

# Honors Convocation Program

Jeffrey SooHoo, M.D., MBA  
*Associate Dean, Admissions and Student Life*  
*Presiding*

Student and Faculty Awards  
Thursday, May 14, 2026  
Krugman Conference Hall, Research 2  
2:00 – 4:00 pm

## OPENING REMARKS & WELCOME

John H. Sampson, M.D., PhD., MBA  
*Vice Chancellor for Health Affairs*  
*Dean, School of Medicine*

## CLOSING REMARKS

Shanta Zimmer, M.D.  
*Executive Vice Dean, Medical Education*

## DEPARTMENTAL AWARDS

Department of Anesthesiology

**Robert W. Virtue Award: Quinn Scallon**

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

**C. Walter Metz Award: Jake Read**

For excellence in performance in Anesthesiology

**Cynthia Hampson Award: Matthew Gologorsky**

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

Department of Emergency Medicine

**Combat Medicine Research Center and Colorado Military Medical Heritage Award: Mike Akaraphanth**

For a graduating medical student who has 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

**DFM Pisacano Award: Erica Chan**

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

**Felix Martinez, M.D. Memorial Award: Peyton Myles Boyd**

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

Department of Medicine

**John G. Ryan Award: Vijay Joshi**

For outstanding work in Internal Medicine

**Gold Headed Cane Award: Ariyani Challapalli**

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

**Thomas Neff Award: Grace Elyse Thompson**

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: Luana Gnatenco**

For exemplary performance and outstanding promise in medicine

**James Waring Award: Kumar Thurimella**

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

Department of Neurology

**Stuart Schneck, M.D. Endowed Award: Julia Schaffer**

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: Tochi Anioke and Jenae Stutzman**

For excellence in Obstetrics and Gynecology

**Advocacy in Reproductive Access Award: Katherine Ann Plummer**

For the senior student who promotes advocacy in reproductive access

Department of Ophthalmology

**Excellence in Ophthalmology Award: Haider Sarwar**

For demonstrated academic excellence and outstanding performance in Ophthalmology.

Department of Orthopedics

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

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

Department of Pathology

**Sara D. Winter, M.D. Award: Andrew Oliver Hull**

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

**Harlan I. Firminger, M.D. Award: Nickolas Portillo**

For outstanding academic achievement in Pathology across multiple courses in the pre-clerkship curriculum

Department of Pediatrics

**Franklin Gengenbach Award: Sophia Goldin**

For outstanding performance in Pediatrics by a senior student

**Lange/McGraw Hill Award: Ryan Rachel Elizabeth Hemond**

For outstanding performance in Pediatrics by a senior student

**The Drs. James and Mary Murphy Award for Excellence in Pediatrics: Emma Margaret Golden**

For Outstanding Performance in Pediatrics during Medical School

Department of Psychiatry

**Franklin Ebaugh Award: Adam Cochran and David Siller**

For outstanding performance in Psychiatry by a senior student

Department of Surgery

**Alden Harken Basic Science Research Award: Mike Akaraphanth**

For outstanding research in Surgery

**Alden Harken Clinical Research Award: Tiffany E Maksimuk**

For outstanding clinical research in Surgery

**DeLauro Medical Scholarship: Roopa Bhat**

For academic achievement with the intent to pursue a career in General Surgery

**George Packard Surgery Research Award: Gabriella Canty and Morgan Dewey**

For outstanding performance in Surgery

**Owens-Swan Award: Sydney Fry**

For outstanding promise in Surgery

Center for Bioethics and Humanities

**Henry N. Claman M.D. Medical Humanities Award: Chetan Giduturi**

For outstanding contributions to the Medical Humanities in healthcare programs

**Narrative Medicine Award: Julia Schaffer**

For support of the practice and publication of writing

Colorado Area Health Education Center

**Colorado AHEC System Underserved Healthcare Outstanding Achievement: Timothy Ghan**

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

## RESEARCH & PRESENTATION AWARDS

### Adler Award Finalists

Ariyani Challapalli  
Kimberly Christnacht  
Mackenzie Fielding Davis  
Timothy Ghan  
Ryan Rachel Elizabeth Hemond  
Catherine Liggett  
Julia Schaffer

### MSA AWARDS

#### Students' Choice Award: Jake Read and Lidia Tillemann

For excellence in research by a senior student selected by peers

#### Neil and Catherine Hamilton Award: Chanise Kenika Cyrus

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

#### Joseph and Regina Glaser Research Prize: Maksym Goryachok

For a senior medical student who has carried out meritorious research

## TEACHING & FACULTY AWARDS

### Kaiser Permanente Teaching Awards

For outstanding teachers who have demonstrated accessibility and willingness to help students above and beyond the usual expectation and have served as exemplary role models in the profession of medicine with enthusiasm that is contagious and inspiring. Selected by the Class of 2026

Outstanding pre-clinical teacher: Dr. Andrew Faber

Outstanding clinical teacher: Dr. Arun Kannapan

#### Joseph W. St. Geme Jr., M.D. Award: Dr. Shanta Zimmer

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

## SERVICE AWARDS

### **Alex Rodriguez-Prieto Endowed Memorial Award: Josiah Shaw**

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: Peyton Myles Boyd**

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: Mackenzie Fielding Davis**

For dedication and service to the Admissions Committee

### **Honor Council Award: Caleb Fiebig**

For excellence in furthering the precepts of the Honor Code

### **Highnam Endowed Memorial Scholarship: Chiagoziem Anigbogu**

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

### **Nelson Award: Bryan Courtland Gutman**

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

### **Richard D. Krugman Award: Grace Catherine Perry**

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: Josiah Shaw and Fady Sameh Wassef**

For exceptional leadership and service to the senior class.

### **Hippocrates Award: Josiah Shaw**

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 2026.

### **Gottesfeld H. Memorial Award: Khoa Ngoc Nguyen**

For outstanding performance in the pre-clerkship year - driven by Medical Science Performance with superb performance in the Clinical Skills & Health & Society Pillars.

### **David Talmage Memorial Award: Pritika Parmar**

For outstanding performance in the pre-clerkship year - driven by Medical Science Performance with superb performance in the Clinical Skills & Health & Society Pillars.

### **Steven W. Farber Transplant Award Fund: Caitin M. Blades**

For students with demonstrated interest in transplant surgery in the School of Medicine at the University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus.



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

Class of 2026

Amelia Burch  
Spencer Buted  
Gabriella Canty  
William Canty  
Melissa Lynn Carpenter  
Ariyani Challapalli  
Rebekah Joy Coelho-Shumskiy  
Evangelia Constantine  
Morgan Dewey  
Sydney Fry

Timothy Ghan  
Luana Gnatenco  
Maksym Goryachok  
Emily Green  
Emily Hay-Arthur  
Garrett Healy  
Brady Hogan  
Kelsey Theresa Kines  
Catherine Liggett  
Hei-Yong Grant Lo

Tiffany E Maksimuk  
Nickole Moon  
Lily Nguyen  
Madeline Olson  
Jessica Brigitte Oudakker  
Joanna Shad  
Ananya Shah  
Nathaniel Phillip Skillin  
Kumar Thurimella  
Yan Zhou\*

*\*Class of 2027*



Check us out on social media!