Student Clinician’s Ceremony
Class of 2023

Putting on Your Own White Coat

Virginia Tech Carilion School of Medicine

Tuesday, June 29, 2021
6 p.m.
Order of Events

**Processional** *(Gabriel’s Oboe, by Ennio Morricone)*
Virginia Tech Carilion School of Medicine Deans
Department Chairs
Clerkship Directors
Members of the Class of 2023

**Welcome**
Lee A. Learman, MD, PhD, Dean

**Introduction to Our Ceremony**
Aubrey L. Knight, MD, Senior Dean for Student Affairs

**Presentation of Humanism and Excellence in Teaching Awards**
William Reis, Class President

**Presentation of the Years 1 and 2 Teaching Awards**
Sahana Nazeer, Class President
Allison Strauss, Class Vice President
Class of 2023

**Keynote Address**
Randall R. Rhea, MD, Clinical Preceptor
Family and Community Medicine
Virginia Tech Carilion School of Medicine

**Guiding Principles for the Class of 2023**
Sahana Nazeer, Class President

**Affirming Our Professional Obligations:**
The Teacher-Learner Compact
Allison Strauss, Class Vice President
Clerkship Directors

**Recitation of the Oath**
Daniel P. Harrington, MD
Vice Dean

**Oath Recitation**
Members of the Class of 2023 and all physician faculty

**Toward the Clerkship Years: Putting on Your Own White Coat**
Class of 2023

**Closing Remarks**
Lee A. Learman, MD, PhD
Domain Leaders

**Recessional** *(Spring, from The Four Seasons by Antonio Vivaldi)*

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**MEMBERS OF THE CLASS OF 2023**

Luma Abunimer
Oscar Alcoreza
Anthony Anzivino
Neslihan Ari
Patrick Barrett
Shyam Bhatt
Shawna Bilton
Katherine Brow
Anna Buhle
Kendal Carter
Davin Combs
Madeline D’Aquila
April DeStefano
Alyssa Dewyer
Kathryn Hardin
Lauren Hennis
Leah Huang
Seo Hyun Kim
Camden Kurtz
Maya Langman
Mina Lee
Macy Marcucci
Richard McLane
Alexandra Miner
William Morrison
Sahana Nazeer
Kyle Nolan
Kevin Patel
Abra Roberts
Rebekah Sayre
Ellen Shrontz
Neha Singh
Shashank Somasundaram
Michael Spinosa
Brittany Stopa
Allison Strauss
Tommy To
Chukwuemeka Uwakaneme
Alyssa Vassallo
Sarah Yosief
Alexander Zhang


Guiding Principles for the Class of 2023

Together, we are a group of diverse individuals who will uphold our shared values of inclusivity through kindness, humility through reflection, and open-mindedness through respect. We seek out diverse perspectives, provide compassion for the whole self, and partner with our community. We find knowledge in books and experiences, inspiration in peers and patients, and humor in easy and difficult times. Together, we support each and every one of our classmates in the pursuit of truth and excellence.

Together, we are committed to the highest moral and ethical standards, allowing them to drive our passion and compassion for others. We pledge to maintain patience and optimism even when we feel overwhelmed or underestimated. We promise to serve our patients with respect to their inherent autonomy. We will champion integrity, challenge injustice, and embody professionalism.

Together, we will foster leadership as individuals and members of a greater community. We will remain lifelong learners throughout our careers. We will grow more confident in our skills and competencies. We will hold each other accountable for our actions. We will remember the value in asking for help even as we are eagerly helping others. We will adapt well to the unfamiliar by being more mindful of those around us. We will uphold humanity as a central tenet of our profession. Together, we will bring out the best in one another and ourselves.

Together, as the Class of 2023, we will remain steadfast to our principles in the hopes of enriching the lives of our peers, colleagues, school, community, and most importantly, our patients.

The Fundamental Principles of the VTC Teacher-Learner Compact

Faculty: As a teacher, I pledge to maintain currency in my professional knowledge and skills and to ensure excellence in the educational curriculum.

Learners: As a learner, I pledge to acquire the knowledge, skills, attitudes, and behaviors necessary to fulfill all established educational objectives.

Faculty: As a teacher, I pledge to be a model of professionalism in all of my interactions with learners, patients, colleagues, and staff and respond vigorously to unprofessional behavior and indications of abuse or exploitation of learners, patients, colleagues, or staff.

Learners: As a learner, I pledge to embody the professional virtues of integrity, empathy, altruism, compassion, respect, honesty, courage, and trustworthiness.

Faculty: As a teacher, I pledge to respect all learners, patients, colleagues, and staff as individuals, without regard to gender, age, race, national origin, religion, or sexual orientation, and oppose observed disrespect or bias.

Learners: As a learner, I pledge to respect as individuals, without regard to gender, race, national origin, religion, or sexual orientation, all patients, peers, faculty, and staff.

Faculty: As a teacher, I pledge to recognize and acknowledge the achievement of quantifiable academic excellence, and to create a safe environment in which learners can communicate any concern about breaches of this compact.

Learners: As a learner, I pledge to create a safe environment in which faculty and learners can communicate any concern about breaches of this compact.

Faculty: As a teacher, I accept the duty for instilling these attributes in learners for whom I have responsibility.

Learners: As a learner, I respect the faculty responsibility and pledge to accept the duty for inculcating these attributes in myself and my colleagues.
The Oath

I swear to fulfill, to the best of my ability and judgment, and with the support and encouragement of others, this covenant:

I will respect the hard-won scientific gains of those in whose steps I walk, and gladly share such knowledge as is mine with those who are to follow.

I will apply, for the benefit of my patients, all measures appropriate, avoiding those twin traps of overtreatment and undertreatment.

I will practice the art of medicine as well as science, remembering that warmth, sympathy, and understanding may outweigh the use of scalpel or drug.

I will not be ashamed to say "I know not," nor will I fail to call in my colleagues when the skills of another are needed.

I will remember that I do not care for a patient alone. Rather, I am part of an interprofessional team, all of whom offer their skills to assist with patient care and caring.

I will respect the privacy of my patients, for their problems are not disclosed to me that the world may know. Most especially must I tread with care in matters of life and death, recognizing this awesome responsibility must be faced with great humility and awareness of my own frailty.

I will remember that I do not treat data or disease, but a sick human being, whose illness may affect family and economic stability. My responsibility includes these related problems, if I am to care adequately for them.

I will prevent disease whenever I can, for prevention is preferable to cure.

I will remember that I remain a member of society, with special obligations to all my fellow human beings, those sound of mind and body as well as the infirm.

If I do not violate this oath, may I enjoy life and art, respected while I live and remembered with affection thereafter. May I always act so as to preserve the finest traditions of my calling and may I long experience the joy of serving those who seek my help.

Office of the Dean

Lee A. Learman, MD, Dean
Daniel P. Harrington, MD, Vice Dean
Michael J. Friedlander, PhD, Senior Dean for Research
Aubrey L. Knight, MD, Senior Dean for Student Affairs
David W. Musick, PhD, Senior Dean for Faculty Affairs
Richard C. Vari, PhD, Senior Dean for Academic Affairs
Nathaniel L. Bishop, DMin, Senior Associate Dean for Diversity, Inclusion, and Student Vitality
Tracey W. Criss, MD, Associate Dean for Clinical Science Years 3 and 4
Melanie K. Prusakowski, MD, Associate Dean for Admissions
Tarin A. Schmidt-Dalton, MD, Associate Dean for Clinical Science Years 1 and 2
David B. Trinkle, MD, Associate Dean for Community and Culture
Leslie LaConte, PhD, Assistant Dean for Research
Heidi A. Lane, Ed, Assistant Dean for Clinical Skills Assessment and Education
R. Brock Mutcheson, PhD, Assistant Dean for Assessment & Program Evaluation
Shari A. Whicker, EdD, MEd, Assistant Dean for Faculty Affairs
Azziza O. Bankole, MBBS, Chief Diversity Officer

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Michael P. Jeremiah, MD
Family and Community Medicine
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Radiology
Donald W. Kees, MD (interim)
Pediatrics
Joseph T. Moskal, MD
Orthopaedic Surgery
David W. Musick, PhD (interim)
Basic Science Education
Michael S. Nussbaum, MD
Surgery
Sarah H. Parker, PhD
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Paul R. Skolnik, MD
Internal Medicine
Robert L. Trestman, PhD, MD
Psychiatry
Fidel A. Valea, MD
Obstetrics and Gynecology

Clerkship Directors
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Allen Blackwood, MD
Internal Medicine
Joseph Hughes, MD
Radiology
Natalie Karp, MD
Obstetrics and Gynecology
Farrell Adkins, MD
Surgery
James Schmidley, MD
Neurology
Paul Stromberg, MD
Emergency Medicine
Eric Vance, MD
Psychiatry and Behavioral Medicine
E. Mark Watts, MD
Family and Community Medicine
The Student Clinician's Ceremony is designed to provide guidance, information, and support to medical students as they make the transition into their clinical years. The event aims to address some of the anxiety students may feel entering their clerkships.

By providing insight, exploring fears and expectations, and revisiting the oath taken during the White Coat Ceremony, the ceremony provides a forum for collective and reflective discussion of the students’ experiences. The ceremony also underscores the challenges and imperatives to providing humanistic care to patients at the same time that students are pressed to demonstrate high standards of skill performance. —The Arnold P. Gold Foundation

Special Thanks
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