



## CLASS OF 2020 COMMENCEMENT

Saturday, May 9, 2020



*For the safety of our students, their families and invited guests, our faculty, and our staff, to reduce the transmission of COVID-19, the Seventh Commencement of the Virginia Tech Carilion School of Medicine, scheduled for May 9, 2020, was held virtually. To view the recorded ceremony, visit [medicine.vtc.vt.edu/commencement2020](https://medicine.vtc.vt.edu/commencement2020).*

# ORDER OF EVENTS

## Welcome

Lee A. Learman, MD, PhD

Dean

Virginia Tech Carilion School of Medicine

## Commencement Addresses

Justine E. McGiboney, Class of 2020

Sol C. Moon, Class of 2020

Jon M. Sweet, MD

Associate Professor of Internal Medicine

Virginia Tech Carilion School of Medicine

Michael A. Gallagher, MD

Internal Medicine Resident, University of Virginia

Charlottesville, Virginia

Alumnus, Virginia Tech Carilion School of Medicine's Class of 2017

## Keynote Speaker

Timothy D. Sands, PhD

President

Virginia Tech

## Presentation of Degree Recipients

Aubrey L. Knight, MD

Senior Dean for Student Affairs

Virginia Tech Carilion School of Medicine

## Recitation of The Hippocratic Oath

## Welcome to the Profession

Lee A. Learman, MD, PhD

# CLASS OF 2020

## **Malek Hocine Bouzaher**

Otolaryngology—Cleveland Clinic, Cleveland, Ohio

Research Topic:

Percyete Coverage and Microvessel Caliber in Normal and Pre-eclamptic Pregnancies

Mentor:

John Chappell, PhD

## **Anisha Reddy Chada**

Obstetrics-Gynecology—Emory University School of Medicine, Atlanta, Georgia

Research Topic:

Vascular Remodeling in Preeclampsia: Smooth Muscle and Collagen Content in Placental Vessels

Mentors:

John Chappell, PhD, and Allison Durica, MD

## **Judy Chen**

Pediatrics—University of California Irvine Medical Center, Orange, California

Research Topic:

Clinical Validation of an Affordable, Reusable Novel EKG Monitor for Children in Low-Resource Settings

Mentors:

Andre Muelenaer, MD, and John Bird, MD

## **Lisa Crisalli**

Internal Medicine—MedStar Georgetown University Hospital,  
Washington, D.C.

Research Topic:

The Influence of Anxiety on Outcomes in Pediatric Surgery

Mentors:

Shawn D. Safford, MD, and Sarah Parker, PhD

## **Lindsey Jane Dove**

Family Medicine—University of Pittsburgh Medical Center St. Margaret,  
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Research Topic:

Implementation of Diabetes Self-Management and Strength Training Programs for Older Adults:  
A Post-Trial Mixed Methods Study

Mentors:

Sallie Beth Johnson, PhD, and Samantha M. Harden, PhD

## **Soleille Dorothy Everest**

Internal Medicine—Virginia Commonwealth University Health System,  
Richmond, Virginia

Research Topic:

Balance Deficits Remain More than One Year Following Total Hip Arthroplasty

Mentors:

Robin Queen, PhD, and Joseph Moskal, MD

## **Brendon Michael Fusco**

Internal Medicine—Rutgers Robert Wood Johnson Medical School,  
New Brunswick, New Jersey

Research Topic:

Artificial Potentiation of the Dorsomedial Prefrontal Cortex to Basolateral Amygdala Pathway

Mentor:

Alexei Morozov, PhD

## **Susan Linda Giampalmo**

Emergency Medicine—Yale New Haven Hospital, New Haven, Connecticut

Research Topic:

Opioid Use Disorder Patients in an Emergency Department Buprenorphine Program with Referral to Outpatient Therapy

Mentor:

John Burton, MD

## **Adam Ezra Goode**

General Surgery—Carilion Clinic-Virginia Tech Carilion School of Medicine,  
Roanoke, Virginia

Research Topic:

Use of Observation Status Versus Readmission in Elective Total Knee and Hip Arthroplasty Returns to Hospital:  
A Single-Institution Perspective

Mentors:

Thomas K. Miller, MD, Joseph T. Moskal, MD, and Trevor M. Owen, MD

## **Jeffrey Archer Kessna Henry**

Emergency Medicine—University of Connecticut School of Medicine,  
Farmington, Connecticut

Research Topic:

The Effects of Ketosis on fMRI

Mentor:

Stephen LaConte, PhD

## **Nicholas Farhat Homsy**

Research Topic:

The Effect of Orthopaedic Referral on Decision for Weight Loss Management

Mentor:

Michael Wolfe, MD

## **Caleb Devon Hubbard**

Medicine-Preliminary—Carilion Clinic-Virginia Tech Carilion School of Medicine,  
Roanoke, Virginia

Diagnostic Radiology—Virginia Commonwealth University Health System,  
Richmond, Virginia

Research Topic:

Mild-to-Moderate Hearing Loss Evaluated Through EEG Coherence

Mentor:

Martha Ann Bell, PhD

## **Darlon Jan**

Psychiatry—Carilion Clinic-Virginia Tech Carilion School of Medicine, Roanoke, Virginia

Research Topic:

Investigations into Adenovirus Cardiotropism

Mentors:

James W. Smyth, PhD, and Leslie LaConte, PhD

## **Awaiz Ali Khan**

Emergency Medicine—Allegheny General Hospital, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Research Topic:

The Effect of Hypertonic Saline on Mucus Viscosity in the Mechanically Ventilated Patient

Mentor:

Edmundo Rubio, MD

## **Margaret Elizabeth Kneifel**

Psychiatry—University of Maryland Medical Center, Baltimore, Maryland

Research Topic:

miRNAs as Potential Biomarkers for the Identification of Night-Shift Workers at Risk of Developing Breast Cancer

Mentors:

Carla Finkielstein, PhD, and Kurtis Moyer, MD

## **Christopher David Liao**

Plastic Surgery—Nassau University Medical Center, Garden City, New York

Research Topic:

Soluble Amyloid-Beta Oligomers Trigger Disruption of the Astrocyte-Vascular Interface

Mentors:

Ian Kimbrough, PhD, and Harald Sontheimer, PhD

## **Tom Xi Zuo Liu**

General Surgery—Rutgers New Jersey Medical School, Newark, New Jersey

Research Topic:

Effect of Myocardial Infarction on Sodium Channel Organization

Mentor:

Robert Gourdie, PhD

## **Rosemary Theresa Meerscheidt Mallonée**

Emergency Medicine—University of Florida College of Medicine-Jacksonville,  
Jacksonville, Florida

Research Topic:

Nighttime, Day-Of-Week, and Month Influence Operative Duration and Turnover Time:

A Linear Mixed Model Analysis of 609 Colectomies

Mentors:

Sarah Parker, PhD, and Shawn Safford, MD

## **Justine Elise McGiboney**

Emergency Medicine—University of Pittsburgh Medical Center,  
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Research Topic:

Outcomes with Third-Line Vasopressors on In-Hospital Mortality in Septic Shock

Mentors:

Frank Biscardi, MD, Bradley Icard, DO, and Anthony Loschner, MD

## **ABOUT OUR REGALIA**

The gowns of today's graduates may look like ordinary regalia from a distance, but they bear a distinction: they are made from 100-percent recycled material. Each gown in today's ceremony is made from approximately 23 plastic bottles! Based in Salem, Virginia, the gowns' manufacturer—Oak Hall—is one of the largest cap-and-gown facilities in the country.

The graduates' hoods are symbolic in many ways. At 48 inches, their length is customary for hoods representing doctoral degrees. Their velvet trim is green, the traditional color for the field of medicine. They are lined with silk panels of maroon, to represent Virginia Tech, and blue, to represent Carilion Clinic.

## **Sanaz Monjaze**

Medicine-Preliminary—St. Mary Medical Center, Long Beach, California

Neurology—University of Southern California, Los Angeles, California

Research Topic:

Perioperative Opioid Administration and Postoperative Opioid Consumption: A Retrospective Study

Mentor:

Cassandra Mierisch, MD

## **Sol C. Moon**

Urology—University of Alabama-Birmingham, Birmingham, Alabama

Research Topic:

The Cooperative Roles of Aiolos and STAT3 in Th17 Differentiation

Mentor:

Kenneth Oestreich, PhD

## **Robert James Nicholson, Jr.**

Emergency Medicine—Carolinas Medical Center, Charlotte, North Carolina

Research Topic:

Utilization of Referral to a Prescription Exercise Program to Reduce Pain and Improve Function Following Discharge from the Emergency Department

Mentor:

Damon Kuehl, MD

## **Ashley Marie Nyitray**

Pediatrics—Prisma Health-Midlands/University of South Carolina School of Medicine, Columbia, South Carolina

Research Topic:

Characterization of Peritumoral Hyperexcitability in Adult and Pediatric Glioma: The Role of KCC2

Mentors:

Susan Campbell, PhD, and Harald Sontheimer, PhD

## **Stephen Thomas Owen**

General Surgery—East Tennessee State University, Johnson City, Tennessee

Research Topic:

Does Delay Discounting Predict Smoking Cessation in those Diagnosed with Head and Neck Cancer?

Mentors:

Warren K. Bickel, PhD, Jeff Stein, PhD, and Jennifer Vaughn, MD

## **Hannah Maureen Palmerton**

General Surgery—Madigan Army Medical Center, Tacoma, Washington

Research Topic:

The Effect of Various OR Noise on Fine Motor Skills, Cognition, and Mood

Mentor:

Gary Simonds, MD

## **Dan Park**

Internal Medicine—Virginia Commonwealth University Health System, Richmond, Virginia

Research Topic:

Efficacy of an Intra-Operative Marcaine Adductor Canal Block during Total Knee Arthroplasty

Mentor:

John W. Mann, MD

## **Jay Jaykrushna Patel**

General Surgery—Kaiser Permanente, Los Angeles, California

Research Topic:

Does Repeat Tissue Compression by Robotic Stapling Devices Increase Colonic Anastomotic Leak Rates?

Mentor:

Farrell Adkins, MD

## **Harsh Harsukh Patolia**

Internal Medicine—Duke University Medical Center, Durham, North Carolina

Research Topic:

Agent-Based Model Simulates Pericyte Migration and Recruitment to the Angiogenic Front  
in Response to PDGF-B Signaling by Sprouting Endothelium

Mentor:

John Chappell, PhD

## **Steve Siyuan Qian**

Internal Medicine—University of Florida College of Medicine-Shands Hospital,  
Gainesville, Florida

Research Topic:

Multi-Parametric Predictors of Post-Operative Atrial Fibrillation

Mentors:

Steven Poelzing, PhD, and Mark Joseph, MD

## **Mustafa Nawroz Rasheed**

Emergency Medicine—Emory University School of Medicine, Atlanta, Georgia

Research Topic:

The Role of the Ikaros Zinc Finger Factor Eos in TH2 cell Differentiation

Mentor:

Kenneth Oestreich, PhD

## **Cody Gray Roberts**

Anesthesiology—University of Minnesota Medical School, Minneapolis, Minnesota

Research Topic:

Preoperative Cognitive Impairment is Associated with Intraoperative EEG Suppression in Older Surgical Patients

Mentor:

Laura Sands, PhD

## **Mercedes Robinson**

Neurology—University of California San Francisco, San Francisco, California

Research Topic:

Gender Differences in Reward and Punishment Processing Within Depression

Mentor:

Pearl Chiu, PhD

## **Jean Michael Garcia Sabile**

Internal Medicine—Oregon Health and Science University, Portland, Oregon

Research Topic:

Targeting Cx43 in Colon Cancer Stem Cells

Mentor:

Samy Lamouille, PhD

## **Simran Sandhu**

Surgery-Preliminary—Carilion Clinic-Virginia Tech Carilion School of Medicine,  
Roanoke, Virginia

Anesthesiology—George Washington University, Washington, D.C.

Research Topic:

Evaluating Cooperative Roles for STAT3 and Aiolos in Lymphocyte Mimicry Associated with Metastatic Disease

Mentor:

Kenneth Oestreich, PhD

## **Brian Fabian Saway**

Neurological Surgery—Medical University of South Carolina, Charleston, South Carolina

Research Topic:

Mindfulness in the OR

Mentor:

Terri-Ann Wattsman, MD

## **Don Benthall Scarboro**

General Surgery—Carilion Clinic-Virginia Tech Carilion School of Medicine,  
Roanoke, Virginia

Research Topic:

Predictors of Subsequent Hospital Encounters in Patients with Takotsubo Cardiomyopathy

Mentor:

David Sane, MD

## **Farah Shah**

Internal Medicine—Harbor UCLA Medical Center, Torrance, California

Research Topic:

PIK3CB and Connexin-43 Inhibition Sensitizes Glioblastoma Cells to Temozolomide

Mentor:

Zhi Sheng, PhD

## **Mira Tess Tanenbaum**

General Surgery—George Washington University, Washington, D.C.

Research Topic:

Targeting the Integrated Stress Response to Prevent Pathological Cardiac Hypertrophy

Mentor:

James W. Smyth, PhD



## **Jordan Daniel Taylor**

Surgery-Preliminary—University of North Carolina Hospitals, Chapel Hill, North Carolina  
Diagnostic Radiology—University of North Carolina Hospitals, Chapel Hill, North Carolina

Research Topic:

Investigating Pathogenic Manipulation of Cellular Junctions to Facilitate Viral Spread

Mentor:

James W. Smyth, PhD

## **Albert Yi-Que Truong**

Plastic Surgery—New York-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell Medical Center, New York, New York

Research Topic:

Adaption and Effectiveness of START NOW in the Treatment of Opioid Addicted Individuals Enrolled in  
Outpatient Based Opioid Treatment

Mentor:

Robert L. Trestman, PhD, MD

## **Lena Manning Turkheimer**

General Surgery—University of Virginia, Charlottesville, Virginia

Research Topic:

Barriers to Breastfeeding in Opiate Sustained Mothers and the Effects of Breastfeeding on NAS  
Symptom Severity, Infant Pharmacologic Use, and Length of Hospital Stay

Mentor:

Fidel Valea, MD

## **Benjamin S. Walker**

Internal Medicine—Carilion Clinic-Virginia Tech Carilion School of Medicine,  
Roanoke, Virginia

Research Topic:

Effects of Interdisciplinary Education Regarding Potentially Inappropriate Medication Use in Geriatric Fall Patients

Mentor:

Mark Hamill, MD

## **Tyler Davis Willson**

Family Medicine—Carilion Clinic-Virginia Tech Carilion School of Medicine,  
Roanoke, Virginia

Research Topic:

Brain Valuation Networks in Stimulant Users: Using fMRI to Further Understand Sexual HIV-Risk Behavior

Mentor:

Mikhail Koffarnus, PhD

## **Abigail Rose Winn**

Emergency Medicine—Hennepin County Medical Center, Minneapolis, Minnesota

Research Topic:

Activation of PI3K in Glioblastoma Multiforme

Mentor:

Zhi Sheng, PhD

## **Melika Zarei**

Plastic Surgery—Emory University School of Medicine, Atlanta, Georgia

Research Topic:

The Ability of Visual Evoked Potentials (VEPs) Obtained During Spine Surgery to Predict Postoperative Visual Changes

Mentors:

Jonathan Carmouche, MD, Maxine Lee, MD, and Pamela Zollinger, MD

## SPECIAL RECOGNITION

### Alpha Omega Alpha Honor Medical Society

*Alpha Omega Alpha Honor Medical Society, a professional medical organization, recognizes excellence in scholarship and the highest ideals in the profession of medicine. Our students who were elected into membership in the Delta Virginia Chapter of Alpha Omega Alpha Honor Medical Society are wearing green and gold honor cords.*

**Malek Bouzaher**  
**Justine McGiboney**  
**Harsh Patolia**  
**Mustafa Rasheed**

**Jean Sabile**  
**Brian Saway**  
**Jordan Taylor**  
**Melika Zarei**

### Gold Humanism Honor Society

*The Gold Humanism Honor Society honors medical students, residents, physicians, and other exemplars for excellence in clinical care, leadership, compassion, and dedication to service. The Virginia Tech Carilion School of Medicine students who were inducted into the Gold Humanism Honor Society are wearing gold honor cords.*

**Brendon Fusco**  
**Margaret Kneifel**

**Justine McGiboney**  
**Harsh Patolia**  
**Mustafa Rasheed**

**Jean Sabile**  
**Tyler Willson**

### Leonard Tow Humanism in Medicine Award

*The Arnold P. Gold Foundation sponsors this annual award to the student at a given medical school who best demonstrates the foundation's ideals of outstanding compassion in the delivery of care; respect for patients, their families, and health care colleagues; and demonstrated clinical excellence.*

**Harsh Patolia**

### R.L.A. Keeley, M.D. Humanities in Medicine Award

*The Tuberculosis Foundation of Virginia established this award to honor the memory of Dr. R.L.A. Keeley. The recipient is the student who possesses the attributes of humility, citizenship, wisdom, equanimity, leadership, compassion, and magnetism as exemplified by Dr. Keeley.*

**Justine McGiboney**

### Outstanding Graduate Award

*Sponsored by the Virginia Tech Alumni Association, the Outstanding Graduate Award recognizes exceptional academic achievement and leadership by a graduating student from each of the university's non-undergraduate colleges.*

**Mustafa Rasheed**

## ABOUT OUR MACE

The ceremonial mace is used in academia as a symbol of an institution's authority to grant degrees. The mace carried in today's ceremony is a gift from Virginia Tech and has a history dating to the university's centennial celebration in 1972. Crafted by Dr. R. B. Holliman, a biology professor at the time, the four-foot-long wooden structure was carried in every subsequent commencement ceremony until 2000, when it was retired for a new "millennium mace." The new — and current — mace was presented to the late Dr. Charles Steger on his installment as the school's 15th president.

## THE HIPPOCRATIC OATH ~ CONTEMPORARY VERSION

*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 issues, if I am to care adequately for my patient.*

*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.*

Today's mace has a handcrafted wooden overlay bearing two metal medallions of the Virginia Tech Carilion School of Medicine's seal. The piece was designed and made by local artist Larry Bechtel.

The mace traditionally leads the procession and recession and is carried by the immediate past chair of the school's Academic Committee.

## Virginia Tech Leadership

*Timothy D. Sands, PhD*  
President

*Cyril R. Clarke, DVM, PhD*  
Executive Vice President and Provost

## Office of the Dean

*Lee A. Learman, MD, PhD*

*Daniel P. Harrington, MD*  
*Michael J. Friedlander, PhD*  
*Aubrey L. Knight, MD*  
*David W. Musick, PhD*  
*Richard C. Vari, PhD*  
*Nathaniel L. Bishop, DMin*  
*Tracey W. Criss, MD*  
*Tarin A. Schmidt-Dalton, MD*

*David B. Trinkle, MD*  
*Leslie E. W. LaConte, PhD*  
*Heidi A. Lane, EdD*  
*R. Brock Mutcherson, PhD*  
*Shari A. Whicker, EdD*  
*Melanie K. Prusakowski, MD*  
*Karen Eley Sanders, MS, EdD*

## Department Chairs

*John H. Burton, MD*  
*Kimberly P. Dunsmore, MD*  
*Michael P. Jeremiah, MD*  
*Daniel R. Karolyi, MD, PhD*  
*Renee J. LeClair, PhD*  
*Joseph T. Moskal, MD*

*Sam S. Nakat, MD*  
*Michael S. Nussbaum, MD*  
*Paul R. Skolnik, MD*  
*Robert L. Trestman, PhD, MD*  
*David B. Trinkle, MD*  
*Fidel A. Valea, MD*

## Special Thanks

*Members of the Roanoke community who have graciously welcomed and nurtured our students for the past four years.*

*Hope Reynolds, Graduation Ceremony Maestra*