



# The UNC School of Medicine Student Government

*presents the*

## **Fall Convocation and Awards Ceremony**

**Wednesday, July 30, 2025  
12:00 p.m., MBRB 2204**



## **UNC SOM Student Government**

The Student Government is the governing body for students at the UNC School of Medicine. Annually, medical students from all four years are elected as representatives of their classes, and serve in numerous roles responsible for a variety of activities within the School of Medicine.

### **2025-2026 Student Government Officers**

Student Body Co-Presidents: Cordelia (Coco) Muir, Estefania (Stef) Gonzales

Individualization Phase (MS4) Class Co-Presidents: Grace Tabor, Sydney Puerto-Meredith

Individualization Phase (MS4) Chief Advocate: Chelsea Onyeji

Senior VP of Educational Development: Kristen Williams

Senior VPs of Curriculum Affairs: Christina Toval, T.J. Turner

Senior VP of Diversity and Campus Affairs: Bryanna Patterson

Senior VP of Student Affairs: Mia Hodges

Senior VP of Financial Affairs: Jun Sim

Application Phase (MS3) Class Co-Presidents: Luke Passannante, Tyler Soy

Application Phase (MS3) Chief Advocate: Jane Brown

Application Phase Central Campus Curriculum Affairs Representatives: Morgan Batley, Jeevun Kansupada

Asheville Campus Curriculum Representative: Hannaneh Mirmozaffari

Charlotte Campus Curriculum Representative: Aneri Kothari

Greensboro Campus Curriculum Representative: Nate Adams

Raleigh Campus Curriculum Representative: Chandler Kotseos

Wilmington Campus Curriculum Representative: Ishani Deliwala

Foundation Phase (MS2) Class Co-Presidents: Vishanth Palanivel, Dalton Craven

Foundation Phase (MS2) Chief Advocates: Morgan Ray, C.J. Tyson

VPs of Curriculum Affairs: Sanjana Srinivasan, Benjamin Dosan

VP of Educational Development: Sophia Goldbeck

VP of Diversity and Campus Affairs: Rebecca Melaku

VP of Financial Affairs: Gurjant Sekhon

VPs of Student Affairs: Akankshya Jena, Morgan Sullivan

VPs of Student Recruitment: Mable Miao, Paul Karre

VP of Community Service: Melissa Schroder

VP of Research & Publications: Tori McFarlane

VP of Information Technology: Emily Wang

VP of Advertising & Outreach: Dristen Trate

## **Past Fall Awards Program Lecturers**

1999: B. Anthony Lindsey, M.D.

2000: J. Stephen Kizer, M.D.

2001: David L. McIlwain, M.D.

2002: Nicholas J. Shaheen, M.D., M.P.H.

2003: Robert A. Bashford, M.D.

2004: Pamela G. Vick, M.D.

2005: Ronald A. Falk, M.D.

2006: James P. Evans, M.D., Ph.D.

2007: Edward T. Kernick, D.P.M.

2008: Susan C. Hadler, M.D., M.S.

2009: Arrel D. Toews, Ph.D.

2010: Kurt Gilliland, Ph.D., M.S.

2011: Alan Cross, M.D.

2012: Sarah Street, Ph.D.

2013: Elizabeth B. Dreesen, M.D., F.A.C.S.

2014: Cheryl McNeil, M.D.

2015: Alice D. Ma, M.D., F.A.C.P.

2016: Frank C. Church, Ph.D., M.S.

2017: Brian C. Jensen, M.D.

2018: Cedric Bright, M.D., F.A.C.P.

2019: Neva Howard, M.D., M.S.

2020: Koyal Jain, M.D., M.P.H., F.A.S.N.

2021: Ana Felix, M.B.B.Ch., F.A.A.N.

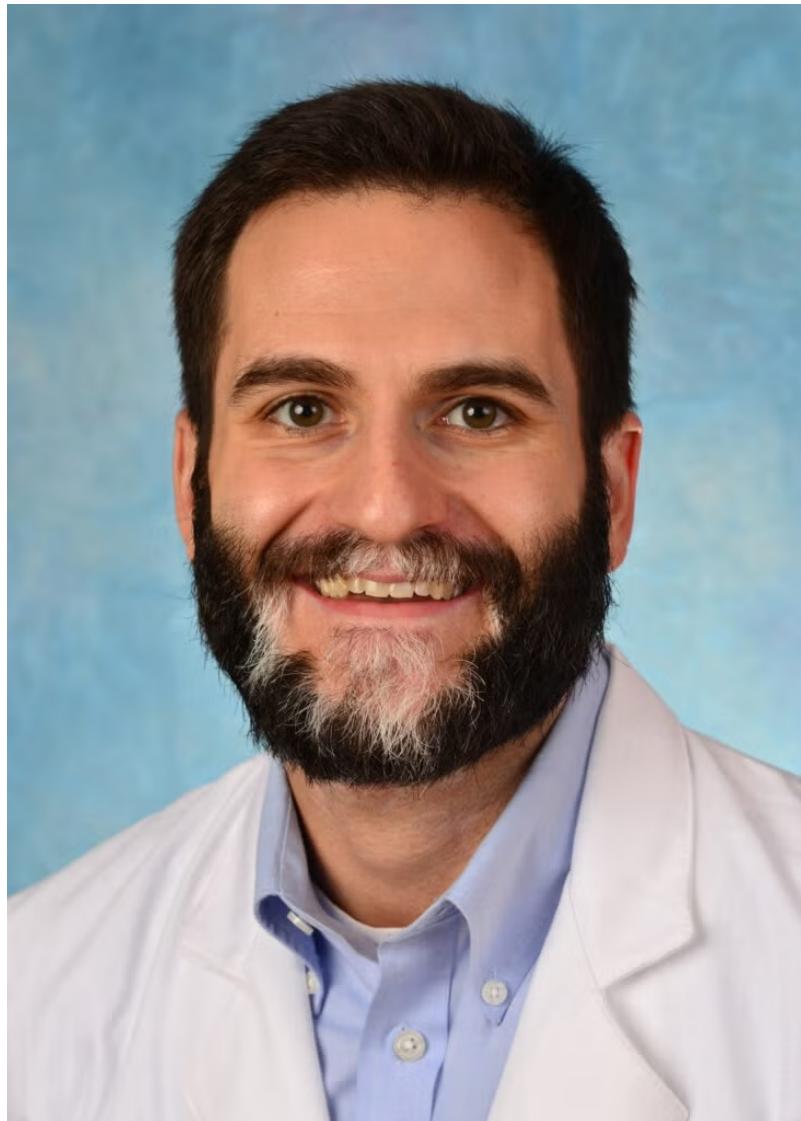
2022: Georgette A. Dent, M.D.

2023: Tom Belhorn, M.D., Ph.D.

2024: Emily Moorefield, Ph.D.

**2025 Fall Convocation and Awards Ceremony**  
**Invited Lecturer**

***Evan Raff, MD, FHM***



**“The Ultimate Convocation Speech”**

**Dr. Raff was nominated and chosen by the SOM student body.**

**He will be presented with a plaque in recognition of his  
distinguished contributions to the science and art of medicine.**

**The Hyman L. Battle Distinguished Excellence  
in Teaching Award in the Clinical Sciences**

This award was established in 1985 to recognize exceptional teaching in the clinical curriculum.  
Faculty members were nominated, and the recipient was selected, by the Class of 2025.

**Dana Doctor, M.D.**

**The Best Application Phase Course Award**

This award was established in 1985 by the third-year class to recognize the clinical courses that most significantly contributed to the education of third-year medical students.

**HISC  
Hospital, Interventional and Surgical Care**

**Rana Alkhaldi, M.D.  
Raquel Reyes, M.D., M.P.A.  
Andrew Schneider, M.D., M.Sc.**

**The Outstanding AHEC Faculty Award**

These awards were established in 1992 to recognize the AHEC faculty members who have contributed significantly to the education of medical students at the Area Health Education Centers.

**M. Kristin Chally, M.D.**

**The George T. Wolff Award**

This award was established in 1999 to honor the dedication to quality, community-based medical education demonstrated by George T. Wolff, M.D., former Director of the Family Practice Residency Program at Moses H. Cone Memorial Hospital in Greensboro. Third- and fourth-year students vote on this award from a list of eligible faculty members provided by the Department of Family Medicine.

**Rana Alkhaldi, M.D.**

### **Kaiser Permanente Excellence in Teaching Awards**

These awards were created by the Class of 2000 to recognize those residents and interns who contribute in an exemplary way to the education of medical students with their enthusiasm for teaching, including students in patient care decisions, and promoting involvement of students on the medical team.

Department	Resident	Intern
<b>Family Medicine</b>	<b>Claire Porter, M.D.</b>	<b>Emma Tayloe, M.D.</b>
<b>Internal Medicine</b>	<b>Connor Nevin, M.D.</b>	<b>Reaves Houston-Dixon, M.D.</b>
<b>Ob/Gyn</b>	<b>Jazmine Perez, M.D.</b>	<b>Emily Broaddus, M.D.</b>
<b>Neurology</b>	<b>Chhitij Tiwari, M.D.</b>	
<b>Pediatrics</b>	<b>Alex Gartland, M.D.</b>	<b>Justin Penninger, M.D.</b>
<b>Psychiatry</b>	<b>Daniel Sheinbein, M.D.</b>	<b>Morgan Mooty, M.D.</b>
<b>Surgery</b>	<b>Clark Cunningham, M.D.</b>	<b>Aidin Alejo Abdala, M.D.</b>

### **The Hyman L. Battle Distinguished Excellence in Teaching Award in the Foundation Phase**

This award was established in 1985 to recognize exemplary teaching in the pre-clinical curriculum. Faculty members are nominated, and the recipient is selected, by last year's second-year medical students.

**Gina Donato, Ph.D.**

### **The Foundation Phase Outstanding Director Teaching Award**

This award recognizes a faculty member from the Foundation Phase curriculum who has enhanced the education of second-year medical students by fostering a collegial environment that supports and encourages excellence.

**Koyal Jain, M.D., M.P.H., F.A.S.N.**

### **The Best Foundation Phase Teaching Course Award**

This award recognizes a course from the Foundation Phase curriculum that contributed in an effective manner to the education of second-year medical students.

**Reproductive and Genitourinary Health**

**Marcella Willis-Gray, M.D.**

### **The Foundation Phase Outstanding Faculty Teaching Award**

This award recognizes a faculty member from the Foundation Phase curriculum who contributed significantly to the education of Foundation Phase students through their energy, dedication, and extraordinarily excellent teaching.

**Edward Kernick, D.P.M.**

### **The Best Foundation Phase Coil Award**

This award recognizes a coil from this curriculum that contributed in an effective manner to the education of second-year medical students.

**Microbiology**

**Gina Donato, Ph.D.**

### **The Brett J. Pearce and Lauren K. Brown Memorial Award**

Brett and Lauren were treasured classmates who, through their strength of character and courage in the face of illness, have inspired those who had the privilege of knowing them to be better people and better doctors. In their memory, this award was created by the Class of 2004 to honor a senior medical student who shares their qualities of generosity and compassion for those in need, dedication to service, and unwavering commitment to high ideals. This senior, nominated and chosen by classmates, has made a significant contribution to the education and personal growth of her peers.

**Angelica Lackey, M.P.H.**

### **The Frank Lee Dameron Award**

The Class of 1975 established the Dameron Award in memory of their classmate to recognize his achievements as a medical student and his commitment to return to his hometown in a medically underserved area of the state to practice medicine. The recipients are committed to practicing primary care in an underserved area of North Carolina.

### **Rachel Watkins**

### **The Heusner Pupil Award**

The Heusner Pupil Award was established in 1964 by the family and colleagues of Dr. A. Price Heusner, who served as Professor of Surgery at North Carolina Memorial Hospital (1952-1956) and as Professor of Anatomy at the School of Medicine (1956-1963). It is provided to a member of the fourth-year class who best exemplifies qualities displayed by Dr. Heusner during his career as a physician, teacher, husband, and father: a capacity to grasp the principles of science, to demonstrate concern for the moral welfare of human beings, to heal the sick, to comfort the troubled, and to be humble. The recipient is honored for meritorious character and potential, and is selected by a committee that includes members of the medical school faculty.

### **Jaewon Moon**

### **The James A. Bryan II Award**

This award is a tribute to Dr. James Bryan II who, during more than three decades of service to the UNC SOM, taught, mentored, and befriended countless medical students, and instilled in them an unwavering commitment to compassionate patient care. Created by the Class of 1999, the award honors a graduating student who embodies the spirit of Dr. Bryan by improving the medical school community, and bettering the educational experience of fellow medical students.

### **Cordelia Muir**

### **The William deB. MacNider Award**

This award was established in 1950 by the sophomore class and promotes public commendation of up to two second-year medical students who possess various intangible traits of good character, including personal integrity, a sincere and genuine interest in the lives of others, a willingness to help others at all times, humility, a cheerful attitude, and friendliness to all, as shown by Dr. Billy MacNider.

educational experience of fellow medical students.

### **Julia Wood**

### **The Georgette Dent Accelerating Change Student Award**

Established in 2023, the Georgette Dent Accelerating Change Student awardee should display extraordinary propensity for effecting change and advancing medical education as a medical student.

Change in this instance can include the campus community, local NC community, or global community. Recipients of this award must have completed an additional degree while or before receiving their M.D. This can include an M.P.H., M.B.A., Ph.D., or J.D.

**Mia Hodges**

### **The Lucius Blanchard Carolina Family Scholarship**

This scholarship is awarded annually to first-year medical students who demonstrate outstanding academic achievement, strong curiosity, leadership qualities, commitment to service and, in some cases, financial need.

**David Dingfelder  
Emma Domke  
Eleanor Steiner  
Sanya Shah**

### **The Alan W. Cross Social Medicine Paper Award** **Department of Social Medicine**

The Alan W. Cross Social Medicine Paper Award is given each year to the best scholarly paper, essay, fictional or artistic work produced by a student for a Social Medicine class assignment. The award recognizes excellent writing that epitomizes integration of social and clinical thinking; applies social science and humanities perspectives to medicine; and represents creative efforts to convey experiences of patients, physicians, and others related to health, illness, or treatment.

**Julianna Fischer**

**Thank you to the students for their extraordinary efforts in making this event a success for the School of Medicine and for their peers.**

**We wish a hearty welcome to the Class of 2029!**

