

Class of 2029
Matriculation Ceremony
&
Gold Humanism Honor Society
Induction Ceremony

Friday, July 25, 2025
Boettcher Commons
Anschutz Medical Campus



School of Medicine

UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO
ANSCHUTZ MEDICAL CAMPUS

Welcome

*Brian Dwinnell, MD, FACP
Associate Dean, Student Life*

Introduction of Alumni

*Mark Gonçalves, MD '82
CU Medical Alumni Association President*

Remarks & Introduction of Department Chairs

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

Keynote Address

*Alkesh Jani, MD
Professor, Medicine-Renal Med
Diseases/Hypertension*

Gold Humanism Honor Society Induction

*Steven Lowenstein, MD, MPH
Professor, Emergency Medicine and Medicine*

*Jennifer Adams, MD, FACP
Professor, Medicine
Director, Clerkship Curriculum (Foothills)
Associate Dean, Medical Education*

*David Ecker, MD
Associate Professor, Medicine
Director, Pre-Clerkship Curriculum (Plains)
Associate Dean, Medical Education*

Gratitude Journal Presentation

*Vijay Joshi, Class of 2026
Melanie Mandell, Class of 2027*

White Coat / Stethoscope Ceremony

*Nida Awadallah, MD
Assistant Dean, Student Affairs*

*Elizabeth Gundersen, MD
Assistant Dean, Student Affairs*

*Maurice "Scotty" Scott, MD
Assistant Dean, Student Affairs*

*Deborah Seymour, Psy.D
Assistant Dean, Student Success*

*Jeffrey SooHoo, MD, MBA
Associate Dean, Admissions and Student Affairs*

Honor Statement

*Shanta Zimmer, MD
Executive Vice Dean, Education*

University of Colorado, School of Medicine

Class of 2029

Onyeka Acholonu	Samuel Gary	Brooke Linden
Clement Agyemang	Ricardo Gato Gil	Isabella Livits
Fareed Ahamad	Matthew Gee	Sarah Loew
Ahmed Ahmed	Alyssa Gerard	Adam Love
Samuel Annan	Mark Getzy	Juliette Lowe
Abdullah Ashiq	Benjamin Gossart	Dylan Lucero Woods
Ava Baumann	Sam Gouron	Tiana Luo
Erin Biddiscombe	Barry Green	Ryan Luxon
Ava Bidner	Annika Gregg	Morgan MacKenzie
Samson Blum	Lauren Gryboski	Sarah Mahoney
Kyle Bociort	Hannah Gundelfinger	Siddhardha Maligireddy
Finn Brennan	Pratik Gupta	Leah Maltzman
Trinity Brigham	Anna Gurian	Anjali Mandava
Gregory Brighton	Jaydep Halder	Miranda Manfre
Kelsey Bubier	Jasmine Hartman Budnik	Manouk Manoukian
Heather Buescher	Avery Henderson	Elena Marraudino
Shannon Campbell	Jamie Henry	Morgan Martin
Michael Chen	Kieran Henry	Aaryn Mathias
Abishek Chittathoor	Lauren Hernandez	Katherine Matzke
Grace Chow	Coco Hibberd	Jesse McCurdy
Krishna Chunduri	Colin Hinchman	Liam McGill
Anthony Chung	Kate Honeyfield	Caleb McGrath
Matthew Claro	Elise Hong	Cody McStraw
Joseph Connolly	Joy Huang	Michael Mechikoff
Maxwell Conolly	Annabelle Huddle	Cameron Meikle
Michael Coons	Maya Hunter	Caitlyn Mendik
Andres Cordon	Leon Huynh	Saket Mereddy
Juliette Courtine	Kenneth Huynh	Cade Mills
Ryan Damm	Nabiha Imtiaz	Edyth Moldow
Bethlehem Dawit	Nehemiah Jantomaso	Anna Molloy
Raymond Delray	Ashley Jung	Zachariah Morgan
Lucas Devenny	Ryan Kane	Alexis Morris
Olisabueze Dimbo	Gurleen Kaur	Richard Mortenson
Timothy Domashevich	Saree Kayne	Jada Mulford Young
Joel Douglas	Lauren Kiel	Gillian Murdock
Aimee Duckworth	Chris Kim	Puja Nakkala
Megan Elmer	Aimee Kim	Joseph Neuwirth
Gabriella Ess	Giona Kleinberg	Jacob Neves
Rebecca Estrada	Evan Kowal	Uyen Ngo
Nola Rose Fanestil	Alexander Kramer	Andrew Nguyen
Adelaide Feek	Brooke Krivickas	Nhi Nguyen
Emily Feng	Warren Lane	Victoria Nguyen
Macon Fessenden	Helen Lee	Annabelle Nitz
Isabelle Ford	Anne Leithead	Kara Nutson
Gabrielle Fowler	Jacob Lewey	Ryan Oakes
Benjamin Garver	Joseph Lim	Christopher O'Donnell

University of Colorado, School of Medicine

Class of 2029

Michael Olson	Eduardo Santillan Sanchez	Jason Tsai
Jackson Osborn	Kathryn Seaman	Stephanie Vaidis
Emily Ostrander	Jason Shawver	Sindhu Veeranki
Patrick Pagano	Erin Shiely	Thy Anh Ward
Isabella Park	Sean Sibley	Alec Washington
Arman Patel	Anthony Sinicrope	Braden West
Vrushali Patel	Todd Soo	Sally Widlund
Santiago Pinedo	Francesca Stepanov	Linnea Wilson
Owen Pogue	Emma Sullivan	Aaron Wozniak
Alex Rabizadeh	Deekshita Sundararaman	Justin Wu
Raj Rathnam	Daniyaal Syed	Zan Wynia
Juliette Rault-Wang	Aarohi Talati	Cormac Zachar
Lawrence Redmond	Trevor Tamura	Sophia Zhai
Daniel Ridley	Isabelle Thapar	Grace Zhang
Cayce Rose	Mikayla Truong	Frank Zhou
Isabella Santavicca		

Gold Humanism Honor Society Inductees

Brandon Abell	Ry Hemond	Julia Schaffer
Tochi Anioke	Andrew Hull	Ananya Shah
Kori Baker	Katharine Jones	Jason Sidrak
Ligia Batista	Vijay Joshi	David Siller
Caitlin Blades	David Le	Kayla Sompel
Melissa Carpenter	Melanie Mandell	Lina Tat
Ariyani Challapalli	Morgan McCord	Thien Vu
CJ Ernstrom	Madeline Olson	Fady Wassef
Kavya Ganuthula	Katharine Plummer	Cassidy Yoshida
Emily Germany	Alessandra Santiago	Yan Zhou
Emma Greenberg		

Gold Humanism Honor Society Inductees

Brandon Abell

Brandon is a native Coloradoan, growing up in Parker, Colorado, and attending college at the University of Colorado Boulder. He loves to connect and build relationships with his patients, and is excited to pursue a career caring for patients from all walks of life as an otolaryngologist.

Tochi Anioke

Tochi is pursuing a career in obstetrics and gynecology with a focus on gynecologic oncology. Her journey through medicine has been shaped by a deep commitment to research, mentorship, and community service. She looks forward to a career in academic medicine, where she hopes to combine patient-centered care with scientific inquiry, mentorship of future physicians, and meaningful service to the communities that have shaped her.

Kori Baker

Kori is an aspiring OB/GYN with a passion for health equity, mentorship, and compassionate care. She is proud of her work advancing medical student pathways and quality improvement in gynecologic healthcare access. As a future physician and dual-degree student in aerospace engineering, Kori is committed to pushing the boundaries of medicine while advocating for reproductive justice and inclusive practice.

Ligia Batista

Ligia is a first-generation student born into a family of farmers and maids; she is pursuing a career in Child Abuse Pediatrics. During her LIC year, she was part of the Community Health cohort and worked at Salud and Clinica sites in the Northern Front Range. She is a Research Track student and she serves as Vice Director of Advocacy on the national executive board of Medical Students with Disability and Chronic Illness.

Caitlin Blades

Caitlin's dedication to both global and local healthcare is fueled by her passion for community service. With support from the Robinson Durst Global Health Scholarship, she and her team developed the GlobalSurgBox-a mobile surgical simulator-and built 50 units, distributing half to local medical students and half to trainees in Rwanda. Now pursuing a career in plastic and reconstructive surgery, Caitlin remains deeply committed to surgical education, mentorship, and research.

Melissa Carpenter

Melissa Carpenter was raised in an underserved community in rural western Maryland. After overcoming many barriers to obtain higher education, she became the first in her family to attend college and eventually medical school. Throughout medical school, she has remained dedicated to caring for the underserved and mentoring low-income high school and college students. She hopes to continue these endeavors as a future orthopedic surgeon.

Ariyani Challapalli

Ariyani is applying to internal medicine with potential plans to pursue a career in oncology. She majored in environmental science and policy in college and has brought that passion with her to medical school as the founder of a youth program that educates kids on the connections between health and pollution.

CJ Ernstrom

CJ was born and raised here in Colorado and did their undergraduate studies in St. Louis. They are passionate about LGBTQIA+ health and are pursuing a career in plastic and reconstructive surgery, hoping to make a positive impact in each of their patient's lives as they practice holistic, empathetic care.

Kavya Ganuthula

Kavya is currently deciding between specialties, but passionate about crafting a professional journey that combines her desire to work with immigrant & refugee populations, along with health policy. She is involved with local advocacy groups, and currently pursuing an MPH to strengthen her health leadership skills.

Gold Humanism Honor Society Inductees

Emily Germany

Emily Germany grew up in a family with seven kids just outside of Atlanta, Georgia. She studied neuroscience and worked in nursing homes before moving to Colorado for medical school. Emily enjoys discussions about student and provider mental health and will gladly tell you about when she took a year off of medical school for her physical and mental wellbeing. Since returning with a vengeance, Emily channels her energy into women's health and the LGBTQ community. Her goal is to make you feel like the most important person in the room when she talks with you.

Luana Gnatenco

Luana is originally from Chicago and is excited to pursue a career in internal medicine. She is passionate about making health care more equitable and accessible to all patients and hopes to continue incorporating global health projects and advocacy into her future career as a physician.

Matthew Gologorsky

Matthew Gologorsky is a future anesthesiologist who strives to bring clarity, calm, and compassion to every clinical encounter.

Emily Green

Emily is originally from California and is an aspiring pediatric surgeon. She looks forward to becoming the kind of physician who sees the humanity in every patient, empowering them to take an active role in their health and supporting them through their medical journey.

Emma Greenberg

As a cancer survivor and aspiring pediatric oncologist, Emma has pursued research and outreach opportunities that highlight the experiences of pediatric cancer survivors and their families. She partners with community initiatives that address health inequities in pediatric populations to help achieve better outcomes for children. Emma is committed to practicing empathetic, patient-centered care that values patient dignity and lived experiences.

Ry Hemond

Ry's commitment to humanism in medicine began with their own experiences as a patient and has deepened throughout medical school. At CU and beyond, they've integrated this focus into pediatric care through relationship-building, compassionate communication, and advocacy for marginalized voices—especially children and LGBTQ+ patients. Their work includes supporting queer and trans youth at a summer program and redesigning intake processes to create safer clinical spaces. Ry looks forward to continuing to center young patients' voices and promote their autonomy, dignity, and resilience.

Andrew Hull

Andrew is pursuing a career in internal medicine-pediatrics with a passion for medical education. He is committed to caring for patients with congenital disease as they transition into adulthood and to creating inclusive, accessible learning environments for future medical students.

Katharine Jones

Katharine studied Biology and International Studies in college and was a volunteer teacher in Palestine prior to medical school. At CU, she has continued her commitment to global health equity through the global health track researching adolescent health in Guatemala. She is dedicated to prioritizing humanism in her career focusing on women's health and adolescent health.

Vijay Joshi

Vijay was born and raised in the Bay Area. He will be pursuing a residency in internal medicine and eventually a fellowship in cardiology. He particularly enjoys mentorship and teaching, from middle schoolers all the way to other medical students, and hopes to continue working with trainees throughout his career.

Gold Humanism Honor Society Inductees

David Le

David Le is pursuing a career in plastic and reconstructive surgery. David looks forward to embarking on a career that emphasizes excellence in care and the pursuit of transformative outcomes for his future patients.

Melanie Mandell

Melanie is pursuing a career in Obstetrics and Gynecology and is especially passionate about reproductive choice and providing patient-centered care. She is taking this year to pursue her Masters in Public Health at the University of Colorado with a focus on maternal child health and health policy.

Morgan McCord

Morgan is a proud first-generation college and medical student from Indiana. Before medical school, she gained hands-on experience working as a CNA and medical assistant-roles that sparked her passion for team-based, compassionate care. She is pursuing a career in anesthesiology with plans to specialize in critical care. Morgan is passionate about bridging the gap between physicians and the broader care team to promote a culture of respect, teamwork, and shared purpose in patient care.

Madeline Olson

Madeline is passionate about expanding access to care and opportunities for underserved communities. Through her involvement in mentorship and work with vulnerable patient populations, she's learned the power of showing up-with empathy, respect, and a commitment to meeting people where they are.

Katie Plummer

Katie is from the San Francisco Bay Area and is planning on pursuing a career as an OB/Gyn. She looks forward to providing patient-centered reproductive healthcare.

Alessandra Santiago

Alessandra is pursuing a career in either Emergency Medicine or General Surgery with a focus on Trauma and Acute Care Surgery. Alessandra's prior work as a climate negotiator for the Republic of Palau on the United Nations Paris Climate Accord set the stage for her current research in natural disaster-related morbidity and mortality, which she hopes to continue in academic medicine.

Julia Schaffer

Julia is originally from Pennsylvania, where she graduated with a BA in neuroscience and Spanish. She is now a student director for specialty care nights at DAWN, the student-run free clinic. She manages nephrology, cardiology, PT, OT, sports medicine, neurology, and women's health. Other activities she is proud of is her role as co-president of the interpersonal violence prevention and awareness group on campus where they organize events, speakers, and tables to create education access on resources and train future healthcare workers in trauma informed care.

Ananya Shah

Ananya is a dedicated medical student at the University of Colorado with a strong interest in academic plastic and reconstructive surgery. Deeply committed to research, mentorship, and global health, Ananya has pursued numerous leadership roles and community outreach initiatives, particularly focused on supporting underserved populations and mentoring future medical professionals.

Jason Sidrak

Jason Sidrak is from Huntington Beach California. He is the son of a psychiatrist, who from a young age, told him "you talk too much to be a psychiatrist"; thus he is pursuing a career in Orthopedics. Jason looks forward to combining his love of biomechanics with a humanistic approach to patient care to get people back to doing what they love.

David Siller

David is a proud Mexican-American medical student going into psychiatry. He is passionate about community health and advocacy as well as working to advance access to quality medical care for the most vulnerable in our society. As a member of GHHS and as a future physician, David looks forward to continuing to focus on providing compassionate, equitable, patient-centered care.

Gold Humanism Honor Society Inductees

Kayla Sompel

Kayla is a first generation 4th year medical student that aims to honor her patients by learning from their experiences and adversity, advocating for health equity, and serving underrepresented communities. This is underscored by Kayla's multiple research projects and quality improvement initiatives to address the black maternal mortality health crisis and expand rural healthcare through youth STEM education outreach.

Lina Tat

Lina is a first generation immigrant from Vietnam and is interested in pursuing a career in Internal Medicine. Lina's passion to advocate for the underserved communities started when she volunteered for the DAWN student-run free clinic and has continued in her role as the president of CU Street Medicine. Lina aspires to become a physician whose provides holistic care, but also to be a leader in addressing health disparities.

Angela Vu

Angela is a Colorado native and is pursuing a career in general surgery. She is passionate about patient-centered care, health equity, and empowering underserved communities through advocacy, mentorship, and compassionate surgical care.

Fady Wassef

Fady is a future anesthesiologist with a passion for holistic, patient-centered care. As a proud Egyptian American, he strives to advocate for his patients, empowering them to participate in decisions about their care.

Cassidy Yoshida

Cass is originally from Honolulu, Hawaii and is an aspiring general surgeon with a focus in cancer surgery. She looks forward to pursuing a specialty that prioritizes patient-centered care and hopes for an academic career where she can help advance care for patients with cancer.

Yan Zhou

Yan Zhou is apart of the Emerging Physician-Scientist Program, where she is studying pediatric brain tumors under the mentorship of Dr. Todd Hankinson—an inspiring role model whose guidance has been pivotal to her professional and personal growth. Yan aspires to become an academic neurosurgeon who integrates scientific innovation with a humanistic approach to provide patient-centered care.



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