

City University of New York School of Medicine
White Coat Ceremony &
Sophie Davis Biomedical Education Program
Commencement



Thursday, August 4, 2022
The Great Hall of Shepard Hall
City College of New York
New York, NY



The land upon which we gather is part of the traditional territory of the Lenni-Lenape, called "Lenapehoking." The Lenape People lived in harmony with one another upon this territory for thousands of years. During the colonial era and early federal period, many were removed west and north, but some also remain among the continuing historical tribal communities of the region: The Nanticoke Lenni-Lenape Tribal Nation; the Ramapough Lenape Nation; and the Powhatan Renape Nation, The Nanticoke of Millsboro Delaware, and the Lenape of Cheswold Delaware. We acknowledge the Lenni-Lenape as the original people of this land and their continuing relationship with their territory. In our acknowledgment of the continued presence of Lenape people in their homeland, we affirm the aspiration of the great Lenape Chief Tamanend, that there be harmony between the indigenous people of this land and the descendants of the immigrants to this land, "as long as the rivers and creeks flow, and the sun, moon, and stars shine.



"Harlem Nocturne" is a jazz standard written in 1939 by Earle Hagen (1919–2008). Although the lyrics were written by Dick Rogers, Harlem Nocturne is rarely performed with lyrics. Hagen intended "Harlem Nocturne" as a tribute to Duke Ellington and his saxophonist Johnny Hodges. It was soon adopted as the Roy Noble orchestra's theme song. It long ago became a genuine jazz standard, having been recorded hundreds of times by hundreds of artists, including Duke Ellington himself. Hagen later became a very successful composer for Hollywood films and achieved even more success in television.

"Take the 'A' Train" is a jazz standard by Billy Strayhorn in 1939 that was the signature tune of the Duke Ellington orchestra. The title refers to the then-new A subway service that runs through New York City, going at that time from eastern Brooklyn, on the Fulton Street Line opened in 1936, up into Harlem and northern Manhattan, using the Eighth Avenue Line in Manhattan opened in 1932. Ellington had hired Strayhorn for his orchestra and gave him money to travel from Pittsburgh to New York City. Ellington wrote directions for Strayhorn to get to his house by subway, directions that began "Take the A".

"I'll Take Manhattan" is one of the most well-known songs of composers Richard Rodgers and Lorenz Hart, famous for their Broadway musical collaborations. The song was written in 1926 for the musical *The Garrick Gaieties*, and pays iconic tribute to the beauties of a city that tended to empty out in the summer. The singer, in several choruses, expresses the simple delights of a quiet metropolis experienced by a young couple in love. The song has been interpreted by dozens of artists, from Ella Fitzgerald to Tony Bennett.



Greetings from the Dean

Congratulations to the 2022 City University of New York Sophie Davis Biomedical Education Program Graduates, Families, and Friends

This is a glorious and long-awaited day. The Faculty and Staff of the CUNY School of Medicine are delighted to gather with you, your families, friends, and loved ones to celebrate your graduation from Sophie Davis, and to welcome you as members of the CUNY School of Medicine Class of 2026 and into the medical profession through your participation in the White Coat Ceremony. We applaud your grit, determination, and ability to persevere against the odds during these incredibly trying times. You have achieved a great deal in the years since you began your studies at ‘Sophie.’ Today, we will begin to refer to you as student doctors; and will leave this Great Hall of Shepard Hall as Medical Students. We stand in awe and are inspired by your intelligence, drive, and resilience. It has been an honor to witness your many talents and we know you will apply them throughout Medical School and your medical career.

The donning of the White Coat is a rite of passage for students that serves to introduce them to the concept of humanism in healthcare—compassionate, collaborative and scientifically-excellent care that places the interests, values and dignity of diverse populations at the core of education and practice. The tradition was established by the Arnold P. Gold Foundation in 1993 as a way to highlight the importance of humanism in healthcare. For nearly 30 years, White Coat Ceremonies have been held at medical schools throughout the country.

The pandemic has changed things and exposed deep faults within a fragile healthcare system, and has raised awareness of significant social, educational and health inequities as well as persistent healthcare disparities. Clearly, these are unprecedented times and New Yorkers have suffered more than most. Now, more than ever, we need hopeful healers, leaders, and scholars who can see beyond the chaos and direct us to the light. Now, more than ever, we need YOU!

Being your Dean remains a tremendous privilege. It is my sincere hope that you will always remember this extraordinary moment in the Great Hall. Take time to reflect on the people who encouraged you, prayed for you, and went on this journey with you. Continue to inspire each other as well as new generations of learners. I hope you get goose bumps when you consider the myriad of opportunities you have been presented to change the future face of healthcare and to transform how healthcare is delivered.

On behalf of the CUNY School of Medicine Faculty and Staff, I extend our whole-hearted congratulations to all of you on completing your undergraduate education and embarking on your medical career. We wish you the very best during the next four years and know the best is yet to come. We look forward to working with you to cultivate our newest crop of Healers, Leaders, and Scholars.

Be well.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Carmen Renée Green". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Carmen" being the most prominent.

Carmen Renée Green, MD

Dean, CUNY School of Medicine

PLEASE NOTE

- Please refrain from coming forward to take pictures. A professional photographer will photograph each student, and the Dean will be available in the quad immediately following the ceremony for photo opportunities.
- We take your health and safety seriously. Please kindly wear a face mask while indoors. If you need medical assistance, please see a public safety officer.
- The audience is requested to remain in place until the Platform Party and Faculty have left the area.

CUNY School of Medicine Leadership

Carmen Renée Green, MD

Dean

Bert Brodsky Chair

Medical Professor, Community Health and Social Medicine

Professor, Colin Powell School for Civic and Global Leadership

Michael C. Iannuzzi, MD, MBA

Interim Deputy Dean and Chair, Department of Medical Education

Victor Schwartz, MD, DLFAPA

Interim Senior Associate Dean for Wellness & Student Life

Maria Lima, PhD

Associate Dean for Research

Dani McBeth, PhD

Associate Dean for Student Affairs

Kathleen Delia O'Donnell, MPH, MBA

Interim Associate Dean for Clinical Administration, Finance & Strategy

Nicole Roberts, PhD

Associate Dean for Medical Education & Faculty Development

Annabel Santana-Colon, MPH

Associate Dean for Special Projects

Fernando Villalta, PhD

Associate Dean for Academic Affairs

Emine Abali, PhD

Assistant Dean for Basic Science Curriculum & Assessment

Lisa Auerbach, MD

Assistant Dean for Clinical Science Curriculum

Jaclyn M. Churchill, MPH, DMSc, PA-C

Assistant Dean & Program Director for the Physician Assistant Program

Sandy Saintonge, MD

Interim Assistant Dean for Diversity and Inclusion

Noel Manyindo, MD, MBA, MPH

Chair, Department of Community Health & Social Medicine

Edward Telzak, MD

Chair, Department of Clinical Medicine

Gonzalo Torres, PhD

Chair, Department of Molecular, Cellular & Biomedical Sciences

Keynote Address



Barbara Ross-Lee, DO, FACOFFP

*President, American Osteopathic Association
President (proposed), Maryland College of Osteopathic
Medicine at Morgan State University*

Barbara Ross-Lee, DO served as Vice President for Health Sciences and Medical Affairs (VPHSMA) at New York Institute of Technology (NYIT) from 2001 until 2017. Additionally, during that time, she served as interim Dean of the College of Osteopathic Medicine and interim Dean of the School of Health Professions. In November 2014, Dr. Ross-Lee became the Inaugural Dean for NYITCOM at Arkansas State, where she also served as CEO of its Academic Health Centers and President of its Faculty Practice Plan while continuing service as VPHSMA of NYIT. Dr. Ross-Lee is a nationally recognized expert on health policy issues and serves as an advisor on primary care, medical education, minority health, women's health, and rural health care issues on the federal and state levels. She is the founding director of the AOA Health Policy Fellowship Program, which prepares mid-career osteopathic physicians for leadership roles in health care. Dr. Ross is also the Founding Director of the Training in Policy Studies (TIPS) for osteopathic resident physicians.

Dr. Ross-Lee is the first African American woman to serve as dean of a United States medical school (Ohio University Heritage College of Osteopathic Medicine, 1993 - 2001). She is also the first osteopathic physician to participate in the Robert Wood Johnson Health Policy Fellowship. Dr. Ross-Lee served as a commissioned officer, United States Naval Reserves Medical Corps, achieving the rank of Captain. She lectures both nationally and internationally and has published numerous scholarly articles on a variety of medical and healthcare issues. She is the recipient of nine honorary degrees and many national awards. Most recently, the ACGME Annual Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Award was named the Barbara Ross-Lee, DO DEI Award in her honor.

Dr. Ross-Lee has served as: Chair of the American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine (AACOM) Council of Presidents; Chair of the American Osteopathic Association (AOA) Council on Pre-doctoral Education (pre-dating COCA); and Chair of the Board of the Association of Academic Health Centers (AAHC). In 2012, Dr. Ross-Lee was appointed by the Institute of Medicine to serve as a member of the Consensus Committee on the Governance and Financing of GME which was responsible for recommending reforms to the GME system. Dr. Ross-Lee assumed the position of President-elect of the American Osteopathic Foundation (AOF) in January 2021 and currently serves as President of the AOF effective January 2022.

Order of Exercises

MUSICAL ACCOMPANIMENT

by Javier Jbara—Piano; Mason O'Donnell—Bass

PROCESSION

Chief Marshal—Dani McBeth, PhD

Medical Students, Sophie Davis Pre-Matriculation Undergraduate
Year One Students, Faculty, Assistant & Associate Deans, Dean's Party
Music: Harlem Nocturne

WELCOME

NATIONAL ANTHEM

Led by Vocalist Kyra Luke

DEAN'S ADDRESS

Carmen Renée Green, MD

Student Awards

Dean's Awards for Academic Excellence

Awarded to students with a 4.0 GPA

Presented by Michael Iannuzzi, MD, MBA

Alisha K. Daroch, Oluwafunke Kolawole, Amina S. Nasari,
Palak P. Oza, Rooshi K. Parikh, and Halley C. Yung

Dean's Awards for Academic Achievement

Awarded to students with a 3.9 GPA or higher

Presented by Maria Lima, PhD

Oluwafisayo Adeoye, Sehrish Ali, Debra Chan, Peter S. Giannaris,
Shayan Huda, Anjali M. Jacob, Yehuda A. Masturov, Dharam V. Mathur,
Abigail R. Montalmant, Rachele D. Monteau, Anneliese Opran,
Mubeen Sadaqat, Justin T. Samuel, and Loren N. Shamalov

Pyser Edelsack Memorial Award for Distinction in Community Health and Social Medicine

Presented by Noel Manyindo, MD, MBA, MPH

Rachele D. Monteau

Alan Seelig Memorial Award

Awarded to a student who has overcome obstacles and succeeded

Presented by Emine Abali, PhD

Aderemi O. Adebayo

Rita & Howard Shapiro Memorial Award

Awarded to a student based on academic merit and financial need

Presented by Edward Telzak, MD

Sehrish Ali, Alisha K. Daroch

Benjamin & Beulah Massey Scholarship

Awarded to a student who has overcome challenges as an immigrant in a new country and is excelling academically

Presented by Rosemary Wiczorek, MD

Johanna O. Tamoka

Dr. Yick Moon Lee Scholarship

Awarded to a student based on academic merit and a strong record of community service

Presented by Siobhan Hollander, MD

Daniel Annan

CLASS SPEAKER

Halley C. Yung

CLASS OF 2026 FACULTY AWARD

Ebubechukwu N. Obiora

KEYNOTE ADDRESS

Introduced by Dean

Carmen Renée Green, MD

Barbara Ross-Lee, DO, FACOFP

CUNY SCHOOL OF MEDICINE MISSION AWARD

Presented by Dean

Carmen Renée Green, MD

Barbara Ross-Lee, DO, FACOFP

MUSICAL INTERLUDE

I'll Take Manhattan, music and lyrics by Lorenz Hart & Richard Rodgers

Led by Vocalist Kyra Luke

PRESENTATION OF STUDENTS

Presented by Lisa Auerbach, MD &

Danielle Pritchett, MD

CLOAKING OF THE WHITE COAT

CUNY School of Medicine
Physician Faculty

WHITE COAT OATH

Led by Darwin Deen, MD

CEREMONIAL CLOSING

RECESSIONAL

Dean's Party, Assistant & Associate Deans, Faculty, Sophie Davis Pre-matriculation students, and Medical Students

Take the A Train,
music by Duke Ellington,
lyrics by Billy Strayhorn

Led by vocalist Kyra Luke

DEAN'S ICE CREAM SOCIAL & RECEPTION

On the Quad

Medical Students

Aleena M. Abraham

Valley Stream, NY

Augustin J. Abreu

Yonkers, NY

Aderemi O. Adebayo

Brooklyn, NY

Temitope M. Adegbenro

Springfield Gardens, NY

Oluwafisayo Adeoye

St. Albans, NY

Rachel O. Aideyan

Mount Vernon, NY

Jonathan R. Albury

Brooklyn, NY

Sehrish Ali

Brooklyn, NY

Daniel Annan

Staten Island, NY

Priscilla Babalola

Bronx, NY

Jesmely Baez

Yonkers, NY

Raphael S. Bartolome

New Rochelle, NY

Ariel M. Blake

Merrick, NY

Audrik Carter

St. Albans, NY

Debra Chan

New York, NY

Adorah J. Charles

Brooklyn, NY

Samantha S. Colon

Stony Point, NY

Kawther S. Coppin

Fresh Meadows, NY

Alyssa B. Cubero

Staten Island, NY

Alisha K. Daroch

Queens Village, NY

Camile A. Delva

Brooklyn, NY

Alexis G. Dickerson

Hollis, NY

Omonigho Eko-Isenalumhe

Decherd, TN

Eric J. Emilcar

Dix Hills, NY

Peter S. Giannaris

Bellmore, NY

Austin K. Harilall

Amityville, NY

Shayan Huda

East Meadow, NY

Anjali M. Jacob

Bellmore, NY

Michael James

New Windsor, NY

Ide K. Kafexhiu

Richmond Hill, NY

Lenondre King

Brooklyn, NY

Oluwafunke Kolawole

Brooklyn, NY

Samhitha Mada

New York, NY

Yehuda A. Masturov

Fresh Meadows, NY

Joshua Mathew

Floral Park, NY

Dharam V. Mathur

Fresh Meadows, NY

Faye T. Megaris

Astoria, NY

Anjali R. Mercado

Brooklyn, NY

Abigail R. Montalmant

Brooklyn, NY

Rachelle D. Monteau

Laurelton, NY

Layla S. Morgan

West Hempstead, NY

Daniel Murdahayev

Flushing, NY

Amina S. Nasari

Hicksville, NY

Kareem H. Nashed

Middle Village, NY

Imani N. Nwokeji

Scarsdale, NY

Ebubechukwu N. Obiora

Elmont, NY

Anneliese Opran

Roslyn, NY

Hans K. Owuor

Haledon, NJ

Palak P. Oza

Blauvelt, NY

Rooshi K. Parikh

Queens Village, NY

Gabrielle Paul

New Windsor, NY

Shreya K. Raghavan

New York, NY

Angelica M. Rahaman

Richmond Hill, NY

Melissa C. Ramos

Honolulu, HI

Natalia Rodriguez

Franklin Square, NY

Mubeen Sadaqat

Brooklyn, NY

Justin T. Samuel

New York, NY

Loren N. Shamalov

Jamaica, NY

Eliza P. Springer

Brooklyn, NY

Kimberly Strull

Merrick, NY

Johanna O. Tamoka

Jackson Heights, NY

George T. Tavares

Little Neck, NY

Chidobe A. Umeasor

Jamaica, NY

Duncan Yeboah

Brooklyn, NY

Halley C. Yung

New York, NY

White Coat Ceremony Oath



We, the Healers, Leaders and Scholars of the Class of 2026 of the City University of New York School of Medicine, stand before our family, friends, mentors and colleagues —proud to honor the legacy of the medical profession and humbled to pledge our duty to future patients.



As physicians, we will treat our patients with empathy and compassion. We pledge to uphold the dignity of each patient and to practice without prejudice, recognizing that patients come from diverse backgrounds. We aim to foster an environment of mutual respect and to holistically treat patients by tending to their mental, physical, emotional and spiritual well-being.



We promise to advocate on behalf of our patients and communities to improve the delivery of quality healthcare. We will empower our patients to engage in their own care and to better advocate for themselves with the ability to make informed decisions.



Through the strength of collaboration, we will work to enhance the coordination of care and seek innovative means to help the underserved. In acknowledgment of our own limitations, we will learn from our mistakes and invite advice and criticism without hubris.



We strive for excellence and commit to lifelong learning. Our education is ours to share and should be used to contribute to the prosperity of others. We will hold ourselves to the highest standards of professionalism in all aspects of our careers and communities.



It is with great privilege, gratitude and honor that we accept these white coats as a symbol of our commitment to a career in medicine and service to others.



CONGRATULATIONS TO THE CLASS OF 2026!
From the CUNY School of Medicine Faculty & Staff
and the Sophie Davis Alumni Association

WITH THANKS TO

THE ARNOLD P.
GOLD
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Keeping Healthcare Human



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