into the ranks of alumni at Rosalind Franklin University's 108th Commencement Celebration on June 3.

Jason J. Luke, MD '06, director of the Immunotherapy and Drug Development Center at the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine, presented "A New Way to Kill Tumors IO102-IO103 in Combination with Anti-PD-1 in Advanced Melanoma" as part of IO Biotech's key opinion leader webinar series.

Samreen Vora, MD '10, medical director of simulation at Children's Hospitals and Clinics of Minnesota, authored the article "Trends in Simulation: Using Technology to Enhance Medical Care," published in *CIO Applications*.

Gabriela Iagaru, MD, R '12, was named interim medical director of the Child and Adolescent Inpatient Psychiatry Service at Cambridge Health Alliance in Brookline, Massachusetts.

Nyembezi L. Dhliwayo, MD '18, R '21, a PGY-4 hospice and palliative medicine fellow at Rush University Medical Center, presented "Barriers to Transplantation for Undocumented Immigrants" at the Illinois Medical District Palliative Conference.

Samuel Bunting, MD '21, co-authored the article "Teaching Health Equity: A Medical School and a Community-Based Research Center Partnership," published in *Progress in Community Health Partnerships: Research, Education, and Action*, a journal from Johns Hopkins University. ■

STAFF CORNER

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



Allie Cassidy

Student Programs Coordinator,
Office of Student Affairs
Time at CMS: 3 years

Allie Cassidy joined CMS in 2019 as Student Programs Coordinator in the Office of Academic Learning Environment, supporting the CMS learning community mentor program and the House Council. When the Office of Student Affairs was created last year, Allie (and the House and Learning Community Program) moved to the new office.

Allie earned a B.A. degree in Arts and Material Conservation from Columbia College Chicago. “Though I studied and trained in art conservation, I have found a home in higher education,” she said. “Being in a position that focuses on student wellness, both in the classroom and out of it, is one of the most rewarding things I’ve done.”

In her role as Student Programs Coordinator, Allie provides support and resources to the learning community mentors, the 16 educator-physicians who teach, mentor, and advise a cohort of students across their four years of medical school. Allie’s tasks include planning House events, organizing advising sessions, and keeping the mentors up-to-date with happenings at the school. She also works with students in the House Council to organize events focused on building community, fostering academic success, and having fun. Additionally, she contributes to events supported by the Office of Student Affairs, such as the White Coat Ceremony.

Allie recently transitioned out of an additional role as the coordinator for the Principles of Professionalism, Healthcare, and Health Equity course (formerly the Clinical Reflections course), a four-year, longitudinal series which prepares students for the practice of medicine in the contemporary social and cultural healthcare environment, examining topics like professionalism, ethics, health disparities and healthcare inequities, social determinants of health, implicit bias, and the physician’s role in the community. In this role, Allie was responsible for scheduling and facilitating the course sessions, including during the pandemic when all 16 mentors had to meet with their learning communities on Zoom.

When asked about her favorite part of working at CMS, Allie mentioned the people, saying, “My team has always been supportive professionally and personally.”

In her spare time, Allie likes to paint, cook, and do historical fencing. ■

School & Department News

Awards & Accomplishments



Alan Begian, CMS '25, has been elected to the university's Executive Student Council as Treasurer for the 2022-2023 academic year.

Maureen Benjamins, PhD, assistant professor of medicine at CMS and senior research fellow at the Sinai Urban Health Institute, was initiated as a Fellow of the Institute of Medicine of Chicago (IOMC) in April. Fellows are selected based on meritorious professional contributions, recognized leadership in medicine or public health, demonstrated interest in the health of the community, and high ethical standards. The IOMC is an independent non-profit organization of distinguished leaders in the health field who address critical health issues through a range of interdisciplinary approaches including education, research, communication of trusted information, and community engagement.



Jim Carlson, PhD '12, PA-C '01, vice president for interprofessional education and simulation, and **Robin Dyer**, MD, OTR, instructor of medicine and healthcare simulation, have developed and published a case-based virtual simulation. The case, titled "Psychosis after MDMA Use," is an important new learning and training tool that exposes medical professionals and students with a simulation of an ER patient in a medical emergency

due to a recreational drug crisis experience. Dr. Carlson and Dr. Dyer designed the case to improve clinician understanding of patients who experience adverse effects from taking the street drug MDMA (ecstasy). The simulation program has been used by thousands of students and clinicians and is available on Full Code, a popular app and web-based medical simulation for practice in clinical decision-making.

Dr. Carlson appeared on *Chicago's Afternoon News* on WGN Radio on June 28 to discuss RFU's use of the case simulation program.



Dr. Jim Carlson



Dr. Robin Dyer



Michelle Hastings, PhD, professor of cell biology and anatomy and director of the Center for Genetic Diseases, received a two-year, \$323,000 grant from the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation for her research study "Antisense Oligonucleotides for the Treatment of Cystic Fibrosis."

The university's **INSPIRE**, **Science Saturdays**, and **Camp Med** programs received a 2022 Inspiring Programs in STEM Award from *INSIGHT Into Diversity* magazine. This

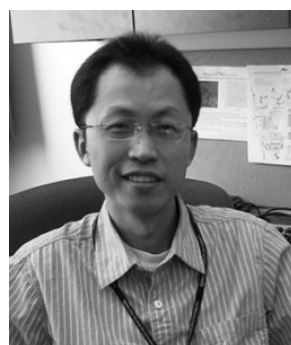
School & Department News

award honors colleges and universities that encourage and assist students from underrepresented groups to enter the fields of science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM). According to *INSIGHT Into Diversity*, award recipients were selected “based on efforts to inspire and encourage a new generation of young people to consider careers in STEM through mentoring, teaching, research, and successful programs and initiatives.”

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Matthew Kim, CMS '25, co-president of the Internal Medicine Interest Group, has been selected as a recipient of the \$20,000 Health Professional Scholarship from the Cook County Health Provident Scholarship Fund. The Health Professionals Scholarship will support awardees who demonstrate a commitment to serve the healthcare needs of underrepresented communities in Cook County.

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Min Lu, PhD, associate professor of biochemistry and molecular biology, Center for Proteomics and Molecular Therapeutics, received a four-year, \$1.3 million grant from the National Institutes of Health for his research study “Molecular Basis of Substrate Translocation in the Drug/H⁺ Antiporter 1 Family.”

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Hector Rasgado-Flores, PhD, professor of physiology and biophysics, has been named a recipient of the prize for “Science, Arts, and Biomedical Contributions for a Better Life” by the Universidad Biomédica Rafael Guízar y Valencia in Xalapa, Mexico. The prize was delivered on August 12 in Xalapa during an award ceremony as part of the Universidad’s Congreso Unibio, an annual meeting featuring workshops, forums, theory and practice discussions, and science activities for students in the humanities, biomedical, and arts fields.



Presentations & Publications



Dr. Dima Arbach

Dima Arbach, MD, assistant professor of psychiatry and behavioral sciences, presented at the 2022 AAMC Group on Faculty Affairs Professional Development Virtual Conference on July 13, joined by **Nutan Vaidya**, MD, vice dean for faculty affairs and equity. During the presentation, titled “Reimagining Faculty Engagement via a Collaborative and Innovative Program,” Dr. Arbach discussed the new faculty engagement and wellness program initiated at CMS in the summer of 2021 with the goal of engaging and recognizing off-campus faculty, and the initial promising outcomes the program has had so far.

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Dr. Nutan Vaidya

Hasnain Bawaadam, MD, MPH, CMS associate professor of medicine and Director of Pulmonary Medicine Services at

School & Department News

Advocate Aurora Medical Center in Kenosha, Wisconsin, gave a medical grand rounds presentation on May 11 titled “Bronchial Thermoplasty in Difficult to Treat Asthma: A Concise Review and Update.”

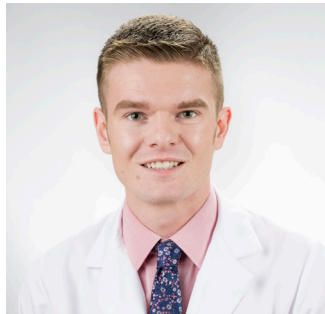


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Maureen Benjamins, PhD, assistant professor of medicine at CMS and senior research fellow at the Sinai Urban Health Institute (SUHI), and **Samuel Bunting**, MD '21, co-authored an article titled “Teaching Health Equity: A Medical School and a Community-Based Research Center Partnership,” published in *Progress in Community Health Partnerships: Research, Education, and Action*, a journal from Johns Hopkins University. The article discusses the unique SUHI-CMS partnership, highlighting the summer internship program, which has provided equity-focused and community-engaged research opportunities for CMS students for the past 10 years.



Dr. Maureen Benjamins



Dr. Samuel Bunting

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Archana Chatterjee, MD, PhD, dean of Chicago Medical School and vice president for medical affairs, RFU, recently co-authored three publications:

- She contributed to an invited commentary titled “Lasting Solutions for Advancement of Women of Color.” In the article, published in *Academic Medicine*,

a journal of the Association of American Medical Colleges, Dr. Chatterjee joined five other education and healthcare leaders to discuss strategies to break barriers and increase parity in the biomedical workforce for women of color,



and the importance of creating and supporting pathways to leadership for women who come from underrepresented groups.

- She co-authored a chapter titled “Leadership in Pediatrics” in the book *Women in Pediatrics: The Past, Present and Future*,
- She co-authored the article “Factors Influencing Retirement Decisions of Senior Faculty at U.S. Medical Schools: Are There Gender-Based Differences?,” published in the *Journal of Women’s Health*.

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The following Chicago Medical School faculty and students contributed to a scientific poster titled “Evaluating the Clinical Relevance of Age Prediction/ Actual Age Discrepancy Utilizing a Convolutional Neural Network Paired with a Regression Algorithm Applied to T2 Weighted Fast Spin-Echo and Fluid Attenuated Inversion Recovery Images of the Brain,” presented at the American Society of Neuroradiology 2022 Annual Meeting/Symposium Neuroradiologicum XXII, held in New York City on May 13-16: **Mark Conneely**, MD, CIIP, professor and discipline chair of radiology; **Bharathi Swaminathan**, MD, discipline chair and associate professor of physical medicine and rehabilitation; **Piyush Vyas**, MD, assistant professor of radiology; **Xuanzhen Piao**, CMS '22; **Arjumand Fatima**, CMS '22; **Paras Patel**, CMS '22; **James Burke**, CMS '22; **Brandon Golant**, CMS '22; and **Ryan Nolcheff**, CMS '23, with Lake Forest

School & Department News

College students Arthur Bousquet, Sara Zelenberg, and Sugata Banerji.



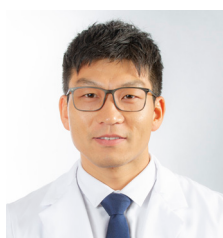
Dr. Mark Conneely



Dr. Bharathi Swaminathan



Dr. Piyush Vyas



Xuanzhen Piao



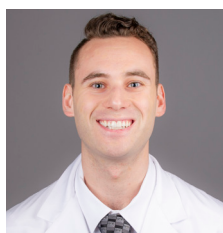
Arjumand Fatima



Paras Patel



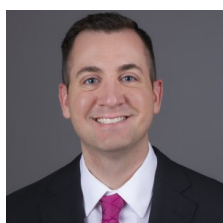
James Burke



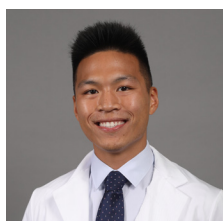
Brandon Golant



Ryan Nolcheff



Dr. Brian Feinstein



Jim Zhang

Brian Feinstein, PhD, associate professor of psychology and humanities and health care; **Amitha Prasad Gumidyala**, MD, instructor of psychiatry and behavioral sciences; and **Jim Zhang**, CMS '23, contributed to research posters presented at the 2022 Association of Psychological Sciences Annual Convention, held May 26-29 in Chicago.

Robert Marr, PhD, associate professor of neuroscience and assistant dean for research, presented a poster titled "The Absence of NEP-like Amyloid-beta Degrading Enzymes Improves Motor/Memory



Performance Post Brain Injury in Mice" as part of the Captain James A. Lovell Federal Health Care Center's (FHCC) National VA Research Week celebration.



Dr. Ron Kaplan

June A. Mayor, BA, research laboratory manager, Center for Proteomics and Molecular Therapeutics, and **Ronald S. Kaplan**, PhD, RFU executive vice president for research, CMS vice dean for research, and professor of biochemistry and molecular biology,

contributed to the invited review article "Citrate Transporter Inhibitors: Possible New Anticancer Agents," published in *Future Medicinal Chemistry*.

David Mueller, PhD, professor of biochemistry and molecular biology, and **Mallory Terrado**, PhD, research associate, both from the Center for Genetic Diseases, published the manuscript "TNK2/ACK1-Mediated Phosphorylation of ATP5F1A (ATP Synthase F1 Subunit Alpha) Selectively Augments Survival of Prostate Cancer while Engendering Mitochondrial Vulnerability" in the journal



Dr. David Mueller

School & Department News

Autophagy. The publication was a collaborative study with researchers from Washington University headed by Dr. Nupam Mahajan.

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Judy Potashkin, PhD, professor of cellular and molecular pharmacology, Center for Neurodegenerative Disease and Therapeutics, and colleagues from NeuroHub Analytics, LLC, and Q Regulating Systems, LLC, co-authored the research article “Physical Activity Rewires the Human Brain Against Neurodegeneration,” published in the *International Journal of Molecular Science*.

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Hector Rasgado-Flores, PhD, professor of physiology and biophysics, gave a Master Teacher Guild presentation on June 9 titled “Mozart, Music & Epilepsy.”

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Joseph Reynolds, PhD, associate professor of microbiology and immunology, Center for Cancer Cell Biology, Immunology and Infection, gave a presentation titled “Modeling Organophosphate Exposure and Gastrointestinal Dysfunction in a Model of Gulf War Illness” as part of the Captain James A. Lovell Federal Health Care Center’s (FHCC) National VA Research Week celebration.



Neelam Sharma-Walia, PhD, MS, associate professor of microbiology and immunology, Center for Cancer Cell Biology, Immunology, and Infection, gave a presentation on May 25 as part of the Department of Clinical

Sciences’ medical grand rounds series. Her presentation, “Gender Disparity in Clinical Trials,” addressed the challenges and dangers caused by inequitable representation in clinical trials. Dr. Sharma-Walia discussed the physiological differences in gender at the molecular level in disease presentation and progression. If therapeutic drugs are tested solely or mostly on males during clinical trials, this makes the benefit and risk assessments of those drugs difficult, as clinical outcome may differ based on the gender of the patient.

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Bharathi Swaminathan, MD, discipline chair and associate professor of physical medicine and rehabilitation, has been invited to present at the American Association of Neuromuscular & Electrodiagnostic Medicine



(AANEM) Annual Meeting on September 22 in Nashville, TN. Dr. Swaminathan will present on the topic “Neuromuscular Medicine Education in the Veterans Healthcare Administration.” Her presentation will be part of the AANEM’s first-ever session on Neuromuscular Medicine in the Federal Healthcare System.

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Janice H. Urban, PhD, professor of physiology and biophysics and director of the Center for Neurobiology

School & Department News



of Stress Resilience and Psychiatric Disorders, was an invited speaker at the 2022 Stress Neurobiology Workshop, held at the University of South Carolina. She presented her work on neuropeptide Y and neuroplasticity in the basolateral amygdala as part of the “Stress and the Synapse” scientific session.

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Jaime Vantrease, PhD, research assistant professor of physiology and biophysics; **Amiel Rosenkranz**, PhD, professor of cellular and molecular pharmacology; and **Janice Urban**, PhD, professor of physiology and biophysics and director, Center for Neurobiology of Stress Resilience and Psychiatric Disorders, co-authored the study “Sex Differences in the Activity of Basolateral Amygdalar Neurons That Project to the Bed Nucleus of the Stria Terminalis and Their Role in Anticipatory Anxiety,” published in *The Journal of Neuroscience*.



Dr. Jaime Vantrease



Dr. Amiel Rosenkranz



Dr. Janice Urban

Events and Other News

On June 23, the CMS Office of Faculty Affairs and Equity hosted a virtual roundtable discussion on implicit and explicit biases, exclusion, and oversight from the Asian American perspective. The event, titled “What’s in a

Name?” featured insight from **Sonali Khandelwal**, MD, an associate professor in the Department of Internal Medicine, Division of Rheumatology, at Rush Medical College; **Johnny He**, PhD, CMS professor and discipline chair of microbiology and immunology and director of the Center for Cancer Cell Biology, Immunology, and Infection; and **June Mayor**, BA, research laboratory manager in the Center for Proteomics and Molecular Therapeutics. The roundtable discussion was hosted by **Nutan Vaidya**, MD, vice dean of faculty affairs and equity, and **Anne Lee**, MD '08, PhD '07, assistant professor of cell biology and anatomy.

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On June 25, Cook County Health’s **Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery (OMFS) program** held a ceremony to celebrate its first graduate. The ceremony included a brief presentation on the Chicago Medical School and Cook County Health’s joint MD/OMFS program, which was launched last year. This program is available to candidates who have completed dental school, with a DDS or DMD degree, and are applying for specialty training in oral and maxillofacial surgery. At the completion of the six-year, 72-month program, trainees will have both dental and medical degrees, two years of general surgery training, and a certificate of training in oral and maxillofacial surgery. ■



Interprofessionalism in Action



Two RFU alumnae, **Sara Khan**, MD '21, and **Mary Kavanaugh**, DPM '21, worked together on a trauma surgery as residents at MedStar Washington Hospital Center (WHC). Dr. Khan is completing her ophthalmology residency at Georgetown/WHC and Dr. Kavanaugh is completing her podiatry residency at WHC.

Dr. Khan and Dr. Kavanaugh have worked together before, in the gross anatomy lab at RFU, and we're glad to see their interprofessional education continuing beyond graduation!

Thank you to Sara Khan for sharing the photo with us.

We want to hear from you!

To submit information or news for upcoming issues, contact Candice Kosanke at candice.kosanke@rosalindfranklin.edu.



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