

THE GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

# Celebration

## *2026 MD Graduation Celebration*

THE SEVENTEENTH OF MAY, TWO THOUSAND TWENTY SIX



School of Medicine  
& Health Sciences

THE GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY





# *2026 MD Graduation Celebration*

MAY 17, 2026 | 3 P.M. | LISNER AUDITORIUM

## LETTER FROM THE DEAN



Dear MD Graduates,

It is a sincere privilege to address you as you reach this definitive milestone in your lives and careers. In my time as Interim Dean, I have been deeply impressed by the passion and purpose that define the Class of 2026. Today, I am honored to recognize the years of rigorous study, clinical dedication, and personal sacrifice that have brought you to this moment.

You are entering the profession of medicine at a complex and transformative time. Throughout your journey at the George Washington University (GW), you have demonstrated the resilience and perseverance necessary to thrive in an ever-evolving health care landscape. Whether in the lecture hall, the research lab, or at the bedside, you have proven that you are ready to meet the challenges of modern medicine with both exceptional skill and unwavering character.

At the heart of your transition from student to physician lies a solemn compact — a profound responsibility to those you serve. This compact is an unshakable commitment to provide empathetic, reliable, and expert care, particularly when patients are in their most vulnerable and difficult moments. As you take your oath, you are answering a calling to advocate, to lead, and to serve with compassion.

Today, you officially join the ranks of Physician Citizens. You are professionals who believe that medicine is not only a career, but a moral imperative to advance the greater good. You are now the stewards of a world-class GW legacy, and I am confident that your work will have a meaningful impact on the health and wellness of our local, national, and global communities.

On behalf of the faculty and staff of the GW School of Medicine and Health Sciences, I offer my heartfelt congratulations. You are the living legacy of this institution, and your dedication to your patients is the truest measure of our success.

We are incredibly proud to welcome you into the GW SMHS Alumni Community. I look forward to seeing all that you will accomplish as you lead the way in the future of medicine.

Raise High!

Sincerely,

Andrew W. Artenstein, MD, MBA

*Interim Vice President for Health Affairs and  
Dean, School of Medicine and Health Sciences  
Professor of Medicine*

“I do solemnly swear by that which I hold most sacred:

That I will be loyal to the profession of medicine and just and generous to its members;

That I will lead my life and practice my art in uprightness and honor;

That into whatsoever house I shall enter,  
it shall be for the good of the sick to the utmost of my power,  
I, holding myself aloof from wrong, from corruption, from the tempting of others to vice;

That I will exercise my art solely for the care of my patients,  
and will give no drug, perform no operation for a criminal purpose,  
even if solicited, far less suggest it;

That whatsoever I shall see or hear of the lives of people, which is not fitting to be spoken,  
I will keep inviolably secret.

These things I do promise and in proportion as I am faithful to this my oath  
may happiness and good repute be ever mine —  
the opposite if I shall be forsworn.”

# ORDER OF EXERCISES

<b>PRELUDE AND PROCESSIONAL</b> .....	Bagpipers
<b>NATIONAL ANTHEM</b> .....	Pritha Ghosh, MD
<b>WELCOME</b> .....	Andrew W. Artenstein, MD, MBA <i>Interim Vice President for Health Affairs and Dean, School of Medicine and Health Sciences Professor of Medicine</i>
<b>INTRODUCTION OF VALEDICTORIAN</b> .....	Andrew W. Artenstein, MD, MBA
<b>INTRODUCTION OF GUEST SPEAKER</b> .....	Brij S. Kathuria <i>Valedictorian, Class of 2026</i>
<b>GUEST SPEAKER</b> .....	Monica M. Bertagnolli, MD <i>Former Director of the National Institutes of Health</i>
<b>PRESENTATION OF THE GRADUATES</b> .....	Lorenzo Norris, MD, FACP, <i>Senior Associate Dean for Education</i> Steven Davis, MD, <i>Associate Dean for Student Affairs and Administration</i> Rhonda Goldberg, MA, <i>Associate Dean for Student Affairs</i> Terry Kind, MD, MPH, <i>Associate Dean for Clinical Education</i> Pritha Ghosh, MD, <i>Assistant Dean for Student Affairs</i> Kathryn Marko, MD, <i>Assistant Dean for Student Affairs</i> Robert Jablonover, MD, <i>Assistant Dean for Pre-Clinical Education</i> Stephanie Sharps, MD, FACP, <i>Assistant Dean for Student Affairs, Regional Medical Campus</i> Laura Green, MD, <i>Assistant Dean for Student Affairs, Regional Medical Campus</i>
<b>HOODING OF THE GRADUATES, DISTRIBUTION OF THE DIPLOMAS, AND SIGNING OF THE REGISTRY BY:</b> .....	Andrew W. Artenstein, MD, MBA Lorenzo Norris, MD, FACP, <i>Senior Associate Dean for Education</i> Rhonda Goldberg, MA, <i>Associate Dean for Student Affairs</i> Scott Krugman, MD, MS, FAAP, <i>Senior Associate Dean, Regional Medical Campus</i> Emmeline Ha, MD '18, BS '14, FAAFP, <i>Assistant Professor of Family and Community Medicine</i> Juliet Lee, MD, <i>Associate Professor of Surgery</i> Nicholas Shworak, MD, PHD, MAED, <i>Professor of Pharmacology and Physiology</i> Michelle Glass, <i>Records and Registration Specialist</i>
<b>REMARKS</b> .....	Abhisri Ramesh <i>Class of 2026</i>
<b>CHARGE TO THE GRADUATES</b> .....	Andrew W. Artenstein, MD, MBA
<b>ADMINISTRATION OF THE HIPPOCRATIC OATH</b> .....	Andrew W. Artenstein, MD, MBA
<b>RECESSIONAL</b> .....	Bagpipers

*The celebration program is meant to be a guide to the ceremony. Although every effort has been made to ensure its accuracy, the program is not an official record of an individual's degree.*



### Monica M. Bertagnolli, MD

*Former Director of the National Institutes of Health*

Monica M. Bertagnolli, MD, is a world-renowned surgical oncologist and physician-scientist with a distinguished career dedicated to advancing biomedical research and clinical care. She is widely recognized for her visionary leadership of the nation's premier medical research institutions and her commitment to transforming data infrastructure to improve patient outcomes.

Previously, she served as the 17th Director of the National Institutes of Health (NIH) from 2023 to 2025. In this role, she made history as the first surgeon and the second woman to lead the agency, overseeing the work of the largest funder of biomedical and behavioral research in the world.

As NIH Director, Bertagnolli championed collaborative initiatives to modernize the data infrastructure for clinical research to meet the promise of AI. Her tenure was marked by an emphasis on increasing the reach of clinical trials and ensuring that the fruits of scientific discovery are accessible to all populations.

Prior to her leadership at the NIH, Bertagnolli served as the 16th Director of the National Cancer Institute (NCI). Her career in academic medicine includes serving as the Richard E. Wilson Professor of Surgery in surgical oncology at Harvard Medical School and as a surgeon at Brigham and Women's Hospital. She also held leadership roles at the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, including serving as the Chief of the Division of Surgical Oncology.

A pioneer in clinical oncology, Bertagnolli's research has focused on the genetic drivers of gastrointestinal cancer and the role of inflammation in cancer growth. From 2011 to 2022, she served as group chair of the Alliance for Clinical Trials in Oncology, leading translational science initiatives within the NCI's National Clinical Trials Network.

In 2021, Bertagnolli was elected to the National Academy of Medicine (NAM). This year, she has been named president-elect of NAM and will begin a 6-year term in July. She is a past president and chair of the board of directors of the American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO) and has served on the boards of the American Cancer Society and the Prevent Cancer Foundation.

She graduated from Princeton University with a Bachelor of Science in Engineering and earned her Doctor of Medicine from the University of Utah. Bertagnolli completed her residency training in surgery at Brigham and Women's Hospital and was a research fellow in tumor immunology at the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute.

# STUDENT AWARDS

## Medical Student Excellence in Anesthesiology Award

*Sofia Barajas*

## Medical Alumni Association Student Achievement Award

*Kennedy Hope Sun*

## Robert Keith Cole Memorial Award

*Vincent Alexander Pecora*

## Dean's Special Recognition Award

*Bruny Vida Kenou*

## Social Justice in Medicine Award

*Nuha Raimah Gani*

## William G. Schafhirt Award

*Scarlett J. Bergam*

## John Ordronaux Valedictorian Award

*Brij S Kathuria*

## Lawrence A. Rapee Valedictorian Award

*Brij S Kathuria*

## The Leonard Tow Humanism in Medicine Award

*Ryan Michael Antar*

## Student National Medical Association Hope Jackson Award

*Charles Cobbs IV*

## Walter F. Rosenberg Award in Dermatology

*Nikita Bhavani Menta*

## Department of Emergency Medicine Award

*Ashley Nichole Stevenson*

## Society for Academic Emergency Medicine Award

*Alisa Lorraine Dewald*

## Benjamin Manchester Humanitarianism Award

*Brij S. Kathuria*

## Office of International Medicine Programs, Global Health Humanitarian Service Award

*Meredith Wells*

## Allie S. Freed Award in Preventive Medicine

*Hoang-Viet Doan Tran*

## Phillip S. Birnbaum Award in Primary Care

*Sarah Cho-Schluger*

## Mark Millen Memorial Award

*Adam S. Odolil*

## Jorge C. Rios Award in Internal Medicine

*Maria Dorothea Groussis*

## Hyman R. Posin Award in Neurology

*Mike Hai-Uydi Nguyen*

## American Academy of Excellence Neurology Award

*Marwah Shuaiib*

## Samuel M. and Miriam S. Dodek Award in Reproductive Endocrinology

*Arjun Raja Shetty*

## Rachel Morris Dominick Obstetrics and Gynecology Award

*Sarah Watkins*

## Huron W. Lawson Award in Obstetrics and Gynecology

*Scarlett J. Bergam*

*Nathaniel Freishtat*

## Julius S. Neviasser Award in Orthopaedic Surgery

*Arnav Gupta*

## College of American Pathologists Distinguished Medical Student Award

*Anna Kathryn Reed*

## William Newman Award in Pathology

*Anna Kathryn Reed*

## Pediatric Departmental Award for Excellence in Care, Advocacy, Research, and Education

*Samantha Lyn Ferraro*

*Michael Francis Taylor*

## Jerry M. Wiener Award in Psychiatry

*Arash Kiankhooy*

*Mario Andres Pita*

## Navdeep S. Kang Award for Excellence and Service

*Natalia Allyscia Hadaway*

*Bruny Vida Kenou*

## Doris DeFord Speck and George Speck, MD Student Research Award

*Scarlett J. Bergam*

*Esin Christine Namoglu*

## Alec Horwitz Award in Surgery

*Eliza Brufsky*

## Paul L. DeWitt Award in Surgery

*Jana El-Sayed*

## Dr. Salman O. Kazmi Memorial Award in Urology

*Ryan Michael Antar*

## Excellence in Public Health Award

*Justin Matthew Zaslavsky*

## The Donald Wain Allen, MD '77, Excellence in Family Medicine Award

*Sahar Rizwan*

# STUDENT HONOR SOCIETIES

## ALPHA OMEGA ALPHA

### *National Medical Honor Society*

Yagiz Matthew Akiska

Hussain Mohammed J. Alkhars

Ryan Michael Antar

Hala Aqel

Yusuf M. Bade

Scarlett J. Bergam

Rachel Claire Bernardo

Daniel Nathan Biery

Sarah Cho-Schluger

Caroline Elizabeth Cox

Juliana Marie DeBitetto

Alisa Lorraine Dewald

Jana El-Sayed

Ari Ettleson

Sofia Avalon Finestone

Kellan Grace Clausen Godwin

Arnav Gupta

Thomas Hong

Brij S. Kathuria

Ganga Swarnapali M Keppetipola

Emile-Victor Kuyl

Sonal Mahindroo

Katherine Harrison Mann

Kathleen Hope McCarthy

Nikita Bhavani Menta

Callen Hartleigh Morrison

Esin Christine Namoglu

Philip M. Parel

Vincent Alexander Pecora

Alisha R. Pershad

Daniel Raftis

Abhisri Ramesh

Anna Kathryn Reed

Madeline Claire Rocks

Marcus Edward Russell

Alana Kimie Sadur

Arjun Raja Shetty

Kennedy Hope Sun

Brendan Jack Sweeney

Michael Francis Taylor

Matthew Jack Walker

Vincent Eric Xu

Amy Y. Zhao

## GOLD HUMANISM HONOR SOCIETY

### *Recognizing Humanistic Exemplars*

Abdulla K. Ahmed

Ryan Michael Antar

Hala Aqel

Yusuf M. Bade

Scarlett J. Bergam

Daniel Nathan Biery

Anna Mairi Buchanan

Alisa Lorraine Dewald

Sofia Avalon Finestone

Bobga Sigala Gang

Maria Dorothea Groussis

Melanie C. Hamilton

Thomas Hong

Brij S. Kathuria

Bruny Vida Kenou

Arash Kiankhooy

M. Sulaiman M. Kidwai

Franklin Hyunsu Lee

Ryesa Amreen Mansoor

Aparna Nanduru

Sasha T. Narain

Allison Leigh Pasti

Katherine Maria Rangoussis

Madeline Claire Rocks

Abdul-Rahman Salman

Sylvie Lara Sanders

Leyn Shakhtour

Brendan Jack Sweeney

Hoang-Viet Doan Tran

Sarah Watkins

Justin Matthew Zaslavsky

## KANE-KING DODEK SOCIETY

### *Obstetrical Honor Society*

Scarlett J. Bergam

Jessabelle Diana Bowers-Perez

Alisa Lorraine Dewald

Sofia Avalon Finestone

Nathaniel Freishtat

Emily Caroline Knox

Kathleen Hope McCarthy

Callen Hartleigh Morrison

Allison Leigh Pasti

Alexa Shahine

Arjun Raja Shetty

Michael Francis Taylor

Sarah Watkins

Meredith Wells

# GRADUATES

## DOCTOR OF MEDICINE CANDIDATES

Victoria Opeyemi Agbelese

Amandeep Singh Ahluwalia

Abdulla K. Ahmed

Zafir Ahmed

Yagiz Matthew Akiska

*with Distinction*

Sinan Akosman

Amman Akram

Hussain Mohammed J. Alkhars

*with Distinction*

Ryan Michael Antar

*with Distinction*

Hala Aqel

*with Distinction*

Marcus Archibald

Sandy Awad

Yusuf M. Bade

*with Distinction*

Melanie Natasha Bakovic

John C. Banas

Sofia Barajas

Summerlyn Carlene Beeghly

Anisa Noiwong Benbourenane

Scarlett J. Bergam

*with Distinction*

Rachel Claire Bernardo

*with Distinction*

Victoria Biancavilla

Daniel Nathan Biery

*with Distinction*

Kevin Blain

Brian Nicholas Boehm

Jessabelle Diana Bowers-Perez

Brandon A. Boyarsky

*with Distinction*

Eliza Brufsky

*with Distinction*

Anna Mairi Buchanan

Therese Bueno

Ansh Suresh Chaudhari

Rithvik Chekuri

Snigdha Chigurupati

Sarah Cho-Schluger

*with Distinction*

Charles Cobbs IV

Marc Elie Comair

Caroline Elizabeth Cox

*with Distinction*

Alexandre Da Silva

Jahanshah Davoodifard

Juliana Marie DeBitetto

*with Distinction*

Alisa Lorraine Dewald

*with Distinction*

Giuliana Di Bono

Maria Isabel Perez Diaz

Jason Dossantos

Arthur Pierre Drouaud

Anthony David Dure

Jana El-Sayed

*with Distinction*

Annisa Elbedour

Mariam Basem Elghazzawy

Tugce Erguven

George Hany Eskander

Olivia Lauren Estevez

Ari Ettleson

*with Distinction*

Samantha Lyn Ferraro

Sofia Avalon Finestone

*with Distinction*

Nathaniel Freishtat

*with Distinction*

Michael Jacob Frenkel

Alex Takeo Fukunaga

Rachel G. Furman

Bobga Sigala Gang

Nuha Raimah Gani

Kellan Grace Clausen Godwin

*with Distinction*

Jennifer R. Goldman

*with Distinction*

William Hyunhak Goo

Alain Greenwald

Maria Dorothea Groussis

Arnav Gupta

*with Distinction*

Natalia Allyscia Hadaway

Mariam E. Hafez

Melanie C. Hamilton

Skyler Hammond

Jacob Michael Hands

Sarah Margaret Hansler

*with Distinction*

Jeremy Hayward

Jordan Alexis Helbing

Lucas Elliott Hintz

Kara Lam Hom

*with Distinction*

Thomas Hong

*with Distinction*

Siddhanth Srinivas Iyer

*with Distinction*

Kevin James Jaatinen

Paul Daniel Jacob

Matthew Peter Jacobson

Shamily Jadhav

Sam Javadian

Yeong Je Jeong

Ian Isaac John

Tyler Raphael Johnson

Michaela Grace Karam

Brij S. Kathuria

*with Distinction*

Aryana Kavuri

*with Distinction*

Bruny Vida Kenou

Ganga Swarnapali M. Keppetipola

*with Distinction*

Arash Kiankhooy

M. Sulaiman M. Kidwai

Elizabeth Kline

Emily Caroline Knox

Katherine Elizabeth Kopatsis

Katerina Tam Krouglicof

Emile-Victor Kuyl

*with Distinction*

Monica Isabelle Labine Hearney

Christina Laucius

Bo Hwan Lee

# GRADUATES

## DOCTOR OF MEDICINE CANDIDATES

Franklin Hyunsu Lee	Naiya Osiyemi	Marwah Shuaib <i>with Distinction</i>
Gunhee Brian Lee	Philip M. Parel <i>with Distinction</i>	John Robert Shymansky
Sang Heon Lee	Dylan Barbara Parsons	Rachel Silverman
Jenny Lemus	Allison Leigh Pasti	Rohini Sivagnanadasan
Hannon William Levy	Parth Ketul Patel	Catherine Camille Snyders
Rachel Vianna Levy	Correggio LaDon Peagler	Sophia Qinghui Song
Renxi Li	Vincent Alexander Pecora <i>with Distinction</i>	Cameron Noel Staubs-Friedmann <i>with Distinction</i>
Meryam Akin Losee <i>with Distinction</i>	Amanda Ariani Pereira	Ashley Nichole Stevenson
Maxwell Shayan Madani	Alisha R. Pershad <i>with Distinction</i>	Kennedy Hope Sun <i>with Distinction</i>
Sonal Mahindroo <i>with Distinction</i>	Faozia N. Pio	Brendan Jack Sweeney <i>with Distinction</i>
Neelesh Prasad Manandhar	Mario Andres Pita <i>with Distinction</i>	Michael Francis Taylor <i>with Distinction</i>
Katherine Harrison Mann <i>with Distinction</i>	Daniel Raftis <i>with Distinction</i>	Hoang-Viet Doan Tran <i>with Distinction</i>
Ryesa Amreen Mansoor	Elmer N. Rajah <i>with Distinction</i>	Valory Anne Sarmiento Vailoces
Kathleen Hope McCarthy <i>with Distinction</i>	Abhisri Ramesh <i>with Distinction</i>	Bennet Thomas Varghese
Nikita Bhavani Menta <i>with Distinction</i>	Katherine Maria Rangoussis	Madhu S. Vemulakonda
Nicki Mohammadi	Patrick Ashwin Rao	Savanna Isabelle Vidal <i>with Distinction</i>
Callen Hartleigh Morrison <i>with Distinction</i>	Vishnu Prasad Rao	Maanvi Vij
Ankita Uttira Moss	Anna Kathryn Reed <i>with Distinction</i>	John Michael Wainwright
Andeulazia Constanca Hughes Murdock	William Matthew Rienas	Matthew Jack Walker <i>with Distinction</i>
Esin Christine Namoglu <i>with Distinction</i>	Sahar Rizwan	Jeffrey Yin Wang
Aparna Nanduru	Cameron Brooks Robins	Michelle Wang
Sarah Catherine Nanziri <i>with Distinction</i>	Madeline Claire Rocks <i>with Distinction</i>	Sarah Watkins
Sasha T. Narain	Marcus Edward Russell <i>with Distinction</i>	Meredith Wells
Mana Nasseri <i>with Distinction</i>	Alana Kimie Sadur <i>with Distinction</i>	David T. Wichman
Brunilda Neufeld <i>with Distinction</i>	Abdul-Rahman Salman	Bryce Stephen Winrow
Nathaniel Neuland	Sylvie Lara Sanders	Vincent Eric Xu <i>with Distinction</i>
Benjamin Quy Nguyen	Camiella-Louisa Dione Sehidou	Dahye Christine Yoon
Emily Tuong-Vi Nguyen	Bruce Tanner Seibold	Kirolos Youssef
Mike Hai-Uydi Nguyen	Alexa Shahine	Justin Matthew Zaslavsky
Anoeil Odisho	Leyn Shakhtour	Amy Y. Zhao <i>with Distinction</i>
Adam S. Odolil <i>with Distinction</i>	Arjun Raja Shetty <i>with Distinction</i>	
Elizabeth Okundaye		



# *Share Your Day*

## **#GWCommencement**

### **SCHOOL OF MEDICINE AND HEALTH SCIENCES**

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