



**School of Medicine
White Coat Ceremony
Class of 2025**

**Friday, August 27, 2021
10:30 A.M.**

The Cal Turner Family Center for Student Education



P R O G R A M

Processional Faculty and Class of 2025

Invocation Rev. Robin Kimbrough, JD, MDIV
*OMBUDS, Chaplain and
Special Advisor to the President on United Methodist Affairs*

Greetings James E.K. Hildreth, PhD, MD
*President and Chief Executive Officer
Meharry Medical College*

Digna S. Forbes, MD
*Interim Dean, School of Medicine,
Professor, Pathology Anatomy Cell Biology*

Introduction of Speaker Theodora P. Pinnock, MD
*Associate Dean
Office of Student Affairs and Admissions*

Speaker Robert J. Drummond, MD, PhD

Introduction of White Coat PresentersSusanne Tropez-Sims, MD, MPH, FAAP
*Associate Dean of Clinical Affiliations
Professor Emeritus
Department of Pediatrics*

Presentation of White Coats LaMonica V. Stewart, PhD
*Associate Professor, Biochemistry, Cancer Biology,
Neuroscience and Pharmacology*

Oath of Commitment Theodora P. Pinnock, MD

Closing Remarks. Theodora P. Pinnock, MD

Benediction Rev. Robin Kimbrough, JD, MDIV

Meharry Medical College, School of Medicine would like to thank The Arnold P. Gold Foundation, Dedicated to Fostering Humanism in Medicine, for providing the gift of the Humanism in Medicine Lapel Pins.

Everyone, please allow ALL STUDENTS and WHITE COAT PRESENTERS to recess immediately following the benediction for the class photograph.

CLASS OF 2025

Abongnelah, Anastasia
Adekunle, Abiola
Adu, Odaro
Agbenohev, Karen
Agee, Joshua
Ajmal, Zaynah
Al-Omary, Khalid
Anudokem, Josephs
Ashong, Bryan
Attia, John
Banks, Allison
Bass, Ashleigh
Beard, Crystal
Billings, Sunteasja
Blalock, Erin
Blue, Victoria
Boules, Mariam
Bradley, Tiara
Bridges, David
Brown, Selena
Bullard, Chandler
Burns, Carter
Butler, Dominique
Carter, Daviesha
Catlett, Aryiana
Cousin, Janice
Crawford, Michaela
Crockett, Tamia
Dahle, Ryann
Davis, Jordan
Easter, Jasmine
Edelen, Miesha
Ejim, John
Eluhu, Sylvia
Ewane Ewane, Alex Stephane
Ezenne, Karen
Fanta, Helen
Faulkner, Victoria
Ford, Cara
Foster, Chardae
Freeman, Anthony

Gay, Mikaela
Gentry, Christiana
George, Elizabeth
Geter, Santaria
Girgis, Steven
Gordon, Terry
Graham, Jenee
Grandel, Ethan
Guobadia, Omozusi
Haire, Gabriel
Hakim, John
Hawkins, Kiandra
Heavens, Deon
Henderson, Dimitri
Holloway, D'Asia
Horsey, Jai
Ingram, Richard
Jackson, Jared
Johnson, Ryan
Johnson, Mychael
Johnson, Christian
Jones, Taylor
Jordan, Aireyl
Kareem, Kafayat
Kazemi, Dayana
Kelley, Robert
Laborde, Dejamarie
Ladele, Olatundun
Lane, Gabriel
Lavender, Christina
Lecointe, Joiliana
Levy, Richard
London, Daniel
Mangrola, Anjali
Marrero, Evans
Marsh, Ari
Martin, Chelsea
Mbonu, Nina
McClendon, Trey
Mirville, Rebecca
Mokolo, Nkiruka
Myers, Alake
Naawu, David Kojo

Nelson, Janaya
Okechuku, Vanessa
Okpala, Nnedinma
Oshomoji, Oluwatobi
Otuno, Deborah
Parker, Remi
Pender, Arnelle
Quillin, Kori
Ricketts, Maya
Rouse, Camaray
Samuel, Devona
Sanam Venkata, Sachindra
Seibert, Samantha
Sierra, Gabriella
Spears, Taylor
Staley, Camell
Stephens, Olivia
Stirpe, Collin
Strode, Anthony
Taylor, Sean
Thomas, Noah
Thomas, Jalen
Thrasher, Michael
Tran, Tina
Vinson, Ariel
Weldai, Beilul
Wells, Matthew
White, Miranda
Williams, Giltrice
Williams, Jasmine
Williams, Sundae
Williams, Teja
Williams, Tierra
Williams, Travis
Wilson, Amandi
Wilson, Tyler
Wilson, Nateshia
Woodard, Austin
Woods, Sydney
Wright, Lena
Wyche, Jiana

The White Coat Ceremony

Welcome to the White Coat Ceremony at Meharry Medical College, School of Medicine. Through this ceremony, in the presence of family, first year students will learn the necessity of balancing excellence in science with compassionate patient care. This ceremony helps identify the characteristics of the complete doctor and provides a contract for professionalism and empathy in medicine. This event is designed to establish a psychological contract for medical students to stress the importance of caring as a significant aspect of curing.

The Class of 2025 will be “cloaked” in their monogrammed white coats and will hear an inspiring message by Robert Drummond, M.D., PhD, lead physician at Montebello Urgent Care Center and Director of Laboratory Services at Optum.

This rite of passage is sponsored by the Arnold P. Gold Foundation, a not-for-profit organization that is dedicated to fostering humanism in medicine. Students will also recite an oath of commitment that clearly articulates a student physician’s responsibilities to his/her patients.

The Arnold P. Gold Foundation

The Arnold P. Gold Foundation is a public not-for-profit organization dedicated to fostering humanism in medicine. It was established in 1988 by Drs. Arnold P. Gold and Sandra O. Gold, along with several colleagues at the Columbia Presbyterian Medical Center and College of Physicians and Surgeons and dedicated to community leaders and philanthropists. The goal of the Foundation is to influence the way physicians are trained from the very first day of medical school, throughout their four years of medical training, as well as during internship and residency programs.

Enthusiasm for this event has spread quickly, and today, deans and administrators at more than 94% of medical schools throughout the country have contacted the Gold Foundation to request funding to help them establish a White Coat Ceremony at their respective Schools. The Gold Foundation raises funds to continue developing, implementing, expanding and replicating many innovative ideas and programs created to accomplish its mission.

The Foundation has received significant support from many individuals and several major foundations, including The Russell Berrie Foundation, The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, The Tow Foundation, The Josiah Macy, Jr. Foundation and the Newark Beth Israel (NBI) Healthcare Foundation. Additional information is available from the Arnold P. Gold Foundation at (201) 567-7999.

Meharry Medical College

Meharry Medical College has maintained a tradition of excellence in healthcare education and the delivery of healthcare services to the underserved and underrepresented individuals since its inception in 1876.

Established as the Medical Department of Central Tennessee College by the Freedman's Aid Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church, the College was founded as part of the society's efforts to educate freed slaves and provide health care services to the poor and underserved. The first individual contribution to the school was made by Samuel Meharry and his brothers. Their initial gift was matched by the Methodist Episcopal Church and the department was formally opened on October 13, 1876.

Over the years, Meharry has expanded in depth and diversity, and the College has grown stronger and more deeply committed to its goal of providing the best in healthcare and education. Perhaps, the institution's greatest contribution to healthcare is that over 50 percent of its graduates practice primary care medicine in underserved urban areas and rural communities.

The Oath of Commitment

(Read in unison)

As I begin my career as a student physician here at Meharry Medical College, I make this commitment, I will . . .

Accept nothing other than the full pursuit of excellence for myself in this my chosen career.

I will hold inviolate the trust and confidence that patients extend to me as a student physician. I will always respect patients as persons and protect patient autonomy, elevate patient welfare above all other concerns, and treat all persons with compassion and dignity. I will treat all those who seek my help with humanism and compassion.

I will offer to my fellow students any help or assistance that is within my power to give, should they require it, and extend to them the same respect and trust that I wish to be shown to me. I will safeguard and nurture a culture of integrity and trustworthiness at Meharry Medical College and in our profession by encouraging my peers to act ethically and by responding appropriately.

I will conduct my personal and professional life with total integrity. I will be trustworthy and act with integrity in all spheres of professional life: academics, patient care, clinical research, and professional relationships;

I will not cheat, plagiarize, use unauthorized materials, misrepresent my work, falsify data, or assist others in the commission of these acts; and enter into a mutual relationship of trust and respect with those who teach me, recognizing that their aspirations for me are inevitably greater than those I have for myself.

I will continue the pursuit of new knowledge throughout the whole of my life if I am to be among the best in my profession.

WHITE COAT PRESENTERS

Samuel E. Adunyah, PhD—*Professor and Chair, Biochemistry, Cancer Biology, Neuroscience and Pharmacology*

Larry Alexander, PhD—*Associate Dean of Curriculum and Innovation, Associate Professor Professional & Medical Education*

Billy R. Ballard, DDS, MD—*Associate Dean, Continuing Medical Education, Professor and Chair, Pathology, Anatomy & Cell Biology*

Xylina D. Bean, MD—*Professor and Chair, Department of Pediatric Medicine*

Robin R. Chester, PhD—*Assistant Professor, Pediatric Medicine*

Susan A. DeRiemer, PhD—*Professor, Department of Professional & Medical Education*

Elochukwu J. Ezekakpu, MD—*Assistant Professor, Clinical Skills & Competency, Academic Society Master*

Digna S. Forbes, MD—*Interim Dean, School of Medicine, Professor, Pathology, Anatomy & Cell Biology*

Amosy M’Koma, MD—*Associate Professor, Biochemistry and Cancer Biology, Neuroscience and Pharmacology, Academic Society Master*

Paul N. Madubonwu, MD—*Associate Professor, Department of Professional and Medical Education, Academic Society Master*

Veronica T. Mallett, MD—*President & CEO MMC Ventures, Inc., Executive Director of Center for Women’s Health Research, Professor Obstetrics & Gynecology*

Regina Offodile, MD—*Professor and Interim Chair, Department of Professional & Medical Education*

Theodora P. Pinnock, MD—*Associate Dean of Student Affairs & Admissions, Assistant Professor, Pediatric Medicine*

Ruth Stewart, MD—*Associate Dean of Medical Education, Assistant Professor, Family & Community Medicine, Academic Society Master*

Carolyn T. Szetela, PhD—*Associate Professor, Department of Professional & Medical Education, Academic Society Master*

Susanne Tropez-Sims, MD—*Associate Dean of Clinical Affiliations, Professor Emeritus, Pediatric Medicine*

Cassandra S. Ward, EdD—*Associate Dean, Curriculum Evaluation & Effectiveness*

Lloyda B. Williamson, MD — *Professor and Chair, Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences*