INTRODUCTION AND WELCOME

This handbook has been developed by the Office of Student Affairs and contains the official Policies and Procedures of the Virginia Tech Carilion School of Medicine (VTCSOM) that relate to academic and student life. It also contains helpful guidance to enhance your medical school experience. We hope that you find it useful. If you have questions or need clarification, please contact the Office of Student Affairs at 540-526-2555.

WELCOME from the Dean

Becoming a physician will bring a profound sense of meaning to your life and deepen your appreciation of humanism and science, compassion and healing. The adventure ahead is certain to be exciting, life-changing, and also challenging. We are glad you chose the Virginia Tech Carilion School of Medicine for this journey. Our mission is to produce outstanding doctors who are rigorously educated in critical thinking, scientific inquiry, research, and discovery. You will be the next generation of physician thought leaders ready to excel in a rapidly changing health care environment.

We will prepare you through our unique curriculum and patient-centered learning approach, that connects the basic science of medicine with clinical science from the start of your education. Our curriculum is delivered in a way that aligns with the best evidence for how adults learn, with an emphasis on small-group, problem-based learning and hands-on experiences, supplemented by more traditional didactic learning.

In addition to a solid foundation in basic science and clinical science, two other value domains will shape your medical education experience here and set you apart from other medical students. Our longitudinal research experience will develop you into a physician who will utilize evidence-based medicine and integrate research into everyday medical practice. Our interprofessionalism curriculum will expose you to health system sciences and give you the skills to effectively work alongside other health disciplines, while promoting leadership skills such as teamwork, communication, and conflict resolution. These skills will be invaluable as they will help you understand the clinical environments in which you practice and apply systems thinking and collaboration to improve health care quality and patient safety.

The formal curriculum will be supplemented and surrounded by an informal one. Your identity as a physician will be shaped by the role models who are your teachers and the cultures of caring in which you learn. These experiences will support your development into a physician who serves patients with compassion and understanding, partnering with each patient for shared decision-making based on their unique values and preferences.

I look forward to traveling this journey with you, along with our outstanding faculty and staff!

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