The University of Illinois College of Medicine at Rockford hosted its White Coat Ceremony for the Class of 2019 on Saturday, October 1. The White Coat ceremony is a tradition that welcomes medical students into the profession of medicine and introduces them to the privileges and responsibilities of a physician. The White Coat was a vision of Dr. Arnold P. Gold, who created a foundation to work with physicians to instill a humanistic culture of respect, dignity and compassion for patients and professionals.

Alex Stagnaro-Green, MD, MHPE, Dean, University of Illinois College of Medicine at Rockford; Mitchell King, MD, Associate Dean of Academic Affairs and Professor of Family Medicine, University of Illinois College of Medicine at Rockford; Dr. William Gorski, CEO of SwedishAmerican A Division of UW Health; Errol Baptist, MD, Professor of Pediatrics at the University of Illinois College of Medicine at Rockford; and Gary Fernando, MD, President of the Winnebago County Medical Society; coated the students. Dr. Gorski also delivered the keynote address.

The white coat and the 2016 University of Illinois College of Medicine White Coat Ceremony were sponsored by the Office of Student and Alumni Affairs thanks to the generosity of the Winnebago County Medical Society, an anonymous donor, and the many contributors to the Rockford Alumni Fund. The event also included the induction of 4th year students, nominated by their peers, into the Gold Humanism Honor Society (GHHS). GHHS recognizes individuals who can serve as role models, mentors, and leaders in medicine. Dr. Baptist inducted the following students: Jenny Brown, Sarah Bunch, Tony Logli, Marco Martinez, Vanessa Nienhouse, Santiago Tovar, Ben Weger, and Lawrence Yen.

**Class of 2019 students who received their White Coats included:**
- Kareem A. Allam, Newport Coast, California
- Shane C. Anderson, Chrisman, Illinois
- Clinton A. Bays, Charleston, Illinois
- Erin E. Braun, Rockford, Illinois
- Clinton C. Brubaker, Monticello, Illinois
- Tatiana del P. Carranza, Los Angeles, California
- John L. Csiha, Libertyville, Illinois
- Ryan K. Dahlberg, Belvidere, Illinois
- August J. Emford, Lena, Illinois
- Maritza Y. Estrada, Mendota, Illinois
- Salvador D. Fernandez, Blue Island, Illinois
- Michael D. Foster, Macomb, Illinois
- Nadia M. Froehling, Mount Vernon, Illinois
- Sandra M. Giraldo, Queens, New York
- Stephanie L. Grach, Chicago, Illinois
- Theodore Guild, Concord, Massachusetts
Since 1972, the College of Medicine at Rockford has focused on building an academic medical institution committed to education, research and innovation, and clinical service in the surrounding communities. The College has become a center for internationally recognized research efforts funded through grants awarded by government agencies, private foundations and other resources.

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