

Medical College of Georgia

Class of 2026



AUGUSTA UNIVERSITY
**MEDICAL COLLEGE
OF GEORGIA**

1120 15th Street • Augusta, GA 30912 • 706-721-2231
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White Coat Ceremony

————— OCTOBER 22, 2022 —————





Great Doctors, Great Medicine since 1828.



PROGRAM

WELCOME

Jennifer Tucker, MD, '97

Interim Associate Dean for Learner Affairs

Michael Brands, PhD

Vice Dean for Academic Affairs

Regents' Professor, Department of Physiology

Director, Medical Physiology

Michelle (Shelley) A. Nuss, MD

Campus Dean & Designated Institutional Official

Augusta University/University of Georgia Medical Partnership

DEAN'S COMMENTS

David C. Hess, MD

Dean, Medical College of Georgia

Executive Vice President for Medical Affairs and Integration, Augusta University

Presidential Distinguished Chair

Professor, Department of Neurology

KEYNOTE ADDRESS

Anil Puri, MD, '05

President, Medical College of Georgia Alumni Association

PRESENTATION OF WHITE COATS

Medical College of Georgia Faculty

"THE WHITE COAT"

Idris Ali Amghaiab

President, Class of 2023, Augusta Campus

Zachary Adams

President, Class of 2023

Augusta University/University of Georgia Medical Partnership

LEADING OF THE CLASS OF 2026 OATH

Dr. Nuss

PROGRAM CLOSING

Dr. Tucker

FACULTY ANNOUNCERS

Shilpa Brown, MD, '94

Interim Associate Dean for Curriculum

Anna C. Edmondson, PhD

Professor & Director, Musculoskeletal-Skin Module, Pre-clerkship Curriculum

Robert McClowry, MD

*Campus Associate Dean for Student Affairs, Diversity and Inclusion
Augusta University/University of Georgia Medical Partnership*

W. Scott Richardson, MD

*Campus Associate Dean for Medical Education
Augusta University/University of Georgia Medical Partnership*

Ashley Saucier, MD, '11

Assistant Dean, Evaluation, Accreditation and Continuous Quality Improvement

Nicole Winston, PharmD, EdD

Assistant Dean for Curriculum, Foundations of Medicine

FACULTY COATERS

Tania K. Arora, MD

Assistant Dean for Learner Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

Kelli Braun, MD, '04

Associate Dean of Admissions

Greer Falls, MD

Assistant Dean for Learner Affairs

Dixon Freeman, MD

Assistant Dean, Northwest Campus

FACULTY COATERS

Elizabeth Gray, MD

Associate Dean for Curriculum, Southeast Campus

Bryson Greenwood, MD

*Assistant Professor, Department of Family Medicine
Augusta University/University of Georgia Medical Partnership*

Ryan Harris, PhD

Professor & Associate Director, Georgia Prevention Institute

DeLoris Hesse, PhD

*Associate Professor of Anatomy and Embryology
Augusta University/University of Georgia Medical Partnership*

Wanda Jirau-Rosalv, MD

*Associate Professor, Department of Medicine
Director, Patient Centered Learning*

Carrie Kelly, MD, '05

*Assistant Professor, Department of Pediatrics
Augusta University/University of Georgia Medical Partnership*

Erin Latif, MD, '02

*Director, MCG3+ PGY 1 Pathway
Associate Professor, Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology*

Kimberly Vess Loomer, EdD

Associate Dean for Learner Well-being

Matt Lyon, MD, '99

Associate Dean for Experiential Learning

Rodger MacArthur, MD

Professor, Department of Medicine, Division of Infectious Diseases

Robert Mackin, PhD

*Associate Professor of Cellular Biology and Anatomy
Augusta University/University of Georgia Medical Partnership*

Kathryn Martin, PhD, MPH

Associate Dean for Regional Campus Coordination

FACULTY COATERS

Rina P. Mosley, DO

Assistant Professor, Department of Pediatrics, Division of Neonatology

T. Wayne Rentz, MD, '72

Campus Associate Dean, Southeast Campus

Theresa Rohr-Kirchgraber, MD

Professor of Medicine

Augusta University/University of Georgia Medical Partnership

William Salazar, MD

Professor, Departments of Medicine, Psychiatry and Health Behavior

Nirupma Sharma, MD

Associate Professor, Department of Pediatrics

E. Vanessa Spearman-McCarthy, MD, '05

Associate Dean for Learner Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

Louise S. Thai, MD

Professor, Academic Affairs

Jonathan Thompson, MD

Clinical Instructor of Emergency Medicine, Northwest Campus

Ariel VanLeuven, PhD

Assistant Professor of Cellular Biology and Anatomy

Augusta University/University of Georgia Medical Partnership

Christopher Watson, MD, MPH

Assistant Dean for Learner Affairs

**The Medical Student
Class of 2026 Oath of Service and Responsibility
Medical College of Georgia**

We, the Class of 2026 of the Medical College of Georgia, proudly stand before our families, friends, peers and faculty to pledge this oath.

We pledge:

To practice medicine with compassion and foster the flourishing of our communities.

To use evidence-based medicine to provide the highest standard of care while respecting our patients' autonomy and being worthy of their trust.

To attend to the suffering of others and promote health literacy.

To care for ourselves so that we may best care for our patients.

To devote ourselves to the lifelong role of both educator and student of our communities.

To collaborate with other health care professionals in pursuit of the well-being of the patient above all else.

To apply our knowledge for the advancement of medicine and health care policy.

To strive to mitigate personal and systemic shortcomings and advocate for equitable treatment across all communities.

To embody these values even in the face of adversity.

We pledge to hold ourselves to the responsibilities that come with these white coats and to represent ourselves, our class, and the Medical College of Georgia with honor.

Keynote Speaker
Anil Puri, MD, '05

Dr. Anil Puri earned his medical degree from the Medical College of Georgia in 2005. He completed his internal medicine residency and fellowships in pulmonary, critical care medicine and sleep medicine at the University of Florida. He also earned a master's degree in health administration from The George Washington University. After his training, he returned to his hometown of Milledgeville, Georgia and has been in private practice for nearly a decade.

His clinical interests include population health and exploring technological models to help improve access to care and health outcomes in rural areas. He is also a clinical associate professor in the Department of Medicine at MCG and thoroughly enjoys teaching medical students during their outpatient internal medicine rotation, as well as serving as an attending physician in the medical intensive care unit at Augusta University Medical Center. He currently serves as president of the MCG Alumni Association.

ARNOLD P. GOLD FOUNDATION

The Arnold P. Gold Foundation works with health care professionals in training and in practice to instill a culture of respect, dignity and compassion for patients and professionals. The foundation is a public, 501(c) (3) not-for-profit organization, established in 1988 by Arnold Gold, MD, Sandra Gold, EdD, and their colleagues at the Columbia University College of Physicians & Surgeons in New York.

The foundation's logo, a heart-shaped stethoscope, is a familiar sight in medical schools and centers throughout the country and abroad. It is featured on lapel pins worn by over 17,000 new medical students each year. Students and faculty at 93% of our nation's accredited schools of medicine, both allopathic and osteopathic, participate in at least one foundation program.

The foundation established the White Coat Ceremony in 1993 as a way to welcome new students into the most noble of professions – medicine. The most important element of the ceremony is the oath that students take in front of family members, school leadership and peers. The oath acknowledges their primary role as caregivers. The ceremony and the oath serve as a rite of passage and are further commemorated by lapel pins that the foundation supplies to students at all ceremonies. The pins contain an inscription about humanism in medicine and serve as a visual reminder to students that in order to deliver the best care to their patients, compassion and empathy must be the hallmark of their clinical practice. Schools choose how to commemorate the ceremony – whether it be with the presentation of a white coat to each student or some other icon of medicine, such as a stethoscope.

MEDICAL COLLEGE OF GEORGIA CLASS OF 2026
AUGUSTA CAMPUS

Fathma Abdulkhader	Ana-Sophia Chung	William Goss
Ali Abolhassani	Joshua Clark	Lindsey Grater
Mark Ademisoye	Jacob Cliett	Rachel Grimes
Asim Ahmed	Meghan Coggins	Luke Guy
Jennifer Ahweyevu	Maura Connorton	Madeline Hamby
Abhiramgopal Akella	Hannah Copp	Sophia Hamill
Danny Alevy	Alvaro Cortez	Mitchell Hanson
Ujwal Aluru	Claire Cotton	Davis Hardell
August Anderson	Edwine Coulanges	Rwan Hayek
Samantha Armas	Sydney Delor	Stephanie Hayes
Nicholas Arrowood	Christopher Dick	Madison Hazelwood
Osayamen Atekha	Sruthi Dontu	Simon He
Caleb Bacak	Shawn Doss	Yejin Heo
Christina Bae	Irielle Duncan	Gabrielle Hernandez
Pratima Bajaj	Danielle Dunmon	Emily Hicks
Bhavya Bakshi	Neethu Edathara	Anne Hu
Carol Beatty	Neel Edupuganti	Morenike Isola
Stacy Bedore	Anthony Elengickal	Madison Ives
Ashna Bhardwaj	Temiloluwa Faokunla	Cameron Jackson
Arjun Bhatt	Chloe Farnham	Karim Jandali Rifai
Aditya Bhawe	Samantha Feinstein	Gagandeep Japra
Jordan Bothwell	Katherine Ferguson	Emily Jones
Morgan Broniec	Joshua Fernicola	Melanie Jones
David Brower	Caroline Finn	Touré Jones
Amber Bullock	Mary Kate Flaig	Vatsala Kapoor
Kyle Burkhardt	Ryan Frerichs	Rohan Kapuria
Weston Bush	Nicholas Fuchs	Justin Ketchem
Andrea Caceres	Claire Gallion	Ramsha Khan
Gustavo Capo Fernandez	James Gardner	Rayyan Khan
Stephen Cave	Brandon Garten	Jacob Knight
Ananya Chakraborty	Marc Gelernter	Rithwik Koppaka
Herjot Cheema	Hana Ghiathi	Sarah Krakowski
Madison Chimenti	Somtochukwu Godwin-Offor	Nivan Lakshman
Haley Chishom	Gaurav Gopu	Salima Lalani

MEDICAL COLLEGE OF GEORGIA CLASS OF 2026
AUGUSTA CAMPUS

Ryan Langston	Brice Ona	Abigayle Simon
Alana Lanser	David Overholt	Abigail Smith
Benjamin Lapid	Caleb Padgett	Noor Sohal
Taylor Leathers	Anuja Palacharla	William Sparks
Andrew Lempner	Eric Pan	Michael Steflik
John Lester	Theresa Parker	Claudia Szlek
Austin Liou	Aditya Patel	Easha Tadvai
Cameron Liss	Akash Patel	Ryan Tang
George Liu	Alisha Patel	Nicole Tayag
Madelaine Lowery	Michelle Patel	Grace Thayer
Erick Luna	Raag Patel	Blayne Thomason
Thomas Lyons	Roshni Patel	Madelyn Thompson
Eden Mahoney	Sagar Patel	Kaitlyn Tice
Vivien Makhoul	Sahil Patel	Joshua van der Eerden
John Manfredi	Saloni Patel	Ankita Vayalapalli
Caitlyn Margol	Shiv Patel	Lukas Veltmaat
Brenna Martin	Tathya Patel	Pravin Vikram
Jackson McClain	Yagni Patel	Resean Wallace
Jessica McElrath	Utsav Paul	Zhidong "Richard" Wang
Riley Meehan	Sarah Pearson	Charles Weeks
William Meeks	Faheem Pottayil	Elena Wernecke
Megh Mehta	Manvi Pudukollu	Alleigh Wettstein
Brittany Mills	Adarshini Raja	Mackenzie White
Samarth Mishra	Alane Rogers	Mark White
Eric Morey	Josephine Rudd Zhong Manis	Ivory Williams
Vishaal Motla	Sakshi Sehgal	Peter-Jon Williams
Malek Moumne	Vani Senthil	Jacob Worden
Mesk Nafea	Ankita Shah	Sandeep Yerraguntla
Hima Nesbit	Dilan Shah	Adam Zbib
Daniel Newton	Vyom Shah	
Emily Ng	Arthi Shankar	
Brianna Nicholson	Abhinav Sharma	
Mohammad Nisar	Karan Sharma	
Kristin Nzerue	Ahmed Shetewi	
Danielle Obiri	Danielle Shin	
Kafayat Oketade	Charlyn Shue	

MEDICAL COLLEGE OF GEORGIA CLASS OF 2026
AUGUSTA UNIVERSITY/UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA MEDICAL PARTNERSHIP

Humzah Ali
Radhesh Amin
Betsy Bartholf
Jordan Beil
Alex Bergeron
Matthew Busse
Anna-Kay Campbell
Viktor Cheban
Tajah Damm
Robert Davidson
Erika DeAndrade
James Dornbush
Attila Dos Santos
Rebekah Dry
Olivia Erickson
Damian Ezuma
Joshua Goeltz
Sean Gordon II
Robert Greene Jr.
Ansley Harralson

Parker Helms
Noor Hillou
Amy Jenkins
Justin Keener
Firdous Khan
Jasmine Lake
John Layman
Jason Levin
Amanda Lilley
Abdoulie Mbye
James McClellan III
Lucas McCook
Hunter McWilliams
Suraj Modi
Alaina Moore
Taylor Moore
Rida Naeem
Krithika Nayudu
Pamela Nguyen
Eric O'Hara

John Ostrowski
Lydia Piendel
Kaitlin Pyrz
Isabella Rhangos
Christopher Rhee
Morgen Ricketts
Quinn Roe
Justin Rowe
Josie Ryder
Khadeeja Shabbir
Gi Shin
Sarah Stay
Constance Sullivan
Kayla Tatum
Fikrea Tesema
Jessica Vissicchio
Sarah Wells
Khase Willis
Justin Wolozin
Jake Wong