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University of Illinois College of Medicine Rockford
Convocation – Class of 2017

The University of Illinois College of Medicine at Rockford hosted its Convocation for the College of Medicine Class of 2017 on Saturday, May 6, 2017 at 11:00 a.m. at the Coronado Performing Arts Center in Rockford, Illinois. Alex Stagnaro-Green, MD, MHPE, Regional Dean and Professor of Medicine, Obstetrics & Gynecology and Medical Education at University of Illinois College of Medicine Rockford, provided opening remarks.

Dr. P. Mona Khanna was the alumni speaker. She is also TV’s “Dr. Mona,” an Emmy-winning medical reporter and correspondent who worked in markets such as Chicago, Dallas-Fort Worth and Palm Springs and has appeared on many national network shows. She is the expert behind the “Ask Dr. Mona” newspaper column. Her passion for health literacy and her humanitarian work in medical missions and disaster medicine around the globe has earned her more than 50 awards, including the 2016 Ellis Island Medal of Honor.

Also speaking was Dr. Larry Tobacman, a physician-scientist and educator, with responsibilities as the Senior Associate Dean for Research at the University of Illinois College of Medicine, founding Director of UIC’s NIH-supported Medical Scientist Training Program, one of the two co-Directors of UIC’s Center for Clinical and Translational Science, and Professor of Medicine and of Physiology & Biophysics. Additionally, the Class of 2017 chose Dr. Glendon Burress as their speaker. Dr. Burress is a Clinical Assistant Professor in the Department of Pediatrics and specializes in pediatric gastroenterology at Rockford Health Physicians. He is a graduate of the University of Illinois College of Medicine and completed his residency and fellowship at the University of Chicago Hospital.

The College of Medicine Rockford bestowed the medical degree on 55 graduating medical students who will be entering 19 different specialties across 20 states.

A national medical honor society, the Alpha Omega Alpha (AOA) Honor Medical Society, was founded at the University of Illinois College of Medicine in 1902. Its purpose is to recognize and perpetuate excellence in the medical profession. Members are elected on the basis of scholarship, personal character and potential leadership. The following students were elected to AOA:
*inducted as juniors*

Students who have demonstrated outstanding academic achievement earn the distinction of Graduation with Honors. Honors graduates are selected College-wide based on academic performance throughout their four years of medical school. The students below achieved such recognition:

- Kelsey L. Davitt
- Craig W. Forsthoefel
- Sonali Khurana
- Anthony L. Logli
- Paige E. Love
- Vanessa L. Nienhouse
- Leo Lin
- Johnny R. Lindquist, III
- Matthew J. Sarna
- Vincent C. Spears

Students selected for membership in the Gold Humanism Honor Society exhibit outstanding humanism in medicine and integrity as medical students. The Gold Foundation defines humanism as “encompassing those attitudes and behaviors that emanate from a deep sensitivity and respect for others.” Congratulations to the members of the Class of 2017 who have achieved this selection:

- Sarah M. M. Bunch
- Anthony L. Logli
- Marco A. Martinez
- Vanessa L. Nienhouse
- Jenny R. Schmidt
- Santiago Tovar
- Benjamin R. Weger
- Lawrence L. Yen

The Granville A. Bennett Award was presented to Santiago Tovar. The student body of the college established this award in 1968 in the name of Dr. Granville A. Bennett, professor of pathology, who served with distinction as dean of the College of Medicine. The award is presented to a senior student who has made significant contributions to medical education.

Mitchell E. Daugherty received the Dr. Gary Button Rural Primary Care Medicine Award.
This award is named in memory of Dr. Gary Button, a graduate of the College of Medicine and family practice residency program in Rockford. Dr. Button was a well-known family physician in Harvard, Illinois, and a faculty member in the department of family and community medicine and the Rural Medical Education (RMED) program. The award is given to a student who exhibits the qualities and characteristics of Dr. Button, is dedicated to a career in primary care, and committed to practicing in a rural community.

The Dr. Assir Daniel DaSilva Scholarship, established in memory of Dr. Assir Daniel DaSilva, a Class of 2000 College of Medicine at Rockford graduate who was killed while doing an international elective in Brazil his senior year, was given to Sarah M. M. Bunch and Alex C. F. Yeung. Both exemplify Dan’s outgoing personality and sense of humor, intellectual curiosity, dedication to medicine, sensitivity to patients, and his appreciation for diversity.

Kelsey L. Davitt was the recipient of the Gordon W. Hall Scholarship. This scholarship is a one-time contribution given to a student who is a current employee, or descendent of a current employee, of UTC Aerospace Systems in Rockford, IL (formerly Hamilton Sundstrand). Dr. Gordon Hall was the child of a single mother who received a scholarship from Hamilton Sundstrand which made it possible for him to afford a college education and was his way of giving back to the community and company that helped him get his professional career started. Prior to retirement, Dr. Hall served on the medical staff at Rockford Memorial Hospital and on the faculty of the University of Illinois College of Medicine Rockford.

Benjamin R. Weger was the recipient of the award established in memory of Dr. Glenn Netto, a class of 1980 College of Medicine Rockford graduate who loved teaching medical students and served in various roles at the Rockford campus. Weger is a compassionate and motivated individual who embodies the attributes Dr. Netto felt were important in being a great physician - a community servant, a life-long learner, an excellent educator, and a great listener. This award is given to an M4 who is dedicated to a career in a primary care field.

The Kathy A. Norman scholarship is a one-time award in memory of Kathy A. Norman, who was an employee of the college, serving first as the Academic Skills Specialist and then the Assistant Dean of Student & Alumni Affairs. The award was given to Sybil I. Agu. This award was granted to a student who displays academic excellence with career goals that reflect Kathy’s interest in helping the underserved.

The James E. Rebel Award, presented in memory of James E. Rebel, a member of the Charter College of Medicine at Rockford class, who died following an automobile accident during his senior year, was presented to Sarah M.M. Bunch. Bunch, chosen by the senior class, exemplifies Jim’s personal characteristics of dedication and enthusiasm for learning medicine and personal sensitivity towards patients, fellow students, and others.

Matthew J. Sarna was given the Tom C. Reeves Memorial Award, established in memory of Tom C. Reeves, who died in his sophomore year of medical school. This award recognizes an outstanding classmate who demonstrates promise for excellence in the medical profession.
The Winnebago County Medical Society Award was presented to Belinda E. Daniel. This award is in recognition of demonstrated desire and ability to integrate patient care with community service, and shown an interest in taking an active role in organized medicine.

Department Awards were also given.

For Family Medicine, the Dr. L. P. Johnson Scholarship was presented to Philip Carlson-Dexter. This scholarship, in honor of Dr. LeBaron Paul Johnson, is presented to a fourth year medical student at the College of Medicine Rockford who, during the second and third years of study, has shown interest and achievement in family medicine.

Sonali Khurana was the recipient of the Outstanding Performance on Medicine Clerkship Award.

Jonathan S. Aubry was the recipient of the Excellence in Family Medicine Award for outstanding performance on the family medicine clerkship.

The Excellence in Obstetrics and Gynecology Award, in the Department of Obstetrics & Gynecology, was presented to Marco A. Martinez for excellence in the field of obstetrics and gynecology.

In the Department of Pathology, the Otto Saphir Memorial Scholarship was presented to Jogin K. Jose. Friends of the late Dr. Otto Saphir, Clinical Professor of Pathology, established this award to recognize a junior student who has shown outstanding interest and excellence in pathology.

The Donald H. Wortmann Pediatric Award, in the Department of Pediatrics, was presented to Vincent C. Spears, in memory of Dr. Donald Wortmann in recognition of excellence in pediatrics.

The Excellence in Pediatric Medicine Award was given to Vincent C. Spears.

In the Department of Psychiatry, the David Mortimer Olkon Scholarship was presented to Adam J. Lake, in memory of Dr. David Mortimer Olkon.

Alina M. Winans and Santiago Tovar were the recipients of the Surgery Department’s Excellence in Emergency Medicine Award for for excellence in the field of emergency.

Kelsey L. Davitt received the Outstanding Performance on the Surgery Clerkship award in recognition for outstanding performance on surgery.

Johnny R. Lindquist, III received the Best Performance Among Students Choosing a Surgical Career, which recognizes a senior, who is choosing a surgical specialty, for outstanding performance on the surgery clerkship.

Santiago Tovar received the Urban Health Program’s Servant Leadership Award.
Sarah M. M. Bunch was the recipient of the Urban Health Program’s Student Achievement Award.

**College of Medicine Class of 2017**  
**Hometown, educational background, residency program, and awards:**

**Sybil I. Agu**  
Hometown: Atlanta, Georgia  
Education: Duke University, BS, Psychology  
Specialty: Obstetrics and Gynecology  
Residency: University of Texas Medical School, Houston, Texas

**Christina R. Anderson**  
Hometown: Dallas City, Illinois  
Education: Illinois College, BS, Biology  
Specialty: Family Medicine  
Residency: University of Illinois Methodist Medical Center, Peoria, Illinois

**Jonathan S. Aubry**  
Hometown: Sandwich, Illinois  
Education: Benedictine University, BS, Biology  
Specialty: Family Medicine  
Residency: Memorial Hospital, South Bend, Indiana

**Ryan D. Beardsley**  
Hometown: Belvidere, Illinois  
Education: Brigham Young University, BS, Physiology & Developmental Biology  
Specialty: Obstetrics and Gynecology  
Residency: University of Illinois, St. Francis Medical Center, Peoria, Illinois

**Abigail A. Breeze**  
Hometown: Salem, Illinois  
Education: University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, BS, Community Health  
Specialty: Internal Medicine  
Residency: University of Chicago Medical Center, Chicago, Illinois

**Christopher G. Bronson**  
Hometown: Arlington Heights, Illinois  
Education: Western Illinois University, BS, Psychology, MS, Kinesiology  
Specialty: Internal Medicine  
Residency: University of Missouri Hospitals and Clinics, Columbia, Missouri
Sarah M. M. Bunch
Hometown: Chicago, Illinois
Education: University of California-Santa Barbara, BA, Cultural Anthropology
Specialty: Emergency Medicine
Residency: University of Illinois College of Medicine, Chicago, Illinois

Philip Carlson-Dexter
Hometown: Tremont, Illinois
Education: Bradley University, BS, Biology
Specialty: Family Medicine
Residency: University of Illinois College of Medicine, Rockford, Illinois

Sheng-chieh Chang
Hometown: Taipei, Taiwan
Education: National Taiwan University, BS, Agricultural Engineering, MS, Agricultural Engineering, University of California, Berkeley, MS, Environmental Engineering
Specialty: Anesthesiology
Residency: Case Western/University Hospitals Cleveland Medical Center, Cleveland, Ohio

Andrew C. Crawford
Hometown: Sheboygan, Wisconsin
Education: Marquette University, BA, Psychology, Midwestern University, MS, Biomedical Sciences
Specialty: Surgery-Preliminary
Residency: University of Florida College of Medicine, Shands Hospital, Gainesville, Florida

Belinda E. Daniel
Hometown: Morton Grove, Illinois
Education: Northwestern University, BA, Biology
Specialty: Psychiatry
Residency: University of California, San Diego Medical Center, San Diego, California

Mitchell E. Daugherty
Hometown: Roanoke, Illinois
Education: University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, BS, Molecular & Cellular Biology
Specialty: Family Medicine
Residency: Memorial Hospital, South Bend, Indiana

Kelsey L. Davitt
Hometown: Rockford, Illinois
Education: Indiana Wesleyan University, BS, Biology
Specialty: Family Medicine
Residency: Aurora Health Care/Aurora Sinai Medical Center, Waukesha, Wisconsin
John D. Draminski
Hometown: Kewanee, Illinois
Education: Augustana College, BS, Biology
Specialty: Family Medicine
Residency: St. Mary’s Hospital, Grand Junction, Colorado

Christopher R. Florido
Hometown: Watseka, Illinois
Education: Eastern Illinois University, BS, Community Health
Specialty: Diagnostic Radiology
Residency: University of Illinois College of Medicine, Chicago, Illinois ; University of Florida College of Medicine, Shands Hospital, Gainesville, Florida (Preliminary-Surgery)

Craig W. Forsthoefel
Hometown: Gurnee, Illinois
Education: Colorado State University, BS, Chemistry, Biomedical Sciences
Specialty: Orthopaedic Surgery
Residency: University of Illinois College of Medicine, Chicago, Illinois

Melissa J. Gutierrez
Hometown: El Dorado Hills, California
Education: San Diego State University, BS, Biology
Specialty: Pediatrics
Residency: Loyola University Medical Center, Maywood, Illinois

Jaclyn T. Hastings
Hometown: Lena, Illinois
Education: University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, BS, Molecular & Cellular Biology
Specialty: Family Medicine
Residency: Aurora Health Care/Aurora Sinai Medical Center, Waukesha, Wisconsin

Amina M. Jaji
Hometown: Chicago, Illinois
Education: Massachusetts College of Pharmacy & Health Sciences, BS, Pre-Med & Health Studies/Medical Humanities
Specialty: Pediatrics
Residency: Helen DeVos Children’s Hospital, Grand Rapids, Michigan

Kathryn R. Johns
Hometown: The Dalles, Oregon
Education: Saint Louis University, BS, Nutrition/Dietetics, University of Alabama, MS, Human Nutrition
Specialty: Emergency Medicine
Residency: Advocate Christ Medical Center, Oak Lawn, Illinois
**Jogin K. Jose**  
Hometown: Niles, Illinois  
Education: University of Wisconsin-Madison, BS, Biology  
Specialty: Ophthalmology  
Residency: Loyola University, Maywood, Illinois/Edward Hines, Jr. Veterans Affairs, Maywood, Illinois  
Presence Saint Francis Hospital, Evanston, Illinois (Transitional)

**Jennifer M. Kang**  
Hometown: Lake in the Hills, Illinois  
Education: Amherst College, BA, French  
Specialty: Internal Medicine  
Residency: University of Illinois College of Medicine, Chicago, Illinois

**Sonali Khurana**  
Hometown: South Barrington, Illinois  
Education: University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, BS, Molecular & Cellular Biology  
Specialty: Internal Medicine  
Residency: Case Western/University Hospitals Cleveland Medical Center, Cleveland, Ohio

**Adam J. Lake**  
Hometown: Naperville, Illinois  
Education: University of Notre Dame, BA, Anthropology  
Specialty: Psychiatry  
Residency: University of North Carolina Hospitals, Chapel Hill, North Carolina

**Leo Lin**  
Hometown: La Palma, California  
Education: University of California, Berkeley, BA, Molecular & Cellular Biology, University of Pennsylvania, MS, Biotechnology  
Specialty: General Surgery  
Residency: Hofstra Northwell School of Medicine, New Hyde Park, New York

**Johnny R. Lindquist, III**  
Hometown: Highland Park, Illinois  
Education: Tufts University, BA, Economics  
Specialty: Urology  
Residency: University of Chicago Medical Center, Chicago, Illinois

**Anthony L. Logli**  
Hometown: Des Plaines, Illinois  
Education: University of Chicago, BA, Biological Sciences  
Specialty: Orthopaedic Surgery  
Residency: Mayo Clinic School of Graduate Medical Education, Rochester, Minnesota
**Paige E. Love**  
Hometown: Plano, Illinois  
Education: Butler University, BS, Biology  
Specialty: Obstetrics and Gynecology  
Residency: University of Kentucky Medical Center, Lexington, Kentucky

**Jordyn P. Lucas**  
Hometown: Buffalo Grove, Illinois  
Education: Loyola University, BS, Biology; BS, Mathematics  
Specialty: Otolaryngology  
Residency: Wayne State University School of Medicine, Detroit, Michigan

**Marco A. Martinez**  
Hometown: Aurora, Illinois  
Education: University of Illinois at Chicago, BS, Biological Sciences; BA, Psychology  
Specialty: Obstetrics and Gynecology  
Residency: St. John Hospital, Detroit, Michigan

**Margaret E. Morrison**  
Hometown: Bloomingdale, Illinois  
Education: University of Wisconsin-Madison, BS, Biology  
Specialty: Internal Medicine  
Residency: Medical University of South Carolina, Charleston, South Carolina

**Vanessa L. Nienhouse**  
Hometown: Elgin, Illinois  
Education: Augustana College, BA, Biology, Loyola University, MS, Immunology & Infectious Disease  
Specialty: Obstetrics and Gynecology  
Residency: Detroit Medical Center/Wayne State University, Detroit, Michigan

**Stanley J. Noll**  
Hometown: Havana, Illinois  
Education: University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, BS, Molecular and Cellular Biology  
Specialty: Family Medicine  
Residency: St. Louis University School of Medicine, St. Louis, Missouri

**Feroz A. Osmani**  
Hometown: Woodridge, Illinois  
Education: Benedictine University, BS, Health Science  
Research: University of Illinois College of Medicine, Chicago, Illinois

**Cameron W. Overcash**  
Hometown: Dixon, Illinois  
Education: University of Iowa, BS, Human Physiology  
Specialty: Family Medicine  
Residency: Central Iowa Health System, Des Moines, Iowa
Brock A. Phillips
Hometown: Pawnee, Illinois
Education: University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, BS, Molecular & Cellular Biology
Specialty: Pediatrics
Residency: St. Louis Children’s Hospital, St. Louis, Missouri

Franklyn Rocha Cabrero
Hometown: Mayaguez, Puerto Rico
Education: University of Puerto Rico-Mayaguez, BS, Biology, Industrial Microbiology
Specialty: Neurology
Residency: Jackson Memorial Hospital, Miami, Florida
University of California, Riverside, California (Transitional)

Philip L. Salstrom, III
Hometown: Oregon, Illinois
Education: University of Illinois at Chicago, BS, Biology
Specialty: Obstetrics and Gynecology
Residency: East Tennessee State University, Johnson City, Tennessee

Matthew J. Sarna
Hometown: Wayne, Illinois
Education: University of Notre Dame, BS, Biological Sciences & Anthropology
Specialty: General Surgery
Residency: Rhode Island Hospital/Brown University, Providence, Rhode Island

Neal A. Sauerberg
Hometown: Galena, Illinois
Education: University of Iowa, BA, Journalism
Specialty: Emergency Medicine
Residency: University of Illinois, St. Francis Medical Center, Peoria, Illinois

Jenny R. Schmidt
Hometown: Effingham, Illinois
Education: Southern Illinois University Carbondale, BS, Biomedical Sciences
Specialty: Child Neurology
Residency: University of Tennessee College of Medicine, Memphis, Tennessee

Jordan A. Sharlin
Hometown: Buffalo Grove, Illinois
Education: University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, BS, Molecular & Cellular Biology
Specialty: Anesthesiology
Residency: Northwestern McGaw, Northwestern Memorial Hospital/Veterans Affairs, Chicago, Illinois
**Carlita Shen**
Hometown: Palatine, Illinois  
Education: University of Illinois at Chicago, BA, Neuroscience  
Specialty: Internal Medicine  
Residency: University of Pittsburgh Medical Center, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

**Fang Yu Bonnie Sheu**
Hometown: Taipei, Taiwan  
Education: University of Chicago, BA, Biological Sciences  
Specialty: Surgery-Preliminary  
Residency: University of California, San Francisco, California

**Vincent C. Spears**
Hometown: Cary, Illinois  
Education: Marquette University, BS, Exercise Physiology  
Specialty: Pediatrics  
Residency: Northwestern McGaw/Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children’s Hospital, Chicago, Illinois

**Sara H. Timtim**
Hometown: Honolulu, Hawaii  
Education: Stanford University, BS, Environmental Engineering  
Specialty: Psychiatry/Research  
Residency: University of California, San Diego Medical Center, San Diego, California

**Santiago Tovar**
Hometown: Cali, Columbia  
Education: University of Illinois at Chicago, BS, Bioengineering  
Specialty: Emergency Medicine  
Residency: John H. Stroger, Jr., Hospital of Cook County, Chicago, Illinois

**Alex J. Waldman**
Hometown: Highland Park, Illinois  
Education: University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, BS, Psychology  
Specialty: Emergency Medicine  
Residency: North Florida Regional Medical Center, Gainesville, Florida

**Benjamin R. Weger**
Hometown: Jacksonville, Illinois  
Education: Truman State University, BS, Biology  
Specialty: Psychiatry/Child Fast Track  
Residency: Vanderbilt University Medical Center, Nashville, Tennessee

**Jennifer A. Weiss**
Hometown: Highland Park, Illinois  
Education: University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, BS, Molecular & Cellular Biology  
Specialty: Internal Medicine  
Residency: University of Colorado School of Medicine-Denver, Aurora, Colorado
Alina M. Winans
Hometown: South Beloit, Illinois
Education: North Central College, BS, Biochemistry
Specialty: Emergency Medicine
Residency: Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center, Boston, Massachusetts

Donald L. Yang
Hometown: Lincolnshire, Illinois
Education: Northwestern University, BS, Biomedical Engineering
Specialty: Internal Medicine
Residency: University of Illinois, St. Francis Medical Center, Peoria, Illinois

Lawrence L. Yen
Hometown: Los Angeles, California
Education: Tufts University, BS, Biology
Specialty: Internal Medicine
Residency: Cedars-Sinai Medical Center, Los Angeles, California

Alexander C. F. Yeung
Hometown: Chicago, Illinois
Education: University of Illinois at Chicago, BS, Biology
Specialty: Ophthalmology
Residency: John H. Stroger, Jr. Hospital of Cook County, Chicago, Illinois
Presence Saint Francis Hospital, Evanston, Illinois (Transitional)

Nada H. Youssef
Hometown: Palos Hills, Illinois
Education: University of Illinois at Chicago, BS, Neuroscience, Midwestern University, MS, Biomedical Sciences
Specialty: Pediatrics
Residency: University of Illinois College of Medicine, Chicago, Illinois

*Some awards were presented at Senior Banquet on Friday, May 5.*

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