

UAB. Marnix E. Heersink School of Medicine

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# Commencement Ceremony

Saturday, May 17, 2025 | 1 p.m.  
Bartow Arena | Birmingham, Alabama

## **Welcome to the 2025 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 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—the single largest philanthropic commitment in university history—named the UAB Marnix E. Heersink School of Medicine, and established the Marnix E. Heersink Institute for Biomedical Innovation and the Mary Heersink Institute for Global Health. The gift also provides support through 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 the physician for which the community is named.

More information about the namesakes for each Learning Community can be found on pages 11-13.

*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 (M.D./Ph.D.) will be hooded. Finally, those students who have completed the Oral and 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 5 of the program.*

## About the Speaker

**Holden Thorp, Ph.D.**, became Editor-in-Chief of the Science family of journals on Oct. 28, 2019. He came to Science from Washington University, where he was provost from 2013 to 2019 and professor from 2013 to 2023. He is currently a professor at George Washington University and on leave to serve as the Editor-in-Chief at Science.

Thorp joined Washington University after spending three decades at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (UNC), where he served as the 10th chancellor from 2008 through 2013.

Thorp earned a Bachelor of Science degree from UNC and a doctorate in chemistry from the California Institute of Technology, and completed postdoctoral work at Yale University. He holds honorary degrees from Hofstra University and North Carolina Wesleyan College and is a fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, the National Academy of Inventors, and the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

Thorp cofounded Viamet Pharmaceuticals, which developed VIVJOA (oteseconazole), now approved by the FDA and marketed by Mycovia Pharmaceuticals. Thorp is a venture partner at Hatteras Venture Partners, a consultant to Ancora and Urban Impact Advisors, and is on the board of directors of PBS, the College Advising Corps, and Saint Louis University. He serves on the scientific advisory boards of the Yale School of Medicine and the Underwriters' Laboratories Research Institutes. In 2023, STAT named Thorp to its STATUS list of top leaders in the life sciences.

Thorp is the coauthor, with Buck Goldstein, of two books on higher education: "Engines of Innovation: The Entrepreneurial University in the Twenty-First Century and Our Higher Calling: Rebuilding the Partnership Between America and its Colleges and Universities," both from UNC Press.



# 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 and Dean

UAB Heersink School of Medicine

James C. Lee, Jr. Endowed Chair

## Class President's Address

James Stallworth, Jr. | President, Class of 2025

## Commencement Address

Holden Thorp, Ph.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

## 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‡

Nicholas Van Wagoner, M.D., Ph.D. | 2024 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

**Megann Bates Cain, MPPM**

Assistant Vice President, Development

**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, Access and Engagement

Senior Associate Dean, Access and Engagement

**Orlando Gutiérrez, M.D.**

Senior Associate Dean, Clinical and Translational Research

**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** | Access and Engagement

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

**Cristin Gavin, Ph.D.** | Biomedical Programs

**William M. Geisler, M.D., MPH** | Physician Scientist Development

**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

## **ASSOCIATE DEANS** (continued)

Louis R. Lambiase, M.D. | Montgomery Campus  
Kevin Leon, M.D. | Undergraduate Medical Education  
Nita Limdi, PharmD, Ph.D., MSPH | Genomic Medicine  
Michael Mugavero, M.D. | Clinical and Translational Research  
Dana Rizk, M.D. | Clinical Trials  
Roger D. Smalligan, M.D. | Huntsville Campus  
Nicholas Van Wagoner, M.D., Ph.D. | Students  
Majd Zayzafoon, M.D., Ph.D. | Global Initiatives and International Medical Education

## **ASSISTANT DEANS**

William S. Brooks, Ph.D. | Pathways, Pipelines, and Bridges  
Latesha Elope, M.D., MSPH | Access and Engagement - Resident and Fellow Experience  
Cynthia Joiner, Ph.D., MPH, R.N. | Clinical Trials Administration  
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  
Winter Williams, M.D. | Clinical Education  
Carlton Young, M.D. | Access and Engagement - Medical Student Experience

## **BIRMINGHAM DEPARTMENT LEADERSHIP**

Dan E. Berkowitz, MBBCh | Anesthesiology and Perioperative Medicine  
David M. Bedwell, Ph.D. | Biochemistry and Molecular Genetics  
Jay Zhang, M.D., Ph.D. | Biomedical Engineering  
Bradley Yoder, Ph.D. | Cell, Developmental and Integrative Biology  
Boni E. Elewski, M.D. | Dermatology  
Andrew Edwards, M.D. | (Interim) Emergency Medicine  
Irfan M. Asif, M.D. | Family and Community Medicine  
Anindya Dutta, M.D., Ph.D. | Genetics  
Craig J. Hoesley, M.D. | Medical Education  
Mark Dransfield, M.D. | (Interim) Medicine  
J. Victor Garcia-Martinez, Ph.D. | Microbiology  
Craig Powell, M.D., Ph.D. | Neurobiology  
David G. Standaert, M.D., Ph.D. | Neurology  
James M. Markert, M.D., M.P.H. | Neurosurgery  
Warner K. Huh, M.D. | Obstetrics and Gynecology  
Brian Samuels, M.D., Ph.D. | Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences  
Steven Theiss, M.D. | Orthopaedic Surgery

Justin Turner, M.D., Ph.D. | Otolaryngology  
Cristina Magi-Galluzzi, M.D., Ph.D., | Pathology  
Yung Lau, M.D. | Pediatrics  
Vu Nguyen, M.D., MBA | Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation  
Adrienne Lahti, M.D. | Psychiatry and Behavioral Neurobiology  
Corey Speers, M.D., Ph.D. | Radiation Oncology  
Herbert Chen, M.D. | Surgery  
Thomas Chi, M.D., MBA | Urology

### **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**

Tamer Elsayed, M.D. | Family Medicine, Internal, and Rural Medicine  
John McDonald, M.D. | Obstetrics and Gynecology  
Karen Burgess, M.D. | Pediatrics  
Thaddeus Ulzen, M.D. | Psychiatry and 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, M.P.H. | Director, Medical Education and Student Services,  
Montgomery Campus  
Dale Dickinson, Ph.D. | Director of Medical Student Affairs,  
Tuscaloosa Campus

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## **Student Leadership**

### **2025 CLASS OFFICERS**

James Stallworth, Jr., Class President  
Mckinley Williams Conley, Vice President  
Hemant Srivastava, Treasurer

# Learning Communities

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## Learning Community Representatives

Madyson Grace Taylor, Barfield-Carter

James Walker Phillips, Barfield-Carter

Lillie Grace Veazey, Finley

Taylor Nicole Golden, Finley

Lauren Nicole Usrey, Hamilton

Kaysie Angel Freer, Harrison

Abigail Elizabeth Zane, Harrison

Margaret Lee Baldwin, Hill

Landon Joseph McNellage, Hill

Cynthia Lauren Huguley, Hirschowitz

Benjamin Rush Rogers, Hirschowitz

Kelsey Elizabeth Staggs, Kirklin

John Michael Woods Kaylor, Kirklin

Alyson Tudong Nguyen, Lyons

Jacob William Greenway, Lyons

Sarah Grace Trulove, McCallum

Ian Timothy Tsekouras, McCallum

Dakota Williams, Oparil

Karthik Eyyani Sadanand, Oparil

Lauren Nicole Sullivan, Pittman

William Paul Kretschmar, 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

**Benjamin Michael Honan**

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

Excellence in Family Medicine

**Heather Kathryn McKelvey  
Samuel Johnson**

### **Mcgahey Award For Most Outstanding Medical Student**

Excellence in Anesthesiology

**James Walker Phillips**

### **Rime Acting Intern Award**

Excellence in Internal Medicine

**Benjamin Michael Honan**

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

Excellence In Dermatology

**Victoria Susan Jiminez**

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

Excellence in Internal Medicine

**Halle Hope Thannickal**

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

Excellence in Emergency Medicine

**Margaret Lee Baldwin**

### **Veterans Affairs Service Award**

Excellence in Medicine

**Parker Tulaire Cobbs**

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

Exceptional ability and Interest in Endocrinology

**Charles Alan Gagnon-Vargas**

### **American Academy Of Neurology Award**

Excellence in Neurology

**Ashley Brooke White  
Lauren Nicole Sullivan**

## Birmingham Campus Departmental Awards

(continued)

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### **Samuel Clements Little Award**

Excellence in Neurology

**Ashleigh Burns Irwin**

**Karen Yu Wang**

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

Excellence in Obstetrics and Gynecology

**Jessica Morgan Jenkins**

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

Excellence in Ophthalmology

**Riley Cain Taylor Duke**

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

Excellence in Pediatrics

**Anna Paige Wilson**

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

Excellence in Physical Medicine and  
Rehabilitation

**Tanvee Sinha**

### **Battle S. Searcy Memorial Award**

Excellence in Psychiatry

**Trinity Nicole Houston**

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

Excellence in Radiology

**Alexander Hutchinson Lee**

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

Excellence in Surgery

**Mckinley Williams Conley**

### **Mary T. Hawn Award**

Excellence in Surgery

**Christine Renata Carico**

### **Richard Stahl Award**

Excellence in Surgery

**Andrew Wilson Mitchell**

### **Elizabeth Beierle Award**

Excellence in Surgery

**Colin Harrington Quinn**

### **Robert And Jamie Dabal Award**

Excellence in Surgery

**Lamario Joshua Williams**

## Huntsville Campus Departmental Awards

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### **Dean's Award**

Superior performance in the clinical curriculum

**Bradley Tyler Thigpen**

### **Exemplary Academic Performance**

Excellence in the clinical curriculum

**Savannah Sally Petrus**

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

Excellence in Family Medicine

**Kimberly Laura Romanoff**

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

Excellence in Internal Medicine

**Denver Russel Fuller**

### **Award For Excellence In Neurology**

Excellence in Neurology

**Spencer Gibbs**

### **John Di Placido Award**

Excellence in Obstetrics and Gynecology

**Savannah Sally Petrus**

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

Excellence in Pediatrics

**Abbey Zane Nishikawa**

### **Tarak Vasavada Award**

Excellence in Psychiatry

**Bryan Richard Mortimer**

### **Charles Selah Award**

Excellence in Surgery

**Savannah Sally Petrus**

## Montgomery Campus Departmental Awards

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### Dean's Award

Superior performance in the clinical curriculum

**Bijal Girishkumar Vashi**

### Samuel J. Saliba Award

Excellence in Family Medicine

**Diarra Lashae Bender**

### J. J. Kirschenfeld Award

Excellence in Internal Medicine

**Bijal Girishkumar Vashi**

### Hamp H. Greene Iii Award

Excellence in Neurology

**Jacob William Greenway**

### John M. Ashurst, Jr. Award

Excellence in Obstetrics & Gynecology

**Divya Goel**

### Thomas "Buddy" Nolan Award

Excellence in Pediatrics

**Isaac Delain Robinson**

### A. Almon Ward Award

Excellence in Psychiatry

**Zachary Chase Ballinger**

### Harry Jackson Till Award

Excellence in Surgery

**Jacob William Greenway**

## Tuscaloosa Campus Departmental Awards

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### Scholastic Achievement Award

Superior performance in the clinical curriculum

**William Hunter Scott**

### 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*

**Grace Abigail Glidden**

### Robert F. Gloor/James D. Leeper Award

**In Community Medicine**  
Excellence in Community and Rural Medicine

**Grace Abigail Glidden**  
**Taylor Nicole Golden**

### James H. Akers Memorial Award

Dedication to the art and science of medicine

**Cynthia Lauren Huguley**

**William Owings Award  
In Family Medicine**  
Excellence in Family Medicine  
**Devin Ray Dobbins  
Carla Danielle Brown**

**William Winternitz Award  
In Internal Medicine**  
Excellence in Internal Medicine during  
the third and fourth years  
**Sheena Khan**

**Neurology Award**  
Excellence in the Neurology clerkship  
**Jenna Lee Sayler**

**Finney/Akers Memorial Award In  
Obstetrics And Gynecology**  
Excellence in Obstetrics and Gynecology  
**Ashton Victoria Robinson  
Lillie Grace Veazey**

**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  
**Austin David Wall, III**

**Peter Bryce Award In Psychiatry**  
Excellence in the Psychiatry clerkship  
**Devin Ray Dobbins**

**William R. Shamblin Surgery Award**  
Superior achievement in the Surgery  
clerkship  
**Andrew Wilson Mitchell**

**Interprofessional Excellence Award**  
**Benjamin Rush Rogers**

Marnix E. Heersink  
School of Medicine  
Class of 2025

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**Peter G. Abdelmessih**  
UAB Medical Center, Internal Medicine

**Priyanka Ahuja**  
University of Kentucky Medical Center,  
Emergency Medicine

**Yolanda Amezaga, CE**  
Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center,  
Anesthesiology

**Cody Michael Anger**  
Mount Sinai Medical Center – Miami Beach,  
Urology

**Margaret Lee Baldwin, A, M**  
UAB Medical Center, Emergency Medicine

**Zachary Chase Ballinger**  
UAB Medical Center, Psychiatry

**Amber Ann Bell**  
Barnes-Jewish Hospital, Psychiatry

**Diarra Lashae Bender**  
Naval Hospital Jacksonville, Family  
Medicine

**Elizabeth Marks Benson, G, T**  
Carolinas Medical Center, Orthopaedic  
Surgery

**Isabella Alonso Blair**  
UAB Medical Center, Pediatrics

**Amiria Pearl Blakely, CE**  
Floyd Medical Center, Family Medicine

**Shaina Danielle Bolden**  
Brookwood Baptist Health, Transitional  
University of Louisville School of Medicine,  
Diagnostic Radiology

**Nicholas Ryan Boyle, \*, †**  
Barnes-Jewish Hospital, Neurology  
Reduction of Sphingomyelinases  
Associated with Progranulin Deficiency  
and Frontotemporal Dementia

**Ann Carol Braswell, A, M, T**  
Duke University Medical Center,  
Plastic Surgery

**Jackson Lee Broadfoot**  
University of Mississippi Medical Center,  
Internal Medicine

**Carla Danielle Brown, CE, G**  
Prisma Health-University of South Carolina  
School of Medicine Columbia, Family  
Medicine

**Meredith Leigh Burns**  
Brookwood Baptist Health, Transitional  
UAB Medical Center, Dermatology

**Caleb Bush**  
University of Alabama at Birmingham  
Marnix E. Heersink School of Medicine –  
Huntsville, Family Medicine

**Benjamin Balcon Cage**  
Medical College of Wisconsin Affiliated  
Hospitals, Internal Medicine

**Christine Renata Carico, \*, C, †**  
University of California San Francisco,  
Surgery

**Chloe Carroll**  
HCA Healthcare Kansas City,  
Obstetrics/Gynecology  
Modular Regulation and Function of the  
Polypyrimidine Tract Binding Protein 1  
(PTBP1)

**Karen Joyce Carter**

UAB Medical Center, Orthopaedic Surgery

**Parker Tulaire Cobbs**

UAB Medical Center, Internal Medicine

**Alyssa Briana Cole**

University of Tennessee Health Science Center, Obstetrics/Gynecology

**Mckinley Williams Conley**

UAB Medical Center, Surgery

**Jeb Cowen**

East Alabama Medical Center, Internal Medicine

**Anna Elizabeth Crawford, G**

Vanderbilt University Medical Center, Orthopaedic Surgery

**Laura Catherine Wright**

**Cresswell, CE**

University of Alabama at Birmingham Marnix E. Heersink School of Medicine – Huntsville, Family Medicine

**Tyler David Criswell, †**

Brookwood Baptist Health, Surgery

**Owen Patrick Cunneely, A**

University of Connecticut Health, Urology

**Julie Jacqueline Cunningham**

University of Mississippi Medical Center, Anesthesiology

**Jamie Renee Davison, CE**

Louisiana State University School of Medicine, Psychiatry

**Hunter Byron Dean, \*, †**

St. Louis Children's Hospital, Pediatrics-Medical Genetics  
The Effects of Alzheimer's Disease-Associated Variants and Ligands on the Structure and Function of TREM2

**Matthew Everett Dean, A, C**

Emory University School of Medicine, Internal Medicine

**Devin Ray Dobbins**

University of Alabama College of Community Health Sciences, Family Medicine

**Kaitlyn Estes Domning, T**

Baylor University Medical Center, Internal Medicine

**Natalie Alexandra Dorin, A**

University of Cincinnati Medical Center, Emergency Medicine

**Riley Cain Taylor Duke, A, C**

Emory University School of Medicine, Transitional  
Emory University School of Medicine, Ophthalmology

**Melissa Lyn Ebeling, A, M**

University of Cincinnati Medical Center, Emergency Medicine

**Clayton Farris**

UAB Medical Center, Orthopaedic Surgery

**Gabriela Santos da Fonseca, G**

Baptist Health, Transitional  
University of Louisville School of Medicine, Dermatology

**McKenzie Emma Foxall, A, T**

UAB Medical Center, Obstetrics/  
Gynecology

**Kaysie Angel Freer**

University of Tennessee College of  
Medicine Chattanooga, Obstetrics/  
Gynecology

**Denver Russel Fuller**

University of Alabama at Birmingham  
Marnix E. Heersink School of Medicine –  
Huntsville, Internal Medicine

**Sarah Michelle Fuller**

Medical University of South Carolina,  
Anesthesiology

**Steven Samuel Gaffin, ‡**

Cahaba Medical Care/UAB Medical Center,  
Family Medicine

**Charles Alan Gagnon-Vargas**

Boston Children's Hospital, Pediatrics

**Cole Davis Garrison**

UAB Medical Center, Ophthalmology

**Anupa Devi Ghimire**

UAB Medical Center, Emergency Medicine

**Spencer Gibbs**

Self Regional Healthcare, Family Medicine

**Grace Abigail Glidden, CE**

University of Alabama College of  
Community Health Sciences, Family  
Medicine

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University of Tennessee Health Science  
Center, Obstetrics/Gynecology

**Taylor Nicole Golden, A**

St. Vincent's East, Family Medicine

**Hannah Margaret Goymer, CE, G, T**

Cahaba Medical Care/UAB Medical Center,  
Family Medicine

**Hannah Lee Green**

University of North Carolina Hospitals,  
Pediatrics

**Jacob William Greenway, G**

Medical College of Georgia, Otolaryngology

**Evan Garrison Gross**

University of Tennessee Health Science  
Center, Emergency Medicine

**Thomas Stewart Gwin**

Cahaba Medical Care/UAB Medical Center,  
Family Medicine

**Kameron Anderson Hagerla, T**

Tulane University School of Medicine,  
Anesthesiology

**Aaron Jacob Haider**

Baptist Memorial – DeSoto, Transitional  
Baptist Memorial Medical Education,  
Diagnostic Radiology

**Cortney Lauren Haymon**

University of Tennessee College of  
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**Samuel Benjamin Hayworth, A, G, S**

Brookwood Baptist Health, Transitional  
UAB Medical Center, Radiation Oncology

**Brendon Robert Herring, \*, ‡**

Mayo Clinic School of Graduate Medical  
Education, Internal Medicine  
Molecular Influences of Racial Disparities in  
Pancreatic Neuroendocrine Tumors

**Elliott Dreyspring Herron, A**

Intermountain Medical Center, Transitional  
University of Utah Health, Dermatology

**Adam Jesse Hoesley, A**

Medical University of South Carolina,  
Anesthesiology

**Elisabeth Pettibone Holbert**

Cahaba Medical Care/UAB Medical Center,  
Family Medicine

**Benjamin Michael Honan, A, CE, G, S, T**

Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania,  
Primary Medicine

**Hudson Honeywell**

University of Alabama at Birmingham  
Marnix E. Heersink School of Medicine –  
Huntsville, Family Medicine

**Trinity Nicole Houston, CE, G**

University of Texas Southwestern Medical  
Center, Psychiatry

**Cynthia Lauren Huguley, A, CE**

University of North Carolina Hospitals,  
Family Medicine

**Javarus Humphries**

Baylor College of Medicine, Child Neurology

**James Iheke**

Northeast Georgia Medical Center,  
Transitional  
University of Rochester/Strong Memorial  
Hospital, Diagnostic Radiology

**William Christopher Illiano, A**

Thomas Jefferson University Hospital,  
Preliminary Medicine  
Wills Eye Hospital, Ophthalmology

**Ashleigh Burns Irwin, \*, ‡**

Barnes-Jewish Hospital, Neurology  
The Long Non-Coding RNA Neat1  
Mediates Astrocyte Gene Expression and  
Hippocampus-Dependent Memory in Aging  
and Alzheimer's Disease

**Jessica Morgan Jenkins**

UAB Medical Center, Obstetrics/  
Gynecology

**Deborah Ann Jensen, \*, ‡**

UAB Medical Center, Pediatrics

**Madison Marie Jeziorski, A, CE**

Baylor College of Medicine, Pediatrics

**Wenyun Jiang, T**

Brookwood Baptist Health, Internal  
Medicine

**Victoria Susan Jiminez, A, M, T**

Baylor Scott & White All Saints Medical  
Center, Transitional  
Baylor College of Medicine, Dermatology

**Hunter Hobson Johnson<sup>IV, G</sup>**

Cahaba Medical Care/UAB Medical Center,  
Family Medicine

**Samuel Johnson**

University of Alabama at Birmingham  
Marnix E. Heersink School of Medicine –  
Huntsville, Family Medicine

**Alana Christine Jones, CE, \*, †**

Vanderbilt University Medical Center,  
Internal Medicine  
Genetic and Epigenetic Risk Scores  
for Chronic Kidney Disease in African  
Americans

**Shreya N. Kashyap, CE, \*, †**

The Mount Sinai Hospital, Neurology  
Optimization of Progranulin Gene Therapy,  
A Potential Treatment for Frontotemporal  
Dementia

**Shelby Lyn Kaup**

UAB Medical Center, Pediatrics

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University of Tennessee College of  
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**Sheena Khan**

UAB Medical Center, Internal Medicine

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**Timothy Cale Kreger**

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Surgery

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**Erin Leigh LaGrone, A, G**

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Center, Diagnostic Radiology

**Eric Andrew Mussell, CE**

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**Abygale Elizabeth Nelson**

Cahaba Medical Center/UAB Medical  
Center, Family Medicine

**Alyson Tudong Nguyen, G**

Research Year

**Abigail Zane Nishikawa**

The Johns Hopkins Hospital, Pediatrics

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Preliminary Medicine  
The Johns Hopkins Hospital, Dermatology

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UAB Medical Center, Psychiatry

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(UPMC) Medical Education, Anesthesiology

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Duke University Medical Center, Neurology

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UAB Medical Center, Obstetrics/  
Gynecology

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Anesthesiology

**Eleanor Elizabeth Pitchford, CE**

Carolinas Medical Center, Family Medicine

**Andrew Boyd Price**

University of Mississippi Medical Center,  
Internal Medicine

**Colin Harrington Quinn, \*, ‡**

Barnes-Jewish Hospital, Surgery  
Understanding the Dual Role of Oncolytic  
Viruses and Natural Killer Cells in Targeting  
Neuroblastoma

**Reid Harrison Reeves, A, G**  
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**Jared Luke Ridgeway, A, C**  
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**Collin Anker Ritchie**  
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Surgery

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**Isaac Delain Robinson**  
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**Benjamin Rush Rogers, CE**  
Medical University of South Carolina, Family  
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**Salomon Alejandro Roman Soto,**  
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University, Internal Medicine

**Kimberly Laura Romanoff, CE**  
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Huntsville, Family Medicine

**Jamie Austin Rose**  
UAB Medical Center, Oral & Maxillofacial  
Surgery

**Karthik Eyyani Sadanand**  
Baylor College of Medicine, Internal  
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**Andrew Zack Saddekni**  
Cedars-Sinai Medical Center, Pediatrics

**Jenna Lee Sayler, CE**  
UAB Medical Center, Neurology

**Andrew Ray Schroeder, \*, †**  
Brookwood Baptist Health, Transitional  
UAB Medical Center, Dermatology  
Transcriptional Regulation in Early Stage CD4+  
T Cell Activation and Differentiation

**William Hunter Scott, S**  
Cleveland Clinic Foundation,  
Internal Medicine

**Yazen Ahmed Shihab**  
University of Tennessee Graduate  
School of Medicine, Anesthesiology

**Christopher Scott Simmons, Jr., A, C**  
University of Tennessee Graduate  
School of Medicine, Transitional  
University of Texas MD Anderson  
Cancer Center, Radiation Oncology

**Tanvee Sinha, G**  
National Rehabilitation Hospital,  
Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation

**Veronica Michelle Smith, CE**  
UAB Medical Center, Obstetrics/Gynecology

**Henry Hamilton Smith T, C**  
Louisiana State University School  
of Medicine, Pediatrics

**Bethany May Sparks**  
UAB Medical Center, Internal Medicine

**Ataya Ni'celle Spears**  
Thomas Jefferson University Nemours  
Children's Health, Pediatrics

**Hemant Srivastava**

Northeast Georgia Medical Center, Surgery

**Kelsey Elizabeth Staggs**

UAB Medical Center, Pediatrics

**James Stallworth, Jr., G, T**

University of Michigan Hospitals, Urology

**Lauren Nicole Sullivan, A, G, T**

University of Colorado School of Medicine,  
Child Neurology

**Sellers A. Swann, G**

University of Colorado School of Medicine,  
Obstetrics/Gynecology

**Halle Hope Thannickal, T**

University of Pittsburgh Medical Center  
Medical Education, Internal Medicine

**Bradley Tyler Thigpen, A**

University of Tennessee Health Science  
Center, Medicine-Preliminary/Dermatology  
University of Tennessee Health Science  
Center, Dermatology

**Benjamin Tran**

Baptist Memorial Hospital – DeSoto,  
Transitional  
Baptist Memorial Medical Education,  
Diagnostic Radiology

**Sarah Grace Trulove, A, CE, G**

Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia, Child  
Neurology

**Ian Timothy Tsekouras**

Brookwood Baptist Health, Transitional  
University of Florida Health Shands  
Hospital, Radiation Oncology

**Jordan Harrison Tzabari, A**

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Thomas Jefferson University Hospital,  
Diagnostic Radiology

**Lauren Nicole Usrey**

University of Alabama at Birmingham  
Marnix E. Heersink School of Medicine –  
Huntsville, Psychiatry

**Bijal Girishkumar Vashi, A**

University of Colorado School of Medicine,  
Internal Medicine

**Lillie Grace Veazey**

Barnes-Jewish Hospital, Obstetrics/  
Gynecology

**Joshua Daniel Waldeck, G, M**

Vanderbilt University Medical Center,  
Emergency Medicine

**Kristina Ayanna Walker, \*, †**

Yale-New Haven Hospital, Psychiatry  
*Perceptions of Multipurpose Prevention  
Technologies Aimed at HIV/STI/Unintended  
Pregnancy Among African American  
Women in The Deep South*

**Austin David Wall, III**

UAB Medical Center, Pediatrics

**Karen Yu Wang, T**

University of Texas Southwestern Medical  
Center, Neurology

**Shahn Washington**

UAB Medical Center, Emergency Medicine

**Ashley Brooke White**

University of Texas Southwestern Medical  
Center, Neurology

**Dakota Williams, <sup>G</sup>**

UAB Medical Center, Preliminary Surgery  
UAB Medical Center, Interventional  
Radiology (Integrated)

**Lamario Joshua Williams, \*, ‡**

University of California San Francisco,  
Surgery  
Mechanisms Linking the Circadian  
Clock to Cardiac Physiology

**Anna Paige Wilson**

UAB Medical Center, Pediatrics

**Allen Ali Yazdi**

Oschner Clinic Foundation,  
Orthopaedic Surgery

---

\* Received Ph.D. 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 M.D. in December 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 2025 by Learning Community

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## Barfield-Carter

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

Mckinley Williams Conley  
Melissa Lyn Ebeling  
Adam Jesse Hoesley  
Wenyun Jiang  
Adou Kouame  
Erin Leigh LaGrone  
Alexander Hutchinson Lee  
Hamad Malik Muhammad  
Max Oscherwitz  
James Walker Phillips  
Henry Hamilton Smith T  
Ataya Ni'celle Spears  
Madyson Grace Taylor  
Halle Hope Thannickal

## Hamilton

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

**Amanda Stisher, M.D.**, *Regional Campus*

*Faculty Mentor*

Ashley Caraleah Archer  
Chloe Carroll  
Alyssa Briana Cole  
Tyler David Criswell  
Owen Patrick Cunneely  
Natalie Alexandra Dorin  
Denver Russel Fuller  
Spencer Gibbs  
Evan Garrison Gross  
Shelby Lyn Kaup  
Fizza Mahmood  
Jordan Henderson McGill  
Bryan Richard Mortimer  
Kimberly Laura Romanoff  
Veronica Michelle Smith  
Bradley Tyler Thigpen  
Lauren Nicole Usrey

## Finley

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

**Miller Wright, M.D.**, *Regional Campus Faculty*

*Mentor*

Yolanda Amezaga  
Cody Michael Anger  
Devin Ray Dobbins  
Kaitlyn Estes Domning  
Taylor Nicole Golden  
James Iheke  
Anas Uddin Khan  
Sheena Khan  
Madhuri Subhadra Molleti  
Abygayle Elizabeth Nelson  
Anna Katherine Tankersley Patrick  
Andrew Boyd Price  
Jenna Lee Saylor  
William Hunter Scott  
Lillie Grace Veazey

## Harrison

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

**Chelsea Palmer, M.D.**, *Regional Campus*

*Faculty Mentor*

Peter G. Abdelmessih  
Priyanka Ahuja  
Caleb Bush  
Laura Catherine Wright Cresswell  
Kaysie Angel Freer  
Steven Samuel Gaffin  
Cortney Lauren Haymon  
Elisabeth Pettibone Holbert  
Hudson Honeywell  
Madison Marie Jeziorski  
Hunter Hobson Johnson, IV  
Javier Kenichi Nishikawa  
Savanna Sally Petrus  
Eleanor Elizabeth Pitchford  
Abigail Elizabeth Zane

## Hill

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

Margaret Lee Baldwin  
Isabella Alonso Blair  
Jamie Renee Davison  
McKenzie Emma Foxall  
Sarah Michelle Fuller  
Charles Alan Gagnon-Vargas  
Hannah Margaret Goymer  
Trinity Nicole Houston  
William Christopher Illiano  
Victoria Susan Jiminez  
Samuel Johnson  
Tyler Lynd  
Caleb Ryan McLachlan  
Landon Joseph McNellage  
Jared Luke Ridgeway  
Salomon Alejandro Roman Soto  
Hemant Srivastava  
Anna Paige Wilson

## Kirklin

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

Benjamin Balcon Cage  
Anna Elizabeth Crawford  
Kameron Anderson Hagerla  
Samuel Benjamin Hayworth  
Deborah Ann Jensen  
John Michael Woods Kaylor  
Anna Inman Lively  
Gnyata Bhavik Patel  
Tanvee Sinha  
Kelsey Elizabeth Staggs  
James Stallworth, Jr.  
Sellers A. Swann  
Jordan Harrison Tzabari  
Karen Yu Wang  
Allen Ali Yazdi

## Hirschowitz

**Stephanie Berger M.D.**, *Lead Mentor*

**Ansley Baccus, M.D.**, *Regional Campus*

*Faculty Mentor*

Amiria Pearl Blakely  
Jackson Lee Broadfoot  
Carla Danielle Brown  
Jeb Cowen  
Anupa Devi Ghimire  
Grade Abigail Glidden  
Thomas Stewart Gwin  
Cynthia Lauren Huguley  
Brannan William Martens  
Andrew Wilson Mitchell  
Ashton Victoria Robinson  
Benjamin Rush Rogers  
Bethany May Sparks  
Austin David Wall, III  
Hannah Woodard

## Lyons

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

Sameen Yasar-Bin Ali  
Zachary Chase Ballinger  
Diarra Lashae Bender  
Julie Jacqueline Cunningham  
Divya Goel  
Hannah Lee Green  
Jacob William Greenway  
Alyson Tudong Nguyen  
Brannen Jo Perry  
James Franklin Roberson, II  
Isaac Delain Robinson  
Christopher Scott Simmons, Jr.  
Benjamin Tran  
Bijal Girishkumar Vashi

## McCallum

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

Amber Ann Bell  
Meredith Leigh Burns  
Karen Joyce Carter  
Riley Cain Taylor Duke  
Elliott Dreyspring Herron  
Benjamin Michael Honan  
Heather Kathryn McKelvey  
Alisa Alexandria Mobley  
Eric Andrew Mussell  
Aneesh Pathak  
Sarah Grace Trulove  
Ian Timothy Tsekouras  
Joshua Daniel Waldeck  
Ashley Brooke White

## Pittman

**Starr Steinhilber M.D.**, *Faculty Mentor*

Elizabeth Marks Benson  
Shaina Danielle Bolden  
Ann Carol Braswell  
Parker Tulaire Cobbs  
Matthew Everett Dean  
Clayton Farris  
Gabriela Santos da Fonseca  
Cole Davis Garrison  
Aaron Jacob Haider  
Jessica Morgan Jenkins  
William Paul Kretzschmar  
Nicholas Tate McCarthy  
Khalidia Khalil Osman  
Reid Harrison Reeves  
Yazen Ahmed Shihab  
Lauren Nicole Sullivan  
Shahn Washington

## Oparil

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

Javarus Humphries  
Jimmy Logan Norris  
Karthik Eyyani Sadanand  
Andrew Zack Saddekni  
Dakota Williams

## 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*

Nicholas Ryan Boyle  
Christine Renata Carico  
Hunter Byron Dean  
Brendon Robert Herring  
Ashleigh Burns Irwin  
Alana Christine Jones  
Shreya Natesh Kashyap  
Colin Harrington Quinn  
Andrew Ray Schroeder  
Kristina Ayanna Willbekin-Walker  
Lamario Joshua Williams

## Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery Residency Program

Timothy Cale Kreger  
Alexander Thomas Mathews  
Collin Anker Ritchie  
Jamie Austin Rose

## **Dear Graduate,**

Congratulations on this incredible milestone! Your hard work, perseverance, and dedication have brought you to a moment of great achievement. Your family, community, the Heersink School of Medicine, and your future colleagues all celebrate your success.

Though challenges lie ahead, you've conquered one of the toughest climbs. How you face future tests will shape your wellbeing and your impact on others. You now stand where generations of physicians once stood—ready to contribute to public health, patient care, and the advancement of medicine. We, your colleagues, look forward to your arrival in the field. Your fresh perspective, leadership, and energy are needed now more than ever.

As you move forward, we invite you to join the Medical Alumni Association (MAA)—a lifelong network that offers support, programs, and opportunities to connect and give back. Join us to stay involved and help guide those who follow in your footsteps. Learn more at [maa.uab.edu](http://maa.uab.edu) or call 205-934-4463.

**Warmest congratulations,**  
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

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### **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.**

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The University of Alabama at Birmingham.

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School of Medicine