

# **UAB SCHOOL OF MEDICINE COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY**

**Bartow Arena  
Saturday, May 22, 2021  
1:00 pm**

## **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.

### **COVID-related Instructions:**

1. Regardless of vaccination status, all guests should wear a mask, covering nose and mouth, while in Bartow Arena.
2. Seats in the arena are organized according to a distancing pod system. Please sit only in open seats. Do not attempt to remove barriers to seats.
3. Guests are expected to cooperate with Bartow Arena staff and security personnel.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

**Welcome** to the 2021 Commencement Ceremony of the UAB 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 Procession**

Commencement begins with an academic procession. School of Medicine 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.

If you are able, please stand for the Procession.

### **About 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 as a way to show forth 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 Hooding**

Students are hooded with members of their learning community. A list of the students by learning community can be found on pages 28-30. 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 Speaker

Congresswoman Terri A. Sewell is in her sixth term representing Alabama's 7th Congressional District. She is one of the first women elected to Congress from Alabama in her own right and is the first black woman to ever serve in the Alabama Congressional delegation.

Congresswoman Sewell sits on the exclusive House Ways and Means Committee and brings to the committee her more than 15 years of experience as a securities and public finance attorney. Currently, in the 117th Congress, she serves as a member of the House Ways & Means Committee where she sits on three subcommittees: the Subcommittee on Health; the Subcommittee on Select Revenue Measures; and the Subcommittee on Social Security.

In her short time in Congress, Sewell has held several leadership positions including Freshman Class President in the 112th Congress. In the 117th Congress, she was selected by the Democratic Whip James Clyburn to serve as a Chief Deputy Whip, and sits on the prestigious Steering and Policy Committee, which sets the policy direction of the Democratic Caucus.

Congresswoman Sewell is a member of the Congressional Black Caucus where she is Co-Chair of the Voting Rights Task Force. She is a member of the New Democrat Coalition; Co-Chair of the Congressional Voting Rights Caucus; Vice-Chair of the Congressional HBCU Caucus; and Co-Chair of the Rural Caucus.

Congresswoman Sewell is an outspoken advocate for jobs creation, workforce development, skills training and for providing resources and economic opportunities for her constituents in the 7th Congressional District. In addition to pursuing job-creating legislation in Congress, Sewell has implemented a results-driven approach to addressing the unemployment crisis by hosting an Annual Job Fair and job readiness workshops across the district as a part of a workforce initiative called Project R.E.A.D.Y.: Realizing Everyone's Ability to Develop Yourself.

As the Member of Congress representing Alabama's civil rights district, Congresswoman Sewell has been a passionate champion for recognizing and honoring the sacrifices of those freedom fighters who served as powerful agents of change. Congresswoman Sewell was honored that her first piece of successful legislation recognized the "Four Little Girls" who tragically lost their lives during the bombing of the 16th Street Baptist Church in 1963. The Congressional Gold Medal is the highest civilian honor Congress can bestow. The bill passed unanimously in both houses of Congress and was signed into law by President Barack Obama on May 24, 2013 in a signing ceremony in the Oval Office to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the church bombing.

In March of 2015, Congresswoman Sewell welcomed the world to her hometown of Selma during the 50th Anniversary of the March from Selma to Montgomery including President and Mrs. Obama; President and Mrs. George W. Bush and more than 100 members of Congress. Sewell's second Congressional Gold Medal bill to honor the Foot Soldiers of the Voting Rights Movement was signed by President Obama on March 7, 2015, the 50th Anniversary of Bloody Sunday.

Prior to her election in 2010, Congresswoman Sewell was the first black woman partner in the Birmingham law office of Maynard, Cooper & Gale, P.C., where she distinguished herself as one of the only black public finance lawyers in the State of Alabama. A proud product of Alabama's rural Black Belt, Congresswoman Sewell was the first black valedictorian of Selma High School. She is an honors graduate of Princeton University and Oxford University and received her law degree from Harvard Law School.

Congresswoman Sewell is a Silver Star and life member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. She is the daughter of the late Coach Andrew A. Sewell of Selma, AL and retired librarian Nancy Gardner Sewell, Selma's first black City Councilwoman, the 18th South Eastern Regional Director and former Supreme Grammateus of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.

## Program

Procession with Path of Honor*	Students, Faculty & Alumni
Welcome & Opening Remarks	Selwyn M. Vickers, MD, FACS Senior Vice President for Medicine and Dean
Class President's Address	Daniel Sarraf President, Class of 2021
Commencement Address	Congresswoman Terri A. Sewell United States House of Representatives, Alabama 7th District
School Awards	Craig Hoesley, MD Senior Associate Dean for Medical Education
Medical Alumni Association Leadership & Community Service Award	V. Michael Bivins, MD President, University of Alabama Medical Alumni Association
Will Ferniany Academic Medicine Leadership Award	Selwyn M. Vickers, MD, FACS
Awarding of Academic Hoods	Selwyn M. Vickers, MD, FACS, Presiding  Craig Hoesley, MD  Kevin Leon, MD Associate Dean for Undergraduate Medical Education
Reading of Names	Nicholas Van Wagoner, MD, PhD Associate Dean for Students
Oath of Hippocrates‡	Hussein Abdul-latif, MD 2020 Recipient of the Leonard Tow Humanism in Medicine Award
Recession*	Students, Faculty & 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 28-30 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.

## **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, I will pass my life and practice my art. I will use my abilities to heal my patients to the best of my judgment, and I will abstain from harming or wronging anyone.

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

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.

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

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.

## **SCHOOL OF MEDICINE LEADERSHIP**

### **Senior Vice President for Medicine and Dean**

Selwyn M. Vickers, MD, FACS

### **Senior Associate Deans**

Anupam Agarwal, MD, Executive Vice Dean  
Etty (Tika) Benveniste, PhD, Senior Vice Dean, Basic Sciences  
Victor M. Darley-USmar, PhD, Research  
Mona Fouad, MD, MPH, Diversity & Inclusion  
Craig Hoesley, MD, Medical Education  
Keith (Tony) Jones, MD, Clinical Affairs  
Robert P. Kimberly, MD, Clinical & Translational Research  
Jean Ann Larson, PhD, Leadership Development  
LaKisha Mack, MBA, Administration & Finance  
David Rogers, MD, MHPE, Faculty Affairs & Professional Development; Chief Wellness Officer

### **Associate Deans**

William A. Curry, MD, Rural Programs & Primary Care  
Richard Friend, MD, Tuscaloosa Program  
Alice Goepfert, MD, Graduate Medical Education  
Christina J. Grabowski, PhD, Admissions and Enrollment Management  
Bruce Korf, MD, PhD Genomic Medicine and Chief Genomic Office  
Toni Leeth, MPH, Strategic Planning and Administration  
Kevin Leon, MD, Undergraduate Medical Education  
W.J. Many, MD, Montgomery Program  
Michael Saag, MD, Global Health  
Roger D. Smalligan, MD, Huntsville Program  
Nicholas Van Wagoner, MD, PhD, Students

### **Assistant Deans**

Alex Boles, Finance & Administration  
Cristin Gavin, PhD, Undergraduate Biomedical Education  
Alecia K. Gross, PhD, Faculty Onboarding  
Caroline Harada, MD, Community Engaged Scholarship  
Todd Peterson, MD, Students  
Rubin Pillay, MD, PhD, Global Health  
Marjorie Lee White, MD, Clinical Simulation  
James H. Willig, MD, MSPH, Clinical Education  
Carlton Young, MD, Medical Student Diversity & Inclusion  
Majd Zayzafoon, MD, PhD, International Medical Education

### **Birmingham Department Leadership**

Dan E. Berkowitz, MB BCh, Anesthesiology & Perioperative Medicine  
David M. Bedwell, PhD, Biochemistry & Molecular Genetics  
Jay Zhang, MD, PhD, Biomedical Engineering  
Brad Yoder, PhD, Cell, Developmental & Integrative Biology  
Boni E. Elewski, MD, Dermatology  
Janyce Sanford, MD, Emergency Medicine  
Irfan M. Asif, MD, Family Medicine  
Gene Siegal, MD, PhD (Interim), Genetics  
Craig J. Hoesley, MD, Medical Education  
C. Seth Landefeld, MD, Medicine  
Frances Lund, PhD, Microbiology  
Craig Powell, MD, PhD, Neurobiology  
David G. Standaert, MD, PhD, Neurology  
James M. Markert, MD, MPH, Neurosurgery  
Warner K. Huh, MD, Obstetrics & Gynecology  
Chris Girkin, MD, Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences  
Steven Theiss, MD (Interim), Orthopaedic Surgery  
William R. Carroll, MD, Otolaryngology  
George Netto, MD, Pathology  
Mitchell B. Cohen, MD, Pediatrics  
Mary-Ann Bjornsti, PhD, Pharmacology & Toxicology  
Amie Brown McLain, MD, Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation  
Adrienne Lahti, MD, Psychiatry & Behavioral Neurobiology  
James A. Bonner, MD, Radiation Oncology  
Cheri L. Canon, MD, Radiology  
Herb Chen, MD, Surgery  
Dean G. Assimos, MD, Urology

### **Huntsville Department Leadership**

Marcia Cheesbro, MD, Family Medicine  
John Fanning, MD, Internal Medicine  
Patrice Knight, MD, Pediatrics  
Clinton Martin, MD, Psychiatry  
Rony Najjar, MD, Surgery

### **Tuscaloosa Department Leadership**

Jane Weida, MD, Family Medicine, Internal Medicine  
Kristine Graettinger, MD, Obstetrics & Gynecology  
Karen Burgess, MD, Pediatrics  
Thadd Ulzen, MD, Psychiatry  
Joseph Wallace, MD, Surgery



## **2021 Class Officers**

Daniel Sarraf, Class President  
Graham Kirchner, Vice President

## **Learning Community Representatives**

Shivani Ananthasekar, Barfield-Carter  
John Edward Miller, Finley  
Lily Christine Mahler, Finley  
Jeffrey Brent Elder, Hamilton  
Nicholas John Rivers, Hamilton  
Joseph Samuel McIlwain, Harrison  
Alicia Leshae Williams, Harrison  
Michael Carr Matthews, Hill  
Katherine Lynn Baldwin, Hill  
Rebecca Elaine England, Hirschowitz  
Ketrick Lonie LaCoste, Hirschowitz  
Reza John Atras, Kirklin  
Meredith Eveline Thomley, Kirklin  
Morgan Alexis Owens, Lyons  
Zasmine Tracea Hymes-Green, Lyons  
Meredith Moore Montgomery, McCallum  
Cami Rosamary Velazquez, McCallum  
Zachary Robert Burns, Oparil  
Emma Carroll Thompson, Oparil  
Elle Reed Kaplan, Pittman  
Sydney Michelle Mohr, Pittman

## **Alpha Omega Alpha**

A national medical honor society recognizing scholarship and professional attributes

Hannah Marie Beer  
Zachary Robert Burns  
Elizabeth Jane Byers  
Addison Mark Cimino  
William Randall Davis  
Carolyn Frances Dishuck  
Nidhi Goel  
Alexandra Raquel Gubbels  
Diep Nguyen Edwards  
Sullivan Clyde Hanback  
Elizabeth Hontzas Hendrickson  
Muhan Hu  
Skyler Gentry Jones  
Maahum Zahra Kamal  
Jeremie Matthew Peabody Lever  
Tyler Robert McCaw  
Scott Robinson McClure  
Sydney Michelle Mohr  
John Edward Miller

Elizabeth Lurie Nichols  
Alexander Perry Nocera  
Mark Emile Pepin  
Nicholas John Rivers  
Thomas Miller Sisson  
Shannon Elizabeth Snellgrove  
Zachary Whitten Sollie  
Jaclyn Paige Souder  
Brian Patrick Stahl  
Jenna Nell Stanford  
Sarah Stone Summerlin  
William Blake Swicord  
Meredith Eveline Thomley  
Harrison McNeil Thompson  
Neha Udayakumar  
Raymond Paul Waldrop  
Christopher Ryan Walz  
Margaret Alice Williams  
Kevin Yang

## **Gold Humanism Honor Society**

Excellence in clinical care, leadership, professionalism, compassion, patient care,  
and dedication to service, as selected by their peers

Jessica Lee Adams  
Reza John Atras  
Poojitha Balakrishnan  
Katherine Lynn Baldwin  
Taylor R Bono  
Addison Mark Cimino  
Helen Herndon Cunningham  
William Randall Davis  
Alexander James DeCubellis  
Grace Catherine Ernstberger  
Gillian Garver  
Maahum Zahra Kamal  
Alexis Hope Kinzer  
Joseph Samuel McIlwain

John Goodson McLemore  
John Edward Miller  
Claire Elaine Pettit  
Thomas Miller Sisson  
Sylvia Yvonne Sontheimer  
Jenna Nell Stanford  
Meredith Eveline Thomley  
Dustin Trotman  
Joshua Lloyd Washington  
Alicia Leshae Williams  
Margaret Alice Williams

## **Tinsley Harrison Research Society**

Reza John Atras  
Hannah Marie Beer  
Michael Carr Matthews  
Alexis Hope Thrasher  
Veena Danthuluri  
Evan Sun Li  
Gillian Garver

## **Formal Academic Honors**

**Summa cum laude**  
*(students wearing a gold cord)*

William Randall Davis  
Diep Nguyen Edwards  
Meredith Eveline Thomley

**Magna cum laude**  
*(students wearing a green cord)*

Elizabeth Byers  
Nidhi Goel  
John Edward Miller  
Alexander Perry Nocera  
Thomas Miller Sisson  
William Blake Swicord  
Christopher Ryan Walz

**Cum laude**  
*(students wearing a white cord)*

Alexander Raquel Gubbels  
Sullivan Clyde Hanback  
Skyler Gentry Jones  
Nicholas John Rivers  
Harrison McNeil Thompson  
Neha Udayakumar  
Raymond Paul Waldrop, III  
Margaret Alice Williams

## **SCHOOL AWARDS**

### **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)

### **Dean's Award**

Superior performance in the clinical curriculum

Meredith Eveline Thomley

### **Robert Goodloe McGahey Memorial Award**

Excellence in Anesthesiology

Elle Reed Kaplan

### **Emily F. Omura Award**

Excellence in Dermatology

Kevin Yang

### **Wilfred F. Holderfer Memorial Award**

Excellence in Emergency Medicine

William Randall Davis  
Alexandra Raquel Gubbels

### **Endocrine Society Medical Student Achievement Award**

Exceptional ability and interest in Endocrinology

Britton Elizabeth Cawthon

## **BIRMINGHAM CAMPUS DEPARTMENTAL AWARDS—CONTINUED**

(Awards are listed in alphabetical order by presenting department)

### **G. Gayle Stephens Award**

Excellence in Family Medicine

Brandon Honeywell

### **Tinsley R. Harrison Award**

Excellence in Internal Medicine

Diep Nguyen Edwards

### **Veterans Affairs Service Award**

Excellence in Medicine

Grace Catherine Ernstberger

### **American Academy of Neurology Award**

Excellence in Neurology

Olga Vladlenovna Manouvakhova

### **Samuel Clements Little Award**

Excellence in Neurology

Turkan Alinea Esensoy

### **William Boyd Medal**

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

Lily Christine Mahler

### **Paul A. Palmisano Award**

Excellence in Pediatrics

Elizabeth Hendrickson

### **Chi-Tsou Huang Award**

Excellence in Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation

Vinayak Goud Memula

## **BIRMINGHAM CAMPUS DEPARTMENTAL AWARDS—CONTINUED**

(Awards are listed in alphabetical order by presenting department)

### **Bruce A. Harris, Jr. Award**

Excellence in Obstetrics and Gynecology

Margaret Alice Williams

### **Lanning B. Kline Award**

Excellence in Ophthalmology

Poojitha Balakrishnan

### **Robert J. Stanley Award**

Excellence in Radiology

Carolyn Frances Dishuck

### **Robert J. Cerfolio Award**

Excellence in Surgery

Jeremie Matthew Peabody Lever

### **Richard Stahl Award**

Excellence in Surgery

Morgan Brazelle

### **Elizabeth Beierle Award**

Excellence in Surgery

Tyler Robert McCaw

### **Robert and Jamie Dabal Award**

Excellence in Surgery

Zachary Whitten Sollie

## **HUNTSVILLE CAMPUS DEPARTMENTAL AWARDS**

(Awards are listed in alphabetical order by presenting department)

### **Dean's Award**

Superior performance in the clinical curriculum

Nicholas John Rivers

### **Exemplary Academic Performance**

Excellence in the clinical curriculum

Christopher Bennett Parker

### **Leadership Award**

Academic excellence and leadership ability

Alicia Leshae Williams

### **G. Gayle Stephens Award**

Excellence in Family Medicine

Morgan Leigh Read

### **J. Ellis Sparks Award**

Excellence in Internal Medicine

Christopher Bennett Parker

### **Award in Neurology**

Excellence in Neurology

Skyler Gentry Jones

### **John Di Placido Award**

Excellence in Obstetrics and Gynecology

Meghana Gaini

### **John R. Montgomery Award**

For outstanding achievement in Pediatrics

Meghana Gaini

## **HUNTSVILLE CAMPUS DEPARTMENTAL AWARDS—CONTINUED**

(Awards are listed in alphabetical order by presenting department)

### **Award in Psychiatry**

Excellence in Psychiatry

Jennifer Franklin Lamar

### **Charles Selah Award**

Excellence in Surgery

Nicholas John Rivers

## **MONTGOMERY CAMPUS DEPARTMENTAL AWARDS**

(Awards are listed in alphabetical order by presenting department)

### **The Dean's Award**

Superior Performance in the Clinical Curriculum

Zachary Whitten Sollie

### **Samuel J. Saliba Award**

Excellence in Family Medicine

Erin Mackenzie Katz

### **J. J. Kirschenfeld Award**

Excellence in Internal Medicine

Luke Raymond Casals

### **Hamp H. Greene III Award**

Excellence in Neurology

Zachary Whitten Sollie

### **John M. Ashurst, Jr. Award**

Excellence in Obstetrics & Gynecology

Sarah Jessica Stone Summerlin



## **MONTGOMERY CAMPUS DEPARTMENTAL AWARDS—CONTINUED**

(Awards are listed in alphabetical order by presenting department)

### **Thomas “Buddy” Nolan Award**

Excellence in Pediatrics

Raymond Paul Waldrop, III

### **A. Almon Ward Award**

Excellence in Psychiatry

Soojin Kim

### **Harry Jackson Till Award**

Excellence in Surgery

Emily Austin

### **Outstanding Educator Award**

Chosen by the Graduating Class of 2021

Dr. Robert Engles

## **TUSCALOOSA CAMPUS DEPARTMENTAL AWARDS**

(Awards are listed in alphabetical order by presenting department)

### **Scholastic Achievement Award**

Superior performance in the clinical curriculum

Elizabeth Byers

### **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

Alexandra Raquel Gubbels

## **TUSCALOOSA CAMPUS DEPARTMENTAL AWARDS—CONTINUED**

(Awards are listed in alphabetical order by presenting department)

### **Robert F. Gloor Award in Community Medicine**

Excellence in Community and Rural Medicine

Justin Bailey

### **James H. Akers Memorial Award**

Dedication to the art and science of medicine

Jenna Nell Stanford

### **William Owings Award in Family Medicine**

Excellence in Family Medicine

Dustin Cole Marshall

Madilyn Elizabeth Tomaso

### **William Winternitz Award in Internal Medicine**

Excellence in Internal Medicine during the third and fourth years

Carolyn Frances Dishuck

### **Neurology Award**

Excellence in the Neurology clerkship

Karyn Ding

### **Finney/Akers Memorial Award in Obstetrics and Gynecology**

Excellence in Obstetrics and Gynecology

Jacqueline Morris

Jenna Nell Stanford

### **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

Thomas Miller Sisson

## **TUSCALOOSA CAMPUS DEPARTMENTAL AWARDS—CONTINUED**

(Awards are listed in alphabetical order by presenting department)

### **Peter Bryce Award in Psychiatry**

Excellence in the Psychiatry clerkship

Alexandra Raquel Gubbels

### **William R. Shamblin Surgery Award**

Superior achievement in the Surgery clerkship

Elizabeth Byers

Neha Udayakumar

### **Student Research Award**

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

Thomas Miller Sisson

### **Interprofessional Excellence Award**

Justin Bailey

## SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

### CLASS OF 2021

**Jessica Lee Adams**

Indiana University School of Medicine, Internal Medicine

**Candace Adedokun**

Scott Air Force Base Medical Clinic, Family Medicine

**Abid Ali**

Baptist Outreach Services, Family Medicine

**Mark Christopher Allen**

University of Tennessee Graduate School of Medicine, Anesthesiology

**Shivani Ananthasekar**

University of Oklahoma College of Medicine - Tulsa, Surgery

**Audrey Ang**

Virginia Commonwealth University Health System, Internal Medicine

**Shima Dowla Anwar, PhD\*‡**

Boston Children's Hospital, Pediatrics  
PHENOTYPIC CHARACTERISTICS AND DIETARY TREATMENT  
OF PEDIATRIC NON-ALCOHOLIC FATTY LIVER DISEASE

**Reza John Atras**

Mount Sinai Morningside-West, Emergency Medicine

**Emily Austin**

Good Samaritan Hospital, Vascular Surgery

**Amer Babi**

Tulane University School of Medicine, Anesthesiology

**Justin Bailey**

UAB Medical Center, Pediatrics

**Poojitha Balakrishnan**

Brookwood Baptist Health, Transitional  
UAB Medical Center, Ophthalmology

**Katherine Lynn Baldwin**

UAB Medical Center, Emergency Medicine

**Katherine Swint Barnes**

UAB Medical Center, Child Neurology

**Hannah Marie Beer**

University of Texas Southwestern Medical School, Obstetrics/Gynecology

**Abigail Gosdin Bennett**

UAB Medical Center, Pediatrics

**Nicholas Bennett**

University of Tennessee College of Medicine Chattanooga, Emergency Medicine

**Chelsea Alanah Berger**

UAB Medical Center, Psychiatry

**Jamie Elizabeth Bice**

UAB Medical Center, Neurology

**Taylor R. Bono**

Eastern Virginia Medical School, Pediatrics

**Garner Lansing Boogaerts**

Halifax Medical Center, Family Medicine

**David Christopher Booker, Jr.**

Texas A&M College of Medicine - Baylor Scott and White Medical Center, Emergency Medicine

**Morgan Brazelle**

AdventHealth Florida, Surgery

**Matthew Harold Brown**

Brookwood Baptist Health, Transitional  
University of Maryland Medical Center, Radiation Oncology

**Zachary Robert Burns**

UAB Medical Center, Urology

**Elizabeth Byers**

Emory University School of Medicine, Pediatrics

**Ryan Cooper Bynum**

University of Oklahoma College of Medicine, Surgery

**Matthew James Byrd**

UAB Medical Center, Neurology

**Sara Elizabeth Cardin**

University of Tennessee Health Science Center, Internal Medicine

**Luke Raymond Casals**

University of South Florida Morsani College of Medicine, Internal Medicine

**SCHOOL OF MEDICINE  
CLASS OF 2021**

**Rachel Ina Caskey**

Cedars - Sinai Medical Center, Obstetrics/Gynecology

**Britton Elizabeth Cawthon**

UAB Medical Center, Pediatrics

**Benjamin Jay Chappell**

University of Kansas School of Medicine - Wichita, Family Medicine

**Addison Mark Cimino**

UAB Medical Center, Orthopaedic Surgery

**Candace Clemmons Clark**

University of Alabama School of Medicine - Huntsville, Family Medicine

**Helen Herndon Cunningham†**

University Hospitals, Pediatrics

**Alex Michael D'Amico**

UAB Medical Center, Internal Medicine

**Veena Danthuluri**

Brookwood Baptist Health, Transitional  
UAB Medical Center, Ophthalmology

**Raktima Datta**

Case Western/University Hospitals Cleveland Medical Center, Pediatrics

**Payton Alexander Davis**

Louisiana State University School of Medicine - Baton Rouge, Emergency Medicine

**William Randall Davis**

UAB Medical Center, Emergency Medicine

**Alexander James DeCubellis**

Nassau University Medical Center, Preliminary Medicine  
Nassau University Medical Center Ophthalmology

**Thomas Stuart DePriest**

South Baldwin Regional Medical Center, Family Medicine

**Karyn Ding**

Thomas Jefferson University Hospital, Neurology

**Carolyn Frances Dishuck**

Brookwood Baptist Health, Transitional  
University of Michigan Hospitals, Diagnostic Radiology

**Benjamin Scott Ervin Echols**

South Baldwin Regional Medical Center, Family Medicine

**Diep Nguyen Edwards**

Johns Hopkins Hospital, Internal Medicine

**Jeffrey Brent Elder**

Texas A&M College of Medicine - Baylor Scott and White Medical Center, Emergency Medicine

**Rebecca Elaine England**

University of Tennessee Health Science Center, Pediatrics

**Grace Catherine Ernstberger**

Duke University Medical Center, Internal Medicine

**Turkan Alinea Esensoy**

UAB Medical Center, Neurology

**Nicholas James Eustace, PhD\*‡**

University of Washington Affiliated Hospitals, Preliminary Surgery  
City of Hope Radiation Oncology  
MARCKS EFFECTOR DOMAIN: FUNCTION IN GLIOBLASTOMA PROGRESSION AND A NOVEL CYTOPLYTIC THERAPY

**Martha Kate Lauren Falkner**

Magnolia Regional Health Center, Emergency Medicine

**Ramsha Farrukh**

University of Florida College of Medicine - Shands Hospital, Neurology

**Farrah-Amoy Wakeem Fullerton**

Medical College of Georgia, Pediatrics

**Meghana Gaini**

Emory University School of Medicine, Pediatrics

**Anna Nicole Gann**

University of South Alabama Hospitals, Internal Medicine

**Jordi Garcia-Diaz**

UAB Medical Center, Emergency Medicine

## SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

### CLASS OF 2021

#### **Gillian Garver**

UAB Medical Center, Medicine - Pediatrics

#### **Nidhi Goel**

Ohio State University Medical Center, Obstetrics/  
Gynecology

#### **John Skyler Graham**

UAB Medical Center, Anesthesiology

#### **Alexandra Raquel Gubbels**

Stanford University Programs, Emergency Medicine

#### **Shan Nadeem Gulamani**

University of Maryland Medical Center, Preliminary  
Medicine  
University of Maryland Medical Center, Anesthesiology

#### **Majd Habash**

Brookwood Baptist Health, Transitional  
UAB Medical Center, Diagnostic Radiology

#### **Judi Hakim**

#### **Sullivan Clyde Hanback**

University of Texas Medical School - Houston, Emergency  
Medicine

#### **Christiaan Marshall Heersink**

University of Alabama School of Medicine - Huntsville,  
Family Medicine

#### **Elizabeth Hontzas Hendrickson**

St. Louis Children's Hospital, Child Neurology

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Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center,  
Child Neurology

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#### **Muhan Hu, PhD\***

UAB Medical Center, Obstetrics/Gynecology  
CHARACTERIZATION OF THE DAF-7/TGFB $\beta$  PATHWAY AND ITS  
ROLE IN PROSTAGLANDIN METABOLISM IN C. ELEGANS

#### **Amy Nicole Hudson**

University of South Alabama Hospitals, Psychiatry

#### **Zasmine Tracea Hymes-Green**

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University of Kentucky Medical Center, Preliminary  
Medicine  
University of Kentucky Medical Center, Diagnostic  
Radiology

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#### **Skyler Gentry Jones**

Medical College of Georgia, Preliminary Medicine  
Medical College of Georgia, Ophthalmology

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UAB Medical Center, Internal Medicine  
THE ELECTRONIC HEALTH RECORD AND THE CLINICAL IN-  
FORMATICS RESEARCHER A JOURNEY TO PREDICTING FALSE  
POSITIVE ALERTS WITH PATIENT CHARACTERISTICS

#### **Ryan Kervin**

UAB Medical Center, Psychiatry

#### **Justin Kim**

Cedars - Sinai Medical Center, Obstetrics/Gynecology

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Orthopaedic Surgery

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University of Alabama School of Medicine - Huntsville,  
Internal Medicine

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University of Alabama School of Medicine - Huntsville,  
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**Oluwagbemiga Olamide Larinde**

University of Miami / Jackson Health System, Neurology

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Naval Medical Center Portsmouth, Transitional

**Hieu Le**

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Louisiana State University School of Medicine, Diagnostic  
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UAB Medical Center, Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery

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UAB Medical Center, Surgery  
KIDNEY RESIDENT MACROPHAGES UTILIZE  
DEVELOPMENTAL PROGRAMMING DURING HEALING FROM  
ACUTE KIDNEY INJURY

**Evan Sun Li**

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Medicine  
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Prisma Health - University of South Carolina School of Medi-  
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University of California Los Angeles Medical Center,  
Surgery  
APPROPRIATELY TIMED EPIGENETIC MANIPULATION WITH  
HISTONE DEACETYLASE INHIBITORS AS A PLATFORM  
APPROACH TO TUMOR IMMUNOTHERAPY

**Scott Robinson McClure**

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UAB Medical Center, Ophthalmology

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Medicine

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South Baldwin Regional Medical Center, Family  
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UAB Medical Center, Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation

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Brigham and Women's Hospital, Diagnostic Radiology

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Gynecology

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University of Texas Southwestern Medical School,  
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NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF HEALTH GRADUATE PARTNERSHIPS  
PROGRAM

**Mohamad Moughnyeh**

Ascension Providence / Michigan State University  
College of Human Medicine, Surgery

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Surgery

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**Matthew Benjamin Neu, PhD\*‡**

Stanford University Programs, Pediatrics - Medical  
Genetics  
GENOME SEQUENCING AND ANALYSIS TO IDENTIFY  
NOVEL DEVELOPMENTAL DISORDER VARIATION

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Oregon Health & Science University, Neurology

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Mount Sinai Hospital, Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation

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Mayo Clinic School of Graduate Medical Education,  
Internal Medicine

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Brookwood Baptist Health, Internal Medicine

**Romil Kanu Patel**

Cleveland Clinic Florida, Preliminary Medicine  
University of Central Florida College of Medicine /  
Graduate Medical Education Consortium, Physical  
Medicine & Rehabilitation

**Mark Emile Pepin, PhD\*‡**

GENETIC AND EPIGENETIC UNDERPINNINGS OF END-STAGE  
HUMAN HEART FAILURE

**Claire Elaine Petitt**

Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center, Preliminary  
Medicine  
University of North Carolina Hospitals, Dermatology

**Shri Kiriti Rajan**

University of Texas Southwestern Medical School,  
Preliminary Surgery  
University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics, Radiation Oncology

**Morgan Leigh Read**

University of Alabama School of Medicine - Huntsville,  
Family Medicine

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UAB Medical Center, Otolaryngology

**Julio Cesar Santana**

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Internal Medicine



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University of New Mexico School of Medicine, Surgery

### **Jeffrey Robert Singer, PhD\*‡**

Vanderbilt University Medical Center, Internal Medicine  
SUSCEPTIBILITY TO LATE-ONSET SEPSIS IS CONTROLLED BY  
THE NEONATAL MICROBIOME AND INTESTINAL IMMUNE  
SYSTEM

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Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center, Pediatrics

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University of Arkansas College of Medicine - Little Rock,  
Surgery

### **Grant Dellinger Smith**

HCA Healthcare / University of South Florida Morsani Gradu-  
ate Medical Education - Blake Medical Center, Transitional  
UAB Medical Center, Diagnostic Radiology

### **Shannon Elizabeth Snellgrove**

UAB Medical Center, Medicine-Pediatrics

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HCA Healthcare / University of South Florida Morsani Gradu-  
ate Medical Education - Blake Medical Center, Transitional  
University of Florida College of Medicine - Shands  
Hospital, Diagnostic Radiology

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Medical University of South Carolina, Thoracic Surgery

### **Sylvia Yvonne Sontheimer**

Boston University Medical Center, Emergency Medicine

### **Jaclyn Paige Souder, PhD\***

University of Colorado School of Medicine - Denver,  
Pediatrics - Medical Genetics  
CHARACTERIZATION OF CHEMICAL UPTAKE AND ARYL HY-  
DROCARBON RECEPTOR MUTATIONS IN ZEBRAFISH

### **Blake Andrew Sowers**

University Hospitals, Anesthesiology

### **Paul St. Clair**

Albany Medical Center, Emergency Medicine

### **Brian Patrick Stahl**

HCA Healthcare / University of South Florida Morsani  
Graduate Medical Education - Brandon Regional Hospital,  
Transitional  
Wake Forest Baptist Medical Center, Diagnostic Radiology

### **Jenna Nell Stanford**

UAB Medical Center, Obstetrics/Gynecology

### **Matthew Anthony Stratton, DMD**

UAB Medical Center, Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery

### **Sarah Jessica Stone Summerlin**

Wake Forest Baptist Medical Center, Obstetrics/Gynecology

### **Parita Sutaria**

Barnes - Jewish Hospital, Anesthesiology

### **William Blake Swicord**

University of Southern California, Thoracic Surgery

### **Meredith Eveline Thomley**

University of South Florida Morsani College of Medicine,  
Preliminary Medicine  
University of South Florida Morsani College of Medicine,  
Dermatology

### **Emma Carroll Thompson**

University of North Carolina Hospitals, Internal Medicine

### **Harrison McNeil Thompson**

Indiana University School of Medicine, Otolaryngology

### **Madilyn Elizabeth Tomaso**

University of Alabama School of Medicine - Huntsville, Fami-  
ly Medicine

### **Roman Travis**

Brookwood Baptist Health, Transitional  
UAB Medical Center, Radiation Oncology

### **Dustin Trotman**

University of Tennessee Health Science Center, Internal  
Medicine

### **Neha Udayakumar**

Riverside Community Hospital, Transitional  
Massachusetts General Hospital, Diagnostic Radiology

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**Hillary Beth Vaughan**

UAB Medical Center, Pediatrics

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Brookwood Baptist Health, Diagnostic Radiology

**Cami Rosamary Velazquez**

UAB Medical Center, Emergency Medicine

**Stefan James Vila, DDS**

UAB Medical Center, Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery

**Raymond Paul Waldrop, III**

John Peter Smith Hospital, Orthopaedic Surgery

**Christopher Ryan Walz**

UAB Medical Center, Otolaryngology

**Joshua Lloyd Washington**

University of Alabama College of Community Health Sciences, Family Medicine

**Jared Bruce Watson**

University of California Davis Medical Center, Orthopaedic Surgery

**Alicia Leshae Williams**

UAB Medical Center, Pediatrics

**Margaret Alice Williams**

University of Wisconsin Hospitals and Clinics, Obstetrics/Gynecology

**Justin Bryant Wimberly**

Palm Beach Consortium for Graduate Medical Education, Pediatrics

**Bean Woo**

University of Alabama School of Medicine - Huntsville, Family Medicine

**Kevin Yang**

Newton - Wellesley Hospital, Transitional  
UAB Medical Center, Dermatology

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

‡Met requirements for MD in December 2020

††MD anticipated in August 2021

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

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Roman Travis  
Dustin Trotman  
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Danielle Morgan Joiner  
Graham Kirchner  
Evan Sun Li  
Olga Vladlenovna Manouvakhova  
Michael Carr Matthews  
John Goodson McLemore  
Vinayak Goud Memula  
Mohamad Moughnyeh  
Aashka Raju Patel  
Harrison McNeil Thompson  
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Reza John Atras  
Hannah Marie Beer  
Jamie Elizabeth Bice  
Garner Lansing Boogaerts  
Payton Alexander Davis  
Turkan Alinea Esensoy  
Gillian Garver  
John Skyler Graham  
Caleb Hilyer  
Brandon Honeywell  
Justin Kim  
Andrew Bottcher NeSmith  
Shri Kiriti Rajan  
Weston Andrew Smedley  
Shannon Elizabeth Snellgrove  
Parita Sutaria  
Meredith Eveline Thomley  
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Karyn Ding  
Rebecca Elaine England  
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Ketrick Lonie LaCoste  
Hieu Le  
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Peter Larson Miller  
Jacqueline Morris  
Daniel Sarraf  
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Neha Udayakumar

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Emily Austin  
Nicholas Bennett  
Chelsea Alanah Berger  
Luke Raymond Casals  
Nidhi Goel  
Judi Hakim  
Sullivan Clyde Hanback  
Zasmine Tracea Hymes-Green  
Erin Mackenzie Katz  
Soojin Kim  
Oluwagbemiga Olamide Larinde  
Tyler Randall Orem  
Morgen Alexis Owens  
Julio Cesar Santana  
Zachary Whitten Sollie  
Blake Andrew Sowers  
Sarah Jessica Stone Summerlin  
Garrison Cole Veazey  
Raymond Paul Waldrop, III  
Jared Bruce Watson

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Poojitha Balakrishnan  
Ryan Cooper Bynum  
Thomas Stuart DePriest  
Jordi Garcia-Diaz  
Christiaan Marshall Heersink  
Maahum Zahra Kamal  
Alexis Hope Kinzer  
Emily Knowling  
Benjamin McCafferty  
Olivia Melvin  
Meredith Moore Montgomery  
Elizabeth Lurie Nichols  
Cami Rosamary Velazquez

**Pittman Learning Community**

Starr Steinhilber, MD, Lead Mentor

Abigail Gosdin Bennett  
Rachel Ina Caskey  
Veena Danthuluri  
Grace Catherine Ernstberger  
Martha Kate Lauren Falkner  
Abigail Marie Gauthier  
Glenn Gilbert Irby  
James Rush Jones  
Elle Reed Kaplan  
Sydney Michelle Mohr  
Romil Kanu Patel  
Grant Dellinger Smith  
Brian Patrick Stahl  
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Kevin Yang

**Oparil Learning Community**

David Resuehr, PhD, Faculty Mentor

Jessica Lee Adams  
Audrey Ang  
Katherine Swint Barnes  
Morgan Brazelle  
Matthew Harold Brown  
Zachary Robert Burns  
Addison Mark Cimino  
Benjamin Scott Ervin Echols  
Diep Nguyen Edwards  
Elizabeth Hendrickson  
Ryan Kervin  
Zachary Lee Littlefield  
Scott Robinson McClure  
Alexander Perry Nocera  
William Blake Swicord  
Emma Carroll Thompson

**Medical Scientist Training Program**

William Geisler, MD, Co-Director

Shima Dowla Anwar, PhD  
Nicholas James Eustace, PhD  
Muhan Hu, PhD  
Timothy Irving Kennell, Jr, PhD  
Jeremie Matthew Peabody Lever, PhD  
Tyler Robert McCaw, PhD  
Bryan Mott, PhD  
Matthew Benjamin Neu, PhD  
Mark Emile Pepin, PhD  
Jeffrey Robert Singer, PhD  
Jaclyn Paige Souder, PhD

**Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery  
Residency Program**

John Minh Trung Le, DDS  
Matthew Anthony Stratton, DMD  
Stefan James Vila, DDS

Dear Graduate:

Congratulations on your remarkable achievement that we celebrate today! Your family, community, the 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 wellbeing 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 MAA is confident in your preparation to achieve a professional role that will impact local, state, and/or national life. The MAA encourages you also to become a 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 support students who are following in your footsteps. Please join us.

For more information, visit [www.AlabamaMedicalAlumni.org](http://www.AlabamaMedicalAlumni.org) or contact our office at 205-934-4463.

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

**Our thanks to the following for their help and assistance during commencement:**

Bartow Arena Management Team

UAB School of Medicine Department of Medical Education

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**Special thanks to members of the string ensemble  
from the Samford University School of Fine Arts:**

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