



UMSOM Holds Virtual Commencement to Celebrate Class of 2020

May 15, 2020



School of Medicine Graduation Commemoration Honors Medical Graduates

For the first time in the school's 211-year history, the University of Maryland School of Medicine (UMSOM) held a virtual commencement ceremony to celebrate the Class of 2020 on May 14. The ceremony marked the culmination of at least four years of studies for the 166 newly minted physicians, who earned medical degrees, as well as combined MD/PhD and MD/Masters degrees.

"The current state of pandemic further illustrates the value of your hard-earned degrees and the vital need for your service," said [E. Albert Reece, MD, PhD, MBA](#), Executive Vice President for Medical Affairs, University of Maryland, and the John Z. and Akiko K. Bowers Distinguished Professor and Dean, University of Maryland School of Medicine, during his video address. "You could not be joining the ranks of medical professionals during a more critical time. You are truly needed, and you are needed right now."

Among this year's graduates is **Breanna Tracey, MD**, who will soon begin a combined internal medicine and ophthalmology residency at the University of Michigan Hospital. Dr. Tracey is also the recipient of

the Faculty Gold Medal and Balder Scholarship Award, which honors a graduating senior for their outstanding academic and scholarly achievements throughout the medical course.

“I’m sure this is not how any of us expected medical school to end,” she said. “As we start our careers in this uncertain time of coronavirus, I hope we can continue to allow our experiences, both good and bad, to shape us.”

Dr. Tracey was influential in mobilizing over 190 medical students to volunteer their assistance to support University of Maryland health care workers and patients affected by COVID-19.

“Perhaps we will have a better understanding of the isolation patients may face, or more empathy for the effects of the illness. Whatever happens, we should always strive to provide the most compassionate care.”

Class President **Brigit Bagllen, MD**, also commended the Class for their exemplary collaboration and encouraged her colleagues to be ready to face the unknown. “This pandemic puts us in a unique position in how we impact lives. If our actions as a class are predictive of the future, I know we will make a difference.”

[Sandra Quezada, MD, MS](#), Associate Professor of Medicine, Associate Dean for Medical School Admissions, and Assistant Dean for Academic and Multicultural Affairs, similarly offered the Class her words of advice and encouragement. “You have trained and will continue to train, through some of the most historically defining moments of our lifetimes. Know that although there will be challenges ahead, you are well prepared to face them,” she said.

Many of the graduates were honored for their academic achievements during the virtual [Student Awards Ceremony](#), held on May 13. “We are relying on you,” said [Donna Parker, MD, FACP](#), Associate Professor of Medicine, Senior Associate Dean for Undergraduate Medical Education, during her video address. “The success you have achieved is yours today, but it will become ours tomorrow.”

The Class of 2020 matched at 73 different hospitals in 29 states, with 38 members of the class staying in the state of Maryland for their residency training.

About the University of Maryland School of Medicine

Now in its third century, the University of Maryland School of Medicine was chartered in 1807 as the first public medical school in the United States. It continues today as one of the fastest growing, top-tier biomedical research enterprises in the world -- with 45 academic departments, centers, institutes, and programs; and a faculty of more than 3,000 physicians, scientists, and allied health professionals, including members of the National Academy of Medicine and the National Academy of Sciences, and a distinguished two-time winner of the Albert E. Lasker Award in Medical Research. With an operating budget of more than \$1.2 billion, the School of Medicine works closely in partnership with the University of Maryland Medical Center and Medical System to provide research-intensive, academic and clinically based care for nearly 2 million patients each year. The School of Medicine has more than \$540 million in extramural funding, with most of its academic departments highly ranked among all medical schools in the nation in research funding. As one of the seven professional schools that make up the University of Maryland, Baltimore campus, the School of Medicine has a total population of nearly 9,000 faculty and staff, including 2,500 student trainees, residents, and fellows. The combined School of

Medicine and Medical System (“University of Maryland Medicine”) has an annual budget of nearly \$6 billion and an economic impact more than \$15 billion on the state and local community. The School of Medicine faculty, which ranks as the 8th highest among public medical schools in research productivity, is an innovator in translational medicine, with 600 active patents and 24 start-up companies. The School of Medicine works locally, nationally, and globally, with research and treatment facilities in 36 countries around the world. Visit medschool.umaryland.edu

UMSOM Graduation 2020 Videos



[University of Maryland School of Medicine 2020 Virtual Graduation Ceremony.](#)



[Breanna Tracey Graduation Quote](#)



[Brigit Baglien Graduation Quote](#)

UMSOM Graduates 2020 Gallery

Contact

Office of Public Affairs

655 West Baltimore Street
Bressler Research Building 14-002
Baltimore, Maryland 21201-1559

Contact Media Relations
(410) 706-5260

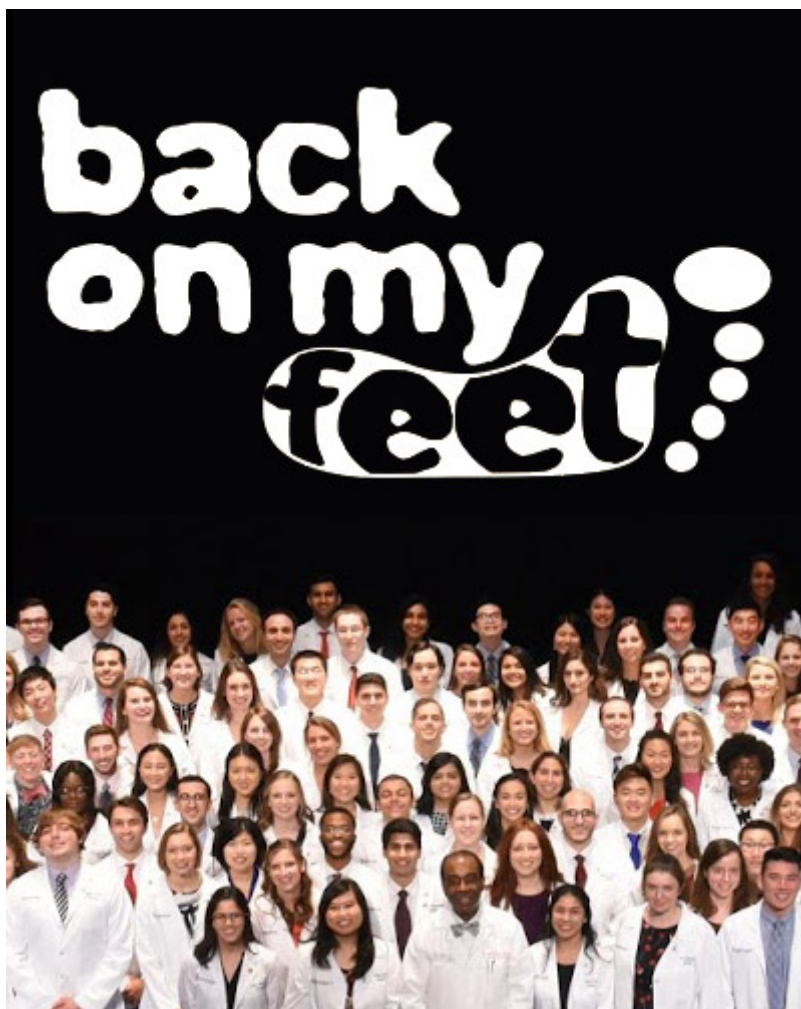
Related stories



Monday, March 23, 2020

The Wait Is Over: It's Match Day 2020

Even as physicians across the United States and around the world confront the COVID-19 pandemic, the importance of the residency match is more evident than ever. According to the National Residency Matching Program (NRMP), this year's Main Residency Match is the largest in history, exceeding the more than 44,000 applicants who registered for the 2019 Match. This year, 161 University of Maryland School of Medicine (UMSOM) students matched at 73 different hospitals in 29 states. Thirty-eight members of the Class of 2020 will stay in the state of Maryland for their residency training.



Monday, February 17, 2020

[14th Annual Medical Student Auction Makes Bid to Fight Homelessness](#)

“Our class is very excited about hosting this year’s auction,” says Malina Howard, Class of 2022 MD candidate at the University of Maryland School of Medicine (UMSOM). “It is going to be a big team effort!” Malina is speaking about the preparations for the Annual Second Year Medical Student Auction, which will be held Thursday, February 20, 2020, from 5:30 to 7:30 pm at the Southern Management Corporation (SMC) Campus Center, 621 W. Lombard Street, Baltimore, MD 21201. This event is open to parents, students, faculty, and staff.



Wednesday, November 06, 2019

[First-Year University of Maryland School of Medicine Medical Students Celebrate White Coat Ceremony.](#)

The University of Maryland School of Medicine (UMSOM) held its annual White Coat Ceremony on November 1 at the Hippodrome Theatre in downtown Baltimore.



Wednesday, July 03, 2019

[UMSOM Class 2021 Celebrate Annual Student Clinician's Ceremony.](#)

The Annual Student Clinician Ceremony was held today, to mark the Class of 2021 progression from basic sciences classroom instruction to their clinical years of medical education. The Class gathered in Davidge Hall, to hear inspirational messages from their mentors and revisit the Hippocratic Oath taken during the White Coat Ceremony.



Friday, May 17, 2019

[So Long, Farewell, Class of 2019](#)

The Class of 2019 received their doctoral hoods in a special graduation ceremony at the Hippodrome Theater on May 17. The ceremony marked the culmination of at least four years of studies for the 162 physicians, who earned medical degrees, as well as combined MD/PhD and MD/Masters degrees. Hundreds of family, friends, and faculty were there to cheer on the graduates as they officially transitioned from students to doctors.



Friday, May 17, 2019

[13th Annual Student Awards Ceremony Recognizes Top Medical Graduates](#)

“Tonight, we celebrate our exceptional students who have worked diligently in the pursuit of excellence towards their medical degrees,” said E. Albert Reece, MD, PhD, MBA, Executive Vice President for Medical Affairs at UM Baltimore, John Z. and Akiko K. Bowers Distinguished Professor, and Dean of the University of Maryland School of Medicine, as he welcomed distinguished guests, donors, faculty, students and their families at the 13th annual Student Awards Ceremony and Dinner held on Wednesday, May 15 at the Baltimore Marriot Inner Harbor at Camden Yards.



Thursday, May 02, 2019

[Leading Child Health Expert and NIH Official Dr. Diana Bianchi to Deliver Graduation Address to the University of Maryland School of Medicine's 210th Graduating Class](#)

University of Maryland School of Medicine (UMSOM) Dean E. Albert Reece, MD, PhD, MBA, announced today that Diana W. Bianchi, MD, Director of the Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD), will deliver the keynote address for this year's graduating class. The UMSOM graduation ceremony will take place at the Hippodrome Theatre on May 16. Doors open at 12:30 pm, the procession begins at 1:30 pm and the ceremony begins at 2:00 pm.



Friday, March 15, 2019

[From Dreams to Reality: Match Day 2019 at the University of Maryland School of Medicine](#)

After years of hard work, determination, and personal sacrifice, University of Maryland School of Medicine (UMSOM) medical students' dreams finally came to fruition at the Match Day ceremony on March 15. At exactly noon, medical students at the UMSOM and around the country, some 30,000 students across the U.S., received an envelope telling them where they will do their residency training. It was truly a day filled with excitement and anticipation for the UMSOM Class of 2019 at Baltimore's famed Hippodrome Theater.



Tuesday, February 26, 2019

[UMSOM Class of 2021 Host Annual Student Auction](#)

“The Annual Student Auction is a phenomenal way to bring the School of Medicine community together to support a meaningful cause,” says Saif Yasin, Class of 2021 President, and MD/PhD student at the University of Maryland School of Medicine (UMSOM).



Monday, December 03, 2018

Members of the Class of 2022 Receive Their White Coats

The University of Maryland School of Medicine (UMSOM) held its annual White Coat Ceremony on November 1 at the Hippodrome Theatre in downtown Baltimore.



Friday, May 18, 2018

[Annual Student Awards Ceremony Recognizes Top Graduates](#)

Following four years of countless tests, late-night study groups, and many cups of coffee, events leading up to graduation began with the 12th annual Student Awards Ceremony and Dinner.



Thursday, May 17, 2018

[Saying Farewell to the Class of 2018](#)

The Class of 2018 received their doctoral hoods in a special graduation ceremony at the Hippodrome Theater on May 17. Hundreds of family, friends, and faculty were there to cheer on the 146 graduates as they officially transitioned from students to doctors.



Tuesday, May 01, 2018

[UMBC President Freeman Hrabowski to Deliver Graduation Address to University of Maryland School of Medicine's 209th Graduating Class](#)

University of Maryland School of Medicine (UMSOM) Dean E. Albert Reece, MD, PhD, MBA, announced today that Freeman A. Hrabowski, III, MA, PhD, President of the University of Maryland Baltimore County (UMBC), will deliver the keynote address for this year's graduating class. The UMSOM graduation ceremony will take place at 10 am on May 17, 2018 at the Hippodrome Theatre.



Friday, March 16, 2018

Match Day: Will Med Students' Dreams Come True?

It's Match Day, when graduating med students across the country find out where they'll spend their residencies. In a gripping, emotional ceremony at the Hippodrome Theater, students in the Class of 2018 will be handed an envelope with the name of their residency. The event is a true-life reality show, because students do not know ahead of time where they are going.



Thursday, May 18, 2017

[So Long and Farewell to the Class of 2017](#)

The Class of 2017 were the stars as they celebrated their graduation ceremony at the Hippodrome Theater on May 18. Hundreds of family, friends and faculty were there to cheer on the 160 graduates as they officially transitioned from students to doctors. “This celebration is also about you and, indeed, for you,” E. Albert Reece, MD, PhD, MBA, Vice President for Medical Affairs, University of Maryland, and the John Z. and Akiko K. Bowers Distinguished Professor and Dean, University of Maryland School of Medicine, told the families “This celebration is also about you and, indeed, for you.”



Monday, April 24, 2017

[New York Times Science Journalist Gina Kolata to Deliver Graduation Address to University of Maryland School of Medicine's 208th Graduating Class](#)

University of Maryland School of Medicine (UM SOM) Dean E. Albert Reece, MD, PhD, MBA, along with students, parents, families, faculty and other members of the UM SOM community, will welcome award-winning science journalist and University of Maryland alumna, Gina Kolata, MS, as the graduation speaker for this year's graduating class. The UM SOM graduation ceremony will take place at 10am on May 18, 2017 at the Hippodrome Theater. As this year's speaker, Ms. Kolata will receive an honorary Dean's Medal from the UM SOM.



Wednesday, May 18, 2016

[Annual Student Awards Ceremony Recognizes Top Graduates](#)

The events leading up to Graduation 2016 kicked off in a special way the evening of May 18 with the 10th Annual Student Awards Ceremony and Dinner. Held at the Southern Management Corporation Campus Center, the awards dinner provided an opportunity to recognize the accomplished graduating students who have received scholarships, awards, and other academic prizes.



Thursday, May 14, 2015

[So Long, Farewell, Class of 2015](#)

The Class of 2015 received their doctoral hoods in a special graduation ceremony at the Baltimore Convention Center on May 14. Hundreds of family, friends and faculty were there to cheer on the 157 graduates as they officially transitioned from students to doctors.

[×](#)