



The University of Alabama at Birmingham

UAB MARNIX E. HEERSINK SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

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# COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY

SATURDAY, MAY 18, 2024, 1 P.M.

BARTOW ARENA

BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA

## **Welcome to the 2024 Commencement Ceremony of the UAB Marnix E. Heersink School of Medicine.**

Today's ceremony is the culmination of years of study, preparation, and achievement by our graduating students. We hope you find the ceremony both meaningful and memorable, as it reflects the combined efforts of the faculty, staff, alumni, and, of course, our students and their families.

### **ABOUT THE UAB MARNIX E. HEERSINK SCHOOL OF MEDICINE**

In grateful recognition of a transformational \$100 million lead gift from longtime University of Alabama at Birmingham supporter Marnix E. Heersink, M.D., the UAB School of Medicine is now named the UAB Marnix E. Heersink School of Medicine.

The record gift is the single largest philanthropic commitment in university history and named the UAB Marnix E. Heersink School of Medicine, as well as established the Marnix E. Heersink Institute for Biomedical Innovation and the Mary Heersink Institute for Global Health. The gift will provide support with both endowed and outright funds for key initiatives of the Heersink School of Medicine. Dr. Heersink, a renowned eye surgeon, innovator, and entrepreneur, desires for this gift to inspire and catalyze additional philanthropic contributions that support high-impact recruitments, programs, and research in the Heersink School of Medicine.

### **ABOUT THE PROCESSION**

Commencement begins with an academic procession. Faculty and alumni will form a path through which the class will enter. The Path of Honor is a significant moment in which faculty and alumni recognize the accomplishments of the graduating students.

The students will process in by Learning Community. Learning Communities are small groups to which students are assigned upon entering medical school. Each Learning Community will be led by the faculty mentor and gonfalon (banner) bearing the name of physician for which the community is named. More information about the namesakes for each Learning Community can be found on pages 10-11.

*If you are able, please stand for the Procession.*

### **ABOUT THE HOODING**

Students are hooded with members of their Learning Community. A list of the students by Learning Community can be found on pages 31-33. After the Learning Communities, the students who completed the Medical Scientist Training Program (MD/PhD) will be hooded. Finally, those students who have completed the Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery Residency Program will be hooded.

### **ABOUT THE OATH OF HIPPOCRATES**

The ceremony concludes with reading the Oath of Hippocrates.

Hippocrates of Kos (c. 460-370 BC) was a Greek physician known for his contributions to the field of medicine, such as clinical observation, the systematic study of medicine, and categorization of diseases. In Egypt, Imhotep (c. 2650-2600 BC) practiced first as an architect and then as a physician and is recognized for early advances in surgery, pathology of disease, and the insistence of practicing medicine as a science. Taken together, Hippocrates and Imhotep represent the long and evolving history of medicine as a profession with rich global and cultural contributions and accomplishments.

The Oath of Hippocrates (or Hippocratic Oath), has itself been adapted to reflect new understandings about the practice of medicine, and to reflect values more consistent with different periods of time. While there has not been a "standard" oath for decades, many medical schools still incorporate some version of the oath in their commencement ceremonies to show unity of medical students who will soon enter the profession of medicine with the faculty and alumni in attendance.

*The version of the oath our students, faculty, and alumni will read together at the end of the ceremony can be found on page five of the program.*

## ABOUT THE SPEAKER

**Bryan Stevenson, M.A., J.D.**, is the founder and Executive Director of the Equal Justice Initiative, a human rights organization in Montgomery, Alabama. Under his leadership, EJI has won major legal challenges eliminating excessive and unfair sentencing, exonerating innocent death row prisoners, confronting abuse of the incarcerated and the mentally ill, and aiding children prosecuted as adults.

Mr. Stevenson has argued and won multiple cases at the United States Supreme Court, including a 2019 ruling protecting condemned prisoners who suffer from dementia and a landmark 2012 ruling that banned mandatory life-imprisonment-without-parole sentences for all children 17 or younger. Mr. Stevenson and his staff have won reversals, relief, or release from prison for over 140 wrongly condemned prisoners on death row and won relief for hundreds of others wrongly convicted or unfairly sentenced.

Mr. Stevenson has initiated major new anti-poverty and anti-discrimination efforts that challenge inequality in America. He led the creation of EJI's highly acclaimed Legacy Sites, including the Legacy Museum, the National Memorial for Peace and Justice, and Freedom Monument Sculpture Park. These new national landmark institutions chronicle the legacy of slavery, lynching, and racial segregation, and the connection to mass incarceration and contemporary issues of racial bias.

Mr. Stevenson's work has won him numerous awards including the prestigious MacArthur Foundation "Genius" Prize; the ABA Medal, the American Bar Association's highest honor; the National Medal of Liberty from the American Civil Liberties Union after he was nominated by United States Supreme Court Justice John Stevens; the Public Interest Lawyer of the Year by the National Association of Public Interest Lawyers; and the Olaf Palme Prize in Stockholm, Sweden for international human rights. In 2002, he received the Alabama State Bar Commissioners Award. In 2003, the SALT Human Rights Award was presented to Mr. Stevenson by the Society of American Law Teachers. In 2004, he received the Award for Courageous Advocacy from the American College of Trial Lawyers and also the Lawyer for the People Award from the National Lawyers Guild. In 2006 New York University presented Mr. Stevenson with its Distinguished Teaching Award. Mr. Stevenson won the Gruber Foundation International Justice

Prize and was awarded the NAACP William Robert Ming Advocacy Award, the National Legal Aid & Defender Association Lifetime Achievement Award, the Ford Foundation Visionaries Award and the Roosevelt Institute Franklin

D. Roosevelt Freedom from Fear Award. In 2012, Mr. Stevenson received the American Psychiatric Association Human Rights Award, the Birmingham Civil Rights Institute Fred L. Shuttlesworth Award, and the Smithsonian Magazine American Ingenuity Award in Social Progress.

Mr. Stevenson was inducted into the American Academy of Arts and Science in 2014 and won the Lannan Cultural Freedom Prize. In 2015, he was named to the Time 100 recognizing the world's most influential people. In 2016, he received the American Bar Association's Thurgood Marshall Award. He was named in Fortune's 2016 and 2017 World's Greatest Leaders list. He received the Martin Luther King Jr. Nonviolent Peace Prize, from the King Center in Atlanta in 2018. In 2020, he received the Right Livelihood Award from The Right Livelihood Foundation in Sweden. In 2023, he was awarded the National Humanities Medal by President Biden.

Mr. Stevenson has received over 50 honorary doctoral degrees, including degrees from Harvard, Yale, Princeton, the University of Pennsylvania, and Oxford University. He is the author of the critically acclaimed New York Times bestseller, *Just Mercy*, which was named by Time Magazine as one of the 10 Best Books of Nonfiction for 2014 and has been awarded several honors, including the American Library Association's Carnegie Medal for best nonfiction book of 2015 and a 2015 NAACP Image Award. *Just Mercy* was adapted as a major motion picture and the film won the American Bar Association's 2020 Silver Gavel Award as well as four NAACP Image Awards. Mr. Stevenson is also the subject of the Emmy Award-winning HBO documentary *True Justice*.

He is a graduate of the Harvard Law School and the Harvard School of Government.



## OATH OF HIPPOCRATES

I swear by that which I hold most sacred that according to my ability I will keep this, my oath and covenant:  
With purity and holiness I will pass my life and practice my art.

As I labor in the places of healing, my first thoughts will be the life, happiness and health of my patients.

To this end, I will try to treat my fellow physicians in this art as I wish them to treat me.

I will use my power to heal my patients to the best of my judgment.

I will abstain from harming or wronging anyone by it.

I will maintain the utmost respect for human life.

Into whatever houses I enter I will go into them for the benefit of my patients.

And whatsoever I shall see or hear in the course of my profession, as well as outside my profession in my interactions with others, if it be what should not be published abroad, I will not divulge, holding such things to be sacred.

For the sake of the sick I will pursue knowledge of this art throughout the days of my life.

With eagerness I will learn from my fellow physicians and with humility I will share my knowledge with them.

In respect for those who have led me into the paths of Medicine, I will lead those who follow me.

Should I transgress these promises, may my soul know no peace, but while I keep this oath inviolate, may it be granted to me to enjoy life and the practice of the art, forever honored by all people.

# PROGRAM

## PROCESSION WITH PATH OF HONOR\*

Students, Faculty and Alumni

## WELCOME & OPENING REMARKS

**Anupam Agarwal, M.D.**

Senior Vice President for Medicine  
Dean, UAB Heersink School of Medicine  
James C. Lee, Jr. Endowed Chair

## CLASS PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

**Jillian Alexis Tinglin** | President, Class of 2024

## COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS

**Bryan Stevenson, M.A., J.D.**

## SCHOOL AWARDS

**Craig Hoesley, M.D.** | Senior Associate Dean for Medical Education

## MEDICAL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION LEADERSHIP & COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD

**P. Michael Caruso, M.D.** | President, University of Alabama Medical Alumni Association

## WILL FERNIANY ACADEMIC MEDICINE LEADERSHIP AWARD

**W. Scott Jennings, C.P.A., MBA**

## AWARDING OF ACADEMIC HOODS\*\*

**Anupam Agarwal, M.D.**, Presiding

**Craig Hoesley, M.D.**

**Kevin Leon, M.D.** | Associate Dean for Undergraduate Medical Education

## READING OF NAMES

**Nicholas Van Wagoner, M.D., Ph.D.** | Associate Dean for Students

## OATH OF HIPPOCRATES‡

**Christopher Roney, M.D.** | 2023 Recipient of the Leonard Tow Humanism in Medicine Award

## RECESSION\*

Students, Faculty and Alumni

*\*If you are able, please stand.*

*\*\*Students will be hooded by their Learning Community.*

*A list of students by Learning Community can be found on pages 31-33 of this program.*

*‡Physicians in the audience are invited to stand and recite the Oath with the faculty and students.*

*A copy of the oath can be found on page 5.*

# LEADERSHIP

## SENIOR LEADERSHIP

**Anupam Agarwal, M.D.**

Senior Vice President for Medicine and Dean

**Etty (Tika) Benveniste, Ph.D.**

Associate Vice President for Medicine and Basic Sciences; Senior Vice Dean

**Herbert Chen, M.D.**

Senior Associate Dean, Academic Affairs

**Victor M. Darley-Usmar, Ph.D.**

Senior Associate Dean, Research Compliance and Administration

**Mona Fouad, M.D., MPH**

Associate Vice President, Diversity, Equity and Inclusion;  
Senior Associate Dean, Diversity and Inclusion

**Craig Hoesley, M.D.**

Senior Associate Dean, Medical Education

**Robert P. Kimberly, M.D.**

Senior Associate Dean, Strategic Initiatives

**Jean Ann Larson, Ph.D.**

Senior Associate Dean, Leadership Development; Chief Leadership Development Officer

**David Rogers, M.D., MPHE**

Chief Wellness Officer

**Alan Tita, M.D., Ph.D.**

Senior Associate Dean, Global and Women's Health

## ASSOCIATE DEANS

**Irfan M. Asif, M.D.** | Primary Care and Rural Health

**Scott Ballinger, Ph.D.** | Faculty Affairs

**Thomas W. Buford, Ph.D.** | Research

**Raegan Durant, M.D., MPH** | Diversity and Inclusion

**Richard Friend, M.D.** | Tuscaloosa Program

**Alice Goepfert, M.D.** | Graduate Medical Education

**Christina J. Grabowski, Ph.D.** | Admissions and Enrollment Management

**Alicia Gross, Ph.D.** | Faculty Affairs and Development

**Caroline Harada, M.D.** | Strategic Initiatives, Medical Education

**Bruce Korf, M.D., Ph.D.** | Genomic Medicine and Chief Genomic Officer

**Louis R. Lambiase, M.D.** | Montgomery Program

**Kevin Leon, M.D.** | Undergraduate Medical Education

**Roger D. Smalligan, M.D.** | Huntsville Program

**Nicholas Van Wagoner, M.D., Ph.D.** | Students

## ASSISTANT DEANS

William S. Brooks, Ph.D. | Preclinical Education  
Latesha Eloppe, M.D., MSPH | Diversity & Inclusion  
Cristin Gavin, Ph.D. | Undergraduate Biomedical Education  
William M. Geisler, M.D., MPH | Physician Scientist Development  
Brenessa Lindeman, M.D., MEHP, FACS | Graduate Medical Education  
Todd Peterson, M.D. | Students  
Rubin Pillay, M.D., Ph.D. | Global Health  
Marjorie Lee White, M.D. | Clinical Simulation  
James H. Willig, M.D., MSPH | Clinical Education  
Carlton Young, M.D. | Medical Student Diversity & Inclusion  
Majd Zayzafoon, M.D., Ph.D. | International Medical Education

## BIRMINGHAM DEPARTMENT LEADERSHIP

Irfan M. Asif, M.D. | Family Medicine  
David M. Bedwell, Ph.D. | Biochemistry & Molecular Genetics  
Dan E. Berkowitz, MBBCh | Anesthesiology & Perioperative Medicine  
James A. Bonner, M.D. | Radiation Oncology  
Herbert Chen, M.D. | Surgery  
James Cimino, M.D. | Biomedical Informatics and Data Science  
Mitchell B. Cohen, M.D. | Pediatrics  
Anindya Dutta, M.D., Ph.D. | Genetics  
Boni E. Elewski, M.D. | Dermatology  
Marie-Carmelle Elie, M.D. | Emergency Medicine  
Victor Garcia-Martinez, Ph.D. | Microbiology  
Craig J. Hoesley, M.D. | Medical Education  
Warner K. Huh, M.D. | Obstetrics & Gynecology  
Adrienne Lahti, M.D. | Psychiatry & Behavioral Neurobiology  
C. Seth Landefeld, M.D. | Medicine  
James M. Markert, M.D., MPH | Neurosurgery  
Cristina Magi-Galluzzi, M.D., Ph.D. | Pathology  
Vu Nguyen, M.D., MBA | Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation  
Craig Powell, M.D., Ph.D. | Neurobiology  
Soroush Rais-Bahrami, M.D., MBA | (Interim) Urology  
Brian Samuels, M.D., Ph.D. | Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences  
David G. Standaert, M.D., Ph.D. | Neurology  
Steven Theiss, M.D. | Orthopaedic Surgery

Srini Tridandapani, M.D. | (Interim) Radiology  
Teresa Wilborn, Pharm.D., Ph.D. | (Interim) Pharmacology & Toxicology  
Bradford A. Woodworth, M.D. | (Interim) Otolaryngology  
Bradley Yoder, Ph.D. | Cell, Developmental & Integrative Biology  
Jay Zhang, M.D., Ph.D. | Biomedical Engineering

## HUNTSVILLE DEPARTMENT LEADERSHIP

Shivani Malhotra, M.D. | Family Medicine  
John Fanning, M.D. | Internal Medicine  
Steffane Battle, M.D. | Pediatrics  
Clinton Martin, M.D. | Psychiatry  
Rony Najjar, M.D. | Surgery

## TUSCALOOSA DEPARTMENT LEADERSHIP

Jane Weida, M.D. | Family Medicine, Internal, and Rural Medicine  
John McDonald, M.D. | Obstetrics & Gynecology  
Karen Burgess, M.D. | Pediatrics  
Thaddeus Ulzen, M.D. | Psychiatry & Behavioral Medicine  
Joseph Wallace, M.D. | Surgery

## REGIONAL CAMPUS LEADERSHIP

Lanita S. Carter, Ph.D. | Director, Medical Education and Student Services, Huntsville Campus  
Britney Sellers, MPH | Director, Medical Education and Student Services, Montgomery Campus  
Dale Dickinson, Ph.D. | Director of Medical Student Affairs, Tuscaloosa Campus

# STUDENT LEADERSHIP

## 2024 CLASS OFFICERS

Jillian Alexis Tinglin, Class President  
John Charles Nichols, Vice President  
James Hill Crenshaw, Jr., Treasurer

# LEARNING COMMUNITIES

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## LEARNING COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES

Faaiz Saad, Barfield-Carter  
Savannah Olivia Elrod, Barfield-Carter  
Claire Virginia Gorman, Finley  
Eva Camille Kurtts, Finley  
Alyssa Katherine Lambert, Hamilton  
Caleb Reid Hood, Hamilton  
Seth Benjamin Ballew, Harrison  
Zoey Noelle Duncan, Harrison  
Coleman Burch, Hill  
Harrison Lawrence Turner, Hill  
Cooper Jeremiah Wright, Hirschowitz  
Mykaela Justine Watt, Hirschowitz  
Brittany Ann Marie Roman, Kirklín  
Geoffrey Sims Bostany, Kirklín  
Mitchel Lee Disharoon, Lyons  
Paxton Peacock, Lyons  
Jessica Wing Huen Wu, McCallum  
Juliann Shu Wang, McCallum  
Grant Patrick Wagner, Oparil  
Meghna Hyma Katta, Oparil  
Brett Jonathan Cooke, Pittman  
Isabel Claire Collins, Pittman

## BARFIELD-CARTER COMMUNITY

In 1945, Melson Barfield-Carter, M.D., became the first female faculty member at the Heersink School of Medicine and the first woman to be named a department chair (of the Department of Radiology). She also was the first woman to graduate from Tulane Medical School, and she completed her residency in radiology at Massachusetts General Hospital. Barfield-Carter started the radiology residency training program and developed the School of Radiological Technology at UAB.

*Students in the Barfield-Carter Community are assigned to the Birmingham campus for clinical training.*

## FINLEY COMMUNITY

Wayne Finley, M.D., Ph.D., and Sara Crews Finley, M.D., became pioneers in the field of medical genetics when they co-founded the Laboratory of Medical Genetics, the first center of its kind in the Southeast, in 1962. The Finleys guided the medical genetics research, training, and service program at UAB for 35 years, providing genetics services and developing specialized diagnostic laboratories for detectable genetic disorders.

*Students in the Finley Community are assigned to the Tuscaloosa campus for clinical training.*

## HAMILTON COMMUNITY

Herschell Lee Hamilton, M.D., came to Birmingham in 1958 as its first African American board-certified general surgeon. He was the first African American to receive operating privileges at University Hospital. Hamilton earned his nicknames as the “Dog Bite Doctor” and the “Battle Surgeon” for his work helping injured activists during the civil rights movement.

*Students in the Hamilton Community are assigned to the Huntsville campus for clinical training.*

## HARRISON COMMUNITY

Tinsley Harrison, M.D., served as dean of the Heersink School of Medicine and chairman of the Department of Medicine. He helped recruit nationally known physicians from Harvard University and the Mayo Clinic, among others. His special field of interest was cardiovascular medicine as well as the pathophysiological mechanisms of disease. Harrison is best known among physicians as the founding editor and editor-in-chief of the first five editions of Harrison’s Principles of Internal Medicine.

*Students in the Harrison Community are assigned to the Huntsville campus for clinical training.*

## HILL COMMUNITY

Longtime Heersink School of Medicine faculty member Samuel Richardson “Dick” Hill Jr., M.D., served as president of UAB from 1977 to 1986. Hill practiced internal medicine and endocrinology before coming to the Medical College of Alabama in 1954. He was appointed dean of the college in 1962 and remained there as it evolved into UAB, serving as vice president for health affairs and medical center director and director of the University of Alabama Medical Education Program. Hill recruited John Kirklin from the Mayo Clinic to chair the surgery department and Gene Bartow from UCLA to coach the university’s first basketball team.

*Students in the Hill Community are assigned to the Birmingham campus for clinical training.*

## HIRSCHOWITZ COMMUNITY

Basil Hirschowitz, M.D., Ph.D., is a medical pioneer who, along with his colleagues, invented the first fiberoptic endoscope that became the standard for visualizing and treating virtually every cavity in the body. Hirschowitz dedicated his career to the study of diseases of the upper GI tract and published more than 350 papers, many related to ulcer disease. He was also a leader in clinical trials that were the forerunners to new pharmaceutical treatments in gastroenterology, paving the way for widespread use of medications known today as Pepcid, Prilosec, and Nexium.

*Students in the Hirschowitz Community are assigned to the Tuscaloosa campus for clinical training.*

## KIRKLIN COMMUNITY

In the 1950s, while at the Mayo Clinic, John Kirklin, M.D., performed the world’s first series of open-heart operations using a heart-lung machine. Kirklin joined the UAB faculty in 1966 as chair of the Department of Surgery and the surgeon-in-chief for UAB Hospital. He held those positions until 1982 during which time he built one of the most prestigious cardiovascular surgical programs in the world.

*Students in the Kirklin Community are assigned to the Birmingham campus for clinical training.*

## LYONS COMMUNITY

Champ Lyons, M.D., arrived in Birmingham in 1950 to become the first full-time chair of surgery, a position he retained until his passing in 1965. That year, Lyons became one of the first faculty members to be named a distinguished professor. His major professional contributions were in the areas of surgical infections and vascular surgery.

*Students in the Lyons Community are assigned to the Montgomery campus for clinical training.*

## MCCALLUM COMMUNITY

Charles “Scotty” McCallum Jr., DMD, M.D., came to Alabama in 1951 to complete a residency in oral and maxillofacial surgery after earning his dental degree from Tufts College Dental School. He earned a medical degree from the Medical College of Alabama in 1957 and became dean of the School of Dentistry in 1962. He later served as vice president for health affairs and director of UAB Medical Center before becoming the third president of UAB in 1987. After stepping down as president, he was elected to two terms as mayor of Vestavia Hills beginning in 2000.

*Students in the McCallum Community are assigned to the Birmingham campus for clinical training.*

## OPARIL COMMUNITY

Suzanne Oparil, M.D., is a renowned cardiologist and a member of the prestigious National Academy of Medicine. Her research focuses on cardiovascular disease and the development of novel treatments for hypertension, including ACE inhibitors. She has also made important discoveries about mediators of pulmonary hypertension and the role of estrogen in blood vessels. She is a distinguished professor of medicine and director of the Vascular Biology and Hypertension Program at UAB.

*Students in the Oparil Community are assigned to the Birmingham campus for clinical training.*

## PITTMAN COMMUNITY

As the Heersink School of Medicine’s longest-serving dean—19 years, from 1973 to 1992—James Pittman Jr., M.D., left an indelible mark. He was known for his ability to recruit and retain nationally and internationally renowned physicians and scientists. He is credited with restoring a four-year medical school curriculum, replacing the 35-month program that was in place when he became dean, and creating space in the academic cycle for students to pursue research and service activities.

*Students in the Pittman Community are assigned to the Birmingham campus for clinical training.*

*Content taken from Howard, K. A Legacy of Leadership: Newly renamed learning communities honor key figures from our past and present. UAB Magazine.*



# AWARDS

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## SCHOOL AWARDS

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### HUGH J. DEMPSEY MEMORIAL AWARD

Presented to the student with the highest overall cumulative academic achievement. Winner will be announced during the ceremony.

### LEONARD TOW HUMANISM IN MEDICINE AWARD

Sponsored by the Arnold P. Gold Foundation. In recognition of the value of humanism in the delivery of care to patients and their families. Recipients will be announced during ceremony.

## BIRMINGHAM CAMPUS DEPARTMENTAL AWARDS

Awards are listed in alphabetical order by presenting department

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### DEAN'S AWARD

Superior performance in the clinical curriculum

John Charles Nichols

### G. GAYLE STEPHENS AWARD

Excellence in Family Medicine

Hana Isabel Habchi

### MCGAHEY AWARD FOR MOST OUTSTANDING MEDICAL STUDENT

Excellence in Anesthesiology

Jacelyn Emily Peabody Lever

### TINSLEY R. HARRISON AWARD

Excellence in Internal Medicine

Matthew Dean Moore

### EMILY F. OMURA AWARD

Excellence In Dermatology

Meagan Mandabach Olivet

### VETERANS AFFAIRS SERVICE AWARD

Excellence in Medicine

Harrison Lawrence Turner

### WILFRED F. HOLDERFER MEMORIAL AWARD

Excellence in Emergency Medicine

Margaret Lorraine Hayslip

### AMERICAN ACADEMY OF NEUROLOGY AWARD

Excellence in Neurology

Tanya Amanda Correya

### ENDOCRINE SOCIETY MEDICAL STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Exceptional ability and Interest in Endocrinology

Jessica Wing Huen Wu

### SAMUEL CLEMENTS LITTLE AWARD

Excellence in Neurology

Cassidy Megan Allison



## BIRMINGHAM CAMPUS DEPARTMENTAL AWARDS (continued)

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### **WILLIAM BOYD MEDAL**

*Presented by the Alabama Association of Pathologists and the Department of Pathology*  
Exceptional Performance in Pathology

Michael Andrew Pettit

### **PAUL A. PALMISANO AWARD**

Excellence in Pediatrics

John Charles Nichols

### **CHI-TSOU HUANG AWARD**

Excellence in Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation

Joshua Hunter Ali Soleymani

### **BATTLE S. SEARCY MEMORIAL AWARD**

Excellence in Psychiatry

Srihari Raju Prahad

### **BRUCE A. HARRIS, JR. AWARD**

Excellence in Obstetrics and Gynecology

Isabel Claire Collins

### **LANNING B. KLINE AWARD**

Excellence in Ophthalmology

Sean Charles Drummond

### **ROBERT J. STANLEY AWARD**

Excellence in Radiology

Laura Elizabeth Minton Garton

### **ROBERT J. CERFOLIO AWARD**

Excellence in Surgery

Kaitlin Gail Burge

### **MARY T. HAWN AWARD**

Excellence in Surgery

Meghna Hyma Katta

### **RICHARD STAHL AWARD**

Excellence in Surgery

Elissa Marie Dykes

### **ELIZABETH BEIERLE AWARD**

Excellence in Surgery

Michael Harrison Erwin

### **ROBERT AND JAMIE DABAL AWARD**

Excellence in Surgery

Mitchell Lee Disharoon

## HUNTSVILLE CAMPUS DEPARTMENTAL AWARDS

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### **DEAN'S AWARD**

Superior performance in the clinical curriculum

Pedram Daniel Maleknia

### **EXEMPLARY ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE**

Excellence in the clinical curriculum

Desalyn Louise Johnson

### **LEADERSHIP AWARD**

Academic excellence and leadership ability

Katrina Marie Hatch

### **G. GAYLE STEPHENS AWARD**

Excellence in Family Medicine

Jacob August Megehee

### **J. ELLIS SPARKS AWARD**

Excellence in Internal Medicine

Hope Cain Lackey

### **AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN NEUROLOGY**

Excellence in Neurology

Joshua Hunter Ali Soleymani

### **JOHN DI PLACIDO AWARD**

Excellence in Obstetrics and Gynecology

Katrina Marie Hatch

### **JOHN R. MONTGOMERY AWARD**

Excellence in Pediatrics

Desalyn Louise Johnson

### **AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN PSYCHIATRY**

Excellence in Psychiatry

Nadia Anabtawi

### **CHARLES SELAH AWARD**

Excellence in Surgery

Pedram Daniel Maleknia

## MONTGOMERY CAMPUS DEPARTMENTAL AWARDS

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### DEAN'S AWARD

Superior performance  
in the clinical curriculum

Suzannah Rowell Rogers

### SAMUEL J. SALIBA AWARD

Excellence in Family Medicine

Charles Owen Ross

### J. J. KIRSCHENFELD AWARD

Excellence in Internal Medicine

Meryl Catherine Nath

### HAMP H. GREENE III AWARD

Excellence in Neurology

Dahye Park

### JOHN M. ASHURST, JR. AWARD

Excellence in Obstetrics & Gynecology

Natalia Aristizabal

### THOMAS "BUDDY" NOLAN AWARD

Excellence in Pediatrics

Lillie Elizabeth Sansing

### A. ALMON WARD AWARD

Excellence in Psychiatry

Michael Harrison Erwin

### HARRY JACKSON TILL AWARD

Excellence in Surgery

Suzannah Rowell Rogers

### ROBERT F. GLOOR AWARD IN COMMUNITY MEDICINE

Excellence in Community  
and Rural Medicine

Emily Jeanne Hooker

Austin Ryan Kidd

### JAMES H. AKERS MEMORIAL AWARD

Dedication to the art and  
science of medicine

Emily Catherine Ward

### WILLIAM OWINGS AWARD IN FAMILY MEDICINE

Excellence in Family Medicine

Mykel Rye Shiver

### WILLIAM WINTERNITZ AWARD IN INTERNAL MEDICINE

Excellence in Internal Medicine  
during the third and fourth years

Willow Christopher Bryan

### NEUROLOGY AWARD

Excellence in the Neurology clerkship

Jacob Bradley Abshire

Benjamin Matthew Kiszla

### FINNEY/AKERS MEMORIAL AWARD IN OBSTETRICS AND GYNECOLOGY

Excellence in Obstetrics and Gynecology

Jillian Alexis Tinglin

Anna Virginia Jones

### PEDIATRICS RECOGNITION AWARD

Outstanding interest, ability, and the  
reflection of pleasure in helping parents  
and their children reach their full personal,  
social, and educational potential

Emily Jeanne Hooker

Claire Virginia Gorman

### PETER BRYCE AWARD IN PSYCHIATRY

Excellence in the Psychiatry clerkship

Emma Elisabeth Cao

### WILLIAM R. SHAMBLIN SURGERY AWARD

Superior achievement  
in the Surgery clerkship

Mykaela Justine Watt

### STUDENT RESEARCH AWARD

In recognition of the pursuit of  
research projects leading to a  
presentation or publication

Benjamin Matthew Kiszla

### INTERPROFESSIONAL EXCELLENCE AWARD

Jillian Alexis Tinglin

## TUSCALOOSA CAMPUS DEPARTMENTAL AWARDS

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### SCHOLASTIC ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Superior performance  
in the clinical curriculum

Fallon Lalor

### WILLIAM R. WILLARD AWARD

Outstanding contribution to the goals  
and mission of the College of Community  
Health Sciences as voted by the College  
faculty; established by the Bank of  
Moundville

Cooper Jeremiah Wright

Mykaela Justine Watt

# MARNIX E. HEERSINK SCHOOL OF MEDICINE CLASS OF 2024

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**Beshoy Abdelmessih**

Vanderbilt University Medical Center,  
Anesthesiology

**Jacob Bradley Abshire**

UAB Medical Center, Neurology

**Olivia Ricks Agee**

University of South Alabama Hospitals,  
Obstetrics/Gynecology

**Cassidy Megan Allison**

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Preliminary Medicine  
Duke University Medical Center, Neurology

**Akshay Aluri** <sup>CE</sup>

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**Shambhavi Anshumali**

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Internal Medicine

**Bayley Delayne Atkins**

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Marnix E. Heersink School of Medicine –  
Huntsville, Family Medicine

**Seth Benjamin Ballew**

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**Chandan Raj Basetty**

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**Caroline Ivey Bennett** <sup>A, G</sup>

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UAB Medical Center, Diagnostic Radiology

**Andrew Alexander Bertot**

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& Maxillofacial Surgery

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Internal Medicine  
IL-2-Mediated STAT3 Activation Controls  
Effector T Regulatory Cell Development

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Determining the Impact of Immune  
Dysregulation on CD4 T Cell Responses to  
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Biomanufacturing of Micro-Myocardial Tissue  
through Suspension Differentiation with  
Improved Yields, Purity, and Quality

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The Role of Protein Translation and  
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Mucus Matters: Mucociliary Physiology in  
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**Rae Lynn Sesanto**

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**John Gardner Smith**

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Mayo Clinic School of Graduate Medical  
Education, Preliminary Medicine  
Mayo Clinic School of Graduate Medical  
Education, Physical Medicine  
& Rehabilitation

**Josiah Williamson Sowell**

New York-Presbyterian Hospital/Weill  
Cornell Medical Center, Anesthesiology

**Ashley Nicole Spears**

AnMed Health, Family Medicine

**China Elaine Stegall**

Ascension Saint Thomas  
Hospital Midtown, Surgery

**John Stanley Stein, IV** <sup>A, CE, G</sup>

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Otolaryngology

**Addison James Stewart**

University of Tennessee College of Medicine  
Chattanooga, Surgery

**Gregory Gabriel Stidham**

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Medicine

**Tarushi Tanaya**

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& Rehabilitation

**Harrison Lawrence Turner** <sup>G</sup>

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**Grant Patrick Wagner** <sup>G</sup>

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**Shelby Elizabeth Walcott** <sup>G</sup>

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**Emily Catherine Ward**

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**Claire Wilson Waring** <sup>CE</sup>

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Pediatrics

**June Elise Wolford**

University of Tennessee Health Science  
Center, Pediatrics

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E. Heersink School of Medicine – Huntsville,  
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Duke University Medical Center, Neurology

**Tamara Zaza** <sup>CE</sup>

Louisiana State University School  
of Medicine, Preliminary Medicine  
University of Texas Southwestern Medical  
Center, Diagnostic Radiology

---

\* Received PhD as a member of the Physician-Scientist Training Program

A Member of Alpha Omega Alpha: A national medical honor society recognizing scholarship and professional attributes

CE Recipient of the Community Engagement Award (students wearing a blue and silver cord)

G Member of the Gold Humanism Honor Society: Excellence in clinical care, leadership, professionalism, compassion patient care, and dedication to service as selected by their peers (students wearing a gold and white cord)

S Graduated Summa cum laude (students wearing a gold cord)

M Graduated Magna cum laude (students wearing a green cord)

C Graduated Cum laude (students wearing a white cord)

T Member of the Tinsley Harrison Research Society

‡ Met requirements for MD in December 2023

†† MD anticipated in August or December of 2024

This program constitutes a list of candidates for graduation, prepared before final grades were posted, and inclusion therein does not constitute evidence of graduation.



# CLASS OF 2024 BY LEARNING COMMUNITY

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## Barfield-Carter

**Desiree Morgan, M.D.,** *Faculty Mentor*

Cassidy Megan Allison  
Shambhavi Anshumali  
Chandan Raj Basetty  
Lucian Ferris Bloodworth, III  
Tanya Amanda Correya  
Anhkhoa Tran Do  
Savannah Olivia Elrod  
Matthew Collins Hudson  
Adou Kouame  
Alan Philip George  
Nicholas Fouad George Medawar  
Megan Mandabach Olivet  
Srihari Prahad  
Faaiz Saad  
Tarushi Tanaya  
Claire Wilson Waring

## Hamilton

**Marissa Natelson Love M.D.,** *Faculty Mentor*

Bayley Delayne Atkins  
Chase Jackson Craven  
Audrey Rose Driver  
Dalton Joe Frederick  
Katrina Marie Hatch  
Caleb Reid Hood  
Michael Harrison Huber  
Desalyn Louise Johnson  
Thomas Edward Kozar  
Alyssa Katherine Lambert  
Tucker Grooms McCaleb  
Jacob August Megehee  
Michael Andrew Pettit  
Matthew Douglas Raymond  
Peyton Elizabeth Robison  
Miranda Elizabeth Worley

## Finley

**Pilar Acosta Lara, M.D.,** *Faculty Mentor*

Channing Freeman Bruce  
Jean Thompson Butler  
Cyrus Kershaw Byramji  
Collin James Darwis  
Sara Rose Ferguson  
Abdias Barbosa Girardi, Jr.  
Claire Virginia Gorman  
James Iheke  
Anna Virginia Jones  
Austin Ryan Kidd  
Benjamin Matthew Kiszla  
Eva Camille Kurts  
Fallon Lalor  
Kalissa K. Means  
Jeffrey Griffin Price  
Jernell Simmons  
June Elise Wolford

## Harrison

**Shaundra Blakemore M.D.,** *Faculty Mentor*

Beshoy Abdelmessih  
Nadia M. Anabtawi  
Seth Benjamin Ballew  
Kenneth Baxter Davis  
Zoey Noelle Duncan  
Hope Cain Lackey  
Bethany Mae Langer  
Pedram Daniel Maleknia  
Briana Naomi Mayberry  
Rebecca Leigh Pearlman  
Tyler Christian Power  
Joshua Hunter Ali Soleymani  
Candace Wilson  
Ryan Anthony Zaniewski  
Tamara Zaza

## Hill

**Danielle Powell, M.D.**, *Faculty Mentor*

Olivia Ricks Agee  
Coleman Burch  
James Hill Crenshaw, Jr.  
Sean Charles Drummond  
Lucas Clark Glisson  
Margaret Lorraine Hayslip  
Spencer Barrington MacLeod  
Mark Andrew McClure  
Matthew Dean Moore  
John Charles Nichols  
Nicole Panzica  
Duyen Ky Pham-Hua  
Kristina Alexis Redd  
Daniela Sanchez  
Abbey Elisabeth Thornton  
Christopher Tan Truong  
Harrison Lawrence Turner

## Kirklin

**Jessica Fazendin M.D.**, *Faculty Mentor*

Geoffrey Sims Bostany  
Kevin Wesley Bray  
Bhargav Prasad Earla  
Ariana Michaela Gorman  
Hana Isabel Habchi  
Jackson Henry Hoesley  
Yuri Kwon  
Ryleigh Elizabeth Nyman  
Om Udaykumar Patel  
Emanuel John Poulos  
Brittany Ann Marie Roman  
Shelby Elizabeth Walcott

## Hirschowitz

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Jacob Bradley Abshire  
Willow Christopher Bryan  
Emma Elisabeth Cao  
William Curtis Davis, III  
Elissa Marie Dykes  
William Fagan  
Justina Camille Goldman  
Joshua Wayne Graham  
Emily Jeanne Hooker  
Mykel Rye Shiver  
Ashley Nicole Spears  
Gregory Gabriel Stidham  
Jillian Alexis Tinglin  
Emily Catherine Ward  
Mykaela Justine Watt  
Cooper Jeremiah Wright

## Lyons

**Caroline Harada, M.D.**, *Faculty Co-Mentor*

**Sherell Hicks, M.D.**, *Faculty Co-Mentor*

Natalia Aristizabal  
Caroline Ivey Bennett  
William Albert Byrd  
Kristin Leigh Chancellor  
Kory Dees  
Mitchell Lee Disharoon  
Laura Elizabeth Minton Garton  
Kristopher Maurice Gulley  
Metta Jane Gulley  
Eunkyo Lee  
Meryl Catherine Nath  
Kenneth Paik  
Dahye Park  
Monica Sai Pasala  
Paxton Peacock  
Charles Owen Ross  
Suzannah Ashley Rowell  
Lillie Elizabeth Sansing

## McCallum

**Todd McCarty M.D.**, *Faculty Mentor*

Akshay Aluri  
Gazal Arora  
Numair Ehtsham  
Kevin Silver Luque-Sanchez  
Kathryn Elizabeth McMillan  
Soorya Gokulan Rajendran  
Kathryn Lisle Reynolds  
Josiah Williamson Sowell  
John Stanley Stein, IV  
Juliann Shu Wang  
Jessica Wing Huen Wu  
Ishant Santosh Yadav

## Pittman

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Katherine Virginia Buchanan  
Isabel Claire Collins  
Brett Johnathan Cooke  
Ayaka Fukihashi  
Miles Areg Grigorian  
Jacob Alan Hagewood  
Christa Hastings  
William Kenneth Haynes, III  
Maria Camila Munoz  
Morgan Rose Sisk  
Harrison Baker Smith  
John Gardner Smith  
China Jackson Stegall  
Lydia Chun Yang  
Matthew William Young

## Oparil

**Jeremy Walker M.D.**, *Faculty Mentor*

Katilin Gail Burge  
Mary Elizabeth Chambers  
Stephen Tyler Chandler  
Brandon Scott Edney  
Meghna Hyma Katta  
Rabisa Jabeen Khan  
Karleigh Johnson Maze  
David Francis Schartung  
Addison James Stewart  
Grant Patrick Wagner

## Medical Scientist Training Program

**Talene Yacoubian, M.D., Ph.D.**, *Director*

**Stephanie Krick, M.D., Ph.D.**, *Assistant Director*

**Gregory Payne, M.D., Ph.D.**, *Assistant Director*

**Chad Petit, Ph.D.**, *Assistant Director*

Emma Caitlin Dean  
Jacob Kleiss Files  
Asher Max Kahn-Krell  
Harper SangWoo Kim  
Jacelyn Emily Peabody Lever  
Patrick Axel Molina

## Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery Residency Program

Andrew Alexander Bertot  
Kaylie Alexandra Catlin  
Holton Jackson Deatherage  
Rae Lynn Sesanto

## DEAR GRADUATE,

Congratulations on your remarkable achievement that we celebrate today! Your family, community, the Heersink School of Medicine, and colleagues in the profession acknowledge your success and the often-grueling work required to get here.

The road continues before you, but you have topped out on one of the steepest hills. We wish for your continuing professional journey to be long and rewarding with personal, professional, and social fulfillment that accompanies a physician's life well spent.

There will be challenges that test you in all aspects. How you handle these challenges will determine your own well-being and the impact that you have in the lives of those around you. You stand now at the same place that your predecessors stood before entering the slow, steady work that produced remarkable accomplishments for public health, community health care, and academic surgery and medicine. We, your colleagues in the profession, anxiously await your arrival on the scene of medicine. We need your help with patient care, professional leadership, and health care policy decisions. We need your camaraderie with your youth and perspectives.

As you move forward, the Medical Alumni Association (MAA) is confident in your preparation to achieve a professional role that will impact local, state, and/or national life. The MAA encourages you to become an active member and join in our camaraderie, contribute to our goals, and take advantage of our programs and services. These services can assist you throughout your career and will support students following in your footsteps. Please join us.

For more information, visit [maa.uab.edu](http://maa.uab.edu) or contact our office at 205-934-4463.

With Congratulations and Best Wishes,  
**University of Alabama Medical Alumni Association**

## Thanks to the following for their help and assistance during commencement

Bartow Arena Management Team  
Heersink School of Medicine Department of Medical Education  
Heersink School of Medicine Medical Student Services  
Heersink School of Medicine Records Office  
Heersink School of Medicine Learning Communities  
Student Representatives  
Military Medicine Student Interest Group  
Heersink School of Medicine Student Senate  
University of Alabama Medical Alumni Association

## Thanks to members of Encore Strings

Jeffrey Flaniken, Violin  
Caroline Nordlund, Violin  
Angela Flaniken, Viola  
Samuel Nordlund, Cello

---

## SAFETY AND COURTESY

Please silence all cell phones, pagers and other devices prior to the start of the ceremony.

Please do not stand in or block the aisles.

Please note that flash photography is not allowed in the arena. A professional photographer will photograph each student shaking the dean's hand. Students will receive information about ordering photographs.

Guests are expected to cooperate with Bartow Arena staff and security personnel.

**Thank you in advance for your cooperation.**



The University of Alabama at Birmingham