



Honors Convocation

May 15, 2025

*University of Colorado School of Medicine
established in 1883*



School of Medicine

UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO
ANSCHUTZ MEDICAL CAMPUS

Honors Convocation Program

PRESIDING

Brian Dwinell, M.D.
Associate Dean, Student Life

Student and Faculty Awards

Thursday, May 15, 2025

Krugman Conference Hall, Research 2
2:30 – 4:30 pm

OPENING REMARKS & WELCOME

John H. Sampson, M.D., PhD.
Richard D. Krugman, MD, Endowed Chair
Vice Chancellor for Health Affairs
Dean, School of Medicine





DEPARTMENTAL AWARDS



Department of Anesthesiology:

Robert W. Virtue Award: Sina Abedi

For a medical student in Anesthesia who has exhibited the most concern for patients

C. Walter Metz Award: Matthew Wong

For excellence in performance in Anesthesiology

Cynthia Hampson Award: Ryan Turner

For excellence in Anesthesia with the intent to pursue a career in Anesthesiology

Department of Emergency Medicine:

Center for COMBAT Research and Colorado Military Medical Heritage Award: Robert Fuller, Evan Kikla, and Daniel Saks

For graduating medical students who have worked alongside the Center for COMBAT Research and exemplified exceptional leadership, advocacy, and academic ambition in advancing military and civilian medical care.

Department of Family Medicine:

Pisacano Award: Erika Hancock

For the senior entering Family Medicine who best models the characteristics of Dr. Nicholas Pisacano: scholarship, leadership, and service

Colorado AHEC System Rural Healthcare Outstanding Achievement: Theresa Tafoya

For outstanding achievement by an individual who is committed to serving to improve the healthcare for the rural population of Colorado

Felix Martinez, M.D. Memorial Award:

Madison Martz and Dylan Mechling

For senior(s) entering Family Medicine who best models the qualities, character, and service of the late Dr. Felix Martinez

Department of Medicine:

John Ryan Award: Claire Jacobson

For outstanding work in Internal Medicine

Gold Headed Cane Award: Bryan Swanson

For a senior student who shows exemplary promise as an outstanding physician

Department of Medicine (continued):

Thomas Neff Award: Tyler Benjamin

For the senior student who has demonstrated unique humanitarian concerns toward the total health and well-being of patients with unrelenting patience and compassion

American College of Physicians Award: Samuel Gendelman

For exemplary performance and outstanding promise in medicine

James Waring Award: Victoria Clair

Diligent scholarship and devotion to duty in the field of Internal Medicine

Department of Neurology:

Stuart Schneck, M.D. Endowed Award: Rebecca Ripperton

For a senior student who has demonstrated academic excellence and outstanding performance in Neurology with exceptional humanism in all interactions.

Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology:

University of Colorado Excellence in Obstetrics and Gynecology Award: Nicole Schulick

For excellence in Obstetrics and Gynecology

Advocacy in Reproductive Access Award: Sofie Rosenberg

For the senior student who promotes advocacy in reproductive access

Dr. Harold and Mrs. Judy Kaye Award:

Octavio Escamilla Sanchez and Taylor Martinez

Demonstrated stellar academic performance to students who will pursue specialty training in Obstetrics and Gynecology

Department of Ophthalmology:

Ophthalmology Award: Reilley Knott and Jennifer Lai

For demonstrated academic excellence and outstanding performance in Ophthalmology.

Department of Orthopedics:

Frank A. Scott, M.D. Endowed Excellence in Orthopedics Award:

John Wilson Belk

Awarded to a graduating student who has demonstrated academic excellence, professionalism, and outstanding performance in orthopedics.

Department of Pathology

CAP Distinguished Medical Student Award: Karima M. Osman

For the senior student who shows initiative in learning about pathology and participating in pathology-related activities.

Sara D. Winter, M.D. Award: Karima M. Osman and Adnan Syed

For academic achievement with an outstanding commitment to medicine, fellow students, and society

Department of Pediatrics:

Franklin Gengenbach Award: Leah Crawford

For outstanding performance in Pediatrics by a senior student

Lange/McGraw Hill Award: Hayden Barrows

For outstanding performance in Pediatrics by a senior student

The Drs. James and Mary Murphy Award for Excellence in Pediatrics:

Joshua Cooper

For Outstanding Performance in Pediatrics during Medical School

Department of Psychiatry:

Franklin Ebaugh Award: Martin Maxwell and Scott Collins

For outstanding performance in Psychiatry by a senior student

Department of Surgery:

Alden Harken Basic Science Research Award:

Alexandra Barone-Camp and Brandon Bellen

For outstanding research in Surgery

George Packard Surgery Research Award:

Jessie Jiang and Anna Lee

For outstanding performance in Surgery

Owens-Swan Award: Adrianna Kayden

For outstanding promise in Surgery

Center for Bioethics and Humanities:

Henry N. Claman M.D. Medical Humanities Award: Caroline Smith

For outstanding contributions to the Medical Humanities in healthcare programs

Narrative Medicine Award: Caroline Walsh

For support of the practice and publication of writing

✧ RESEARCH & PRESENTATION AWARDS ✧

Adler Award Finalists

Nicolas Do
Jane Ewing
Adrianna Kayden
DeVante Kee-Young
Celina Sarangi
Tsion Shiferaw
Adnan Syed
Patrick Zimmerman

MSA Awards

Students' Choice Award:

Silvia Taylor and Flor Torres

For excellence in research by a senior student selected by peers

Neil and Catherine Hamilton Award:

Jordan Nelson

For excellence in medical research in the fields of cancer and multiple sclerosis by a senior student

Joseph and Regina Glaser Research Prize:

Leah Crawford

For a senior medical student who has carried out meritorious research

❧ TEACHING AND FACULTY AWARDS ❧

Kaiser Permanente Teaching Awards

Selection by Medical Student Council

Outstanding pre-clinical teacher: Dr. Bruce McCollister

Outstanding clinical teacher: Dr. Heather Cassidy

Joseph W. St. Geme Jr., M.D. Award: Dr. Cleveland Piggott

*For exceptional ability in promoting the overall mission of the
School of Medicine*

❧ SERVICE AWARDS ❧

Alex Rodriguez-Prieto Endowed Memorial Award: YooJin Yoon

For a student who has exceptional motivation and has encouraged and helped their classmates achieve the goal of becoming a physician. "Though Alex is no longer with us physically, his spirit and memory encourage us each day to strive to be kind and compassionate physicians. The character and friendship he demonstrated set an example for us all, and there is no other student more deserving of this award." (2013).

Kenneth Atkinson, M.D. Endowed Memorial Scholarship: Madison Martz

For a fourth-year medical student pursuing a career in Primary Care with the expressed interest in providing medical care to historically underserved or marginalized communities.

Medical School Admissions Committee Award: Brandon Bellen

For dedication and service to the Admissions Committee

Honor Council Award: Jamie Pfahl

For excellence in furthering the precepts of the Honor Code

Highnam Endowed Memorial Scholarship: Jacob Plaisted

For a student who has an active interest or past-demonstrated academic excellence in cardiology and/or cardiac surgery.

Nelson Award: Erika Hancock

For a student entering a primary care residency who has demonstrated academic achievement and a commitment to primary care.

Richard D. Krugman Award: Tyler Benjamin

Richard D. Krugman, M.D. served as Dean of the University of Colorado School of Medicine for 25 years. Fondly known as the "Dean of deans" across the nation, Dr. Krugman established this award for a student who portrays the spirit of service, fosters caring for all people, is compassionate, creates connection, and values innovation.

Robert J. Glaser, M.D. Award: Andy Ascencio and YooJin Yoon

For exceptional leadership and service to the senior class Selected by the Graduating Class of 2025

Hippocrates Award: Sahitya Talachutla

For a future physician who most completely epitomizes the ideals and noble traditions of the Profession of medicine as set forth by Hippocrates Selected by the Graduating Class of 2025



*Alpha Omega Alpha Chapter of Colorado
University of Colorado
School of Medicine*

Class of 2025

*Trisha Agarwal
Chiagoziem Anigbogu*
Brandon Bellen
Tyler Benjamin
Caitlin Blades*
Victoria Clair
Laurel Darragh
Nicholas Felan*
Elizabeth Garcia Creighton*
Kassra Garoosi
Darren Ha*

*Ankit Hirpara
Connor Hughes
Jessie Jiang
Austin Jolly
Adrianna Kayden
Meghan Kellett
Matthew Kennis
Reilley Knott
Celia Kohler
Anna Lee*

*Jintong Liu
Abigail Ludwigson
Jacob Plaisted
Sofie Rosenberg
Nicole Schulick
Sera Sempson
Soraya Shebata
Anagha Sheth
Caroline Smith
Jacqueline Turner
Matthew Wong*

****Class of 2026***



Check us out on social media!