



**School of Medicine  
White Coat Ceremony  
Class of 2024**

**Friday, August 27, 2021  
12:00 P.M.**

**The Cal Turner Family Center for Student Education**



**P R O G R A M**

**Processional . . . . . Faculty and Class of 2024**

**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 White Coat Presenters . . . . .Susanne 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 2024**

Abernathy, Jasmene  
Aguwa, Chibuzo  
Ahanotu, Chinomunso  
Aibangbee, Erica  
Ali, Sana  
Anderson, Andrianna  
Anderson, David  
Artis, Maurielle  
Arueyingho, Alero  
Ayozie, Evelyn  
Bakari, Naima  
Baker, Paul  
Bass, Solon  
Beg, Subul  
Boateng, Isaac  
Boone, Nicole  
Branham, Rachel  
Broussard, Libertie  
Brown, Porsha  
Brown, Taylor  
Burke, Matthew  
Carter, Adrienne  
Cavil, Nicholas  
Cazimir, Catherine  
Clay, Deja  
Clemmons, Alexandria  
Cobb, Loren  
Corley, Jessica  
Davila-Shiau, Elissa  
Davis, Erin  
Doralus, Jeff  
Duncan, Nataki  
Echetebu, Nneanata  
Echie, Chiyerre  
Esayeas, Benaias

Everheart, Morgan  
Eyer, James  
Falkner, D'Lauren  
Feldman, Matthew  
Feng, Michael  
Fontana, Brittany  
Francois, Shawn  
Fuentes, Alexander  
George, Jordan  
Ghebranious, Verena  
Gold, Mikaela  
Hayden, Adrianna  
Hill, Lonnie  
Hillsman, Gavin  
Hollingsworth, Leiana  
Hollingsworth, Stacia  
Hotaling, Kayla  
Ibrahim, Ali  
Ike, Jacqueline  
Ingram, Demarcus  
JeanLouis, Christopher  
Johnson, Washington  
Kamal, Rubayet  
Kareem, Kazeem  
Kuhlman, Rebekah  
Leonard, Richard  
Lyttle, Kadeen  
Madu, Eric  
Martin, Ryan  
Mathurin, Christian  
May, Stephen  
Mcmullen, Letori  
Mensah, Curtis  
Merriweather, Ashanta  
Mills, Chrisserra

Mokha, Nimrit  
Moore, Simone  
Morafa, Aisha  
Moreland, Anthony  
Morton, Schyler  
Mpamugo, Jessica  
Murphy, Alyssa  
Nnawulezi, Chinaza  
Nwiloh, Abigail  
Nwiloh, Anita  
Obi, Samuel  
Odiete, Kristopher  
Ofei, Nora  
Perez, Matthew  
Philogene, Chanera  
Pumphrey, Mycah  
Ray, David  
Reid, Jamila  
Rezanejad, Sargoel  
Rollins, Briana  
Ruiz, Darren  
SaintClair, Junie  
Salifu, Kadija  
Scott, Brittany  
Taylor, Elyse  
Tela, Wabi  
Temuri, Hoor  
Tsfay, Robel  
Todd, Jessica  
Twitty, Anthony  
Walker, Jacob  
Ward, Angela  
Ware, Jeania  
Williams, Christan  
Williams, Kira  
Williams, Morgan

## **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.

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**

**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**

**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**

**Dontal Johnson, MD— Assistant Professor of Pediatric Medicine, Assistant Pediatric Clerkship Director**

**Christopher Keefer, MD—Associate Professor of Pediatric Medicine, Clerkship Director**

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

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

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

**Tanu Rana, PhD—Assistant Professor, Department of Professional & Medical Education**

**Stephanie M. Richardson, PhD—Assistant Professor, Department of Professional & Medical Education**

**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**

**Vernita Tucker, MD— Assistant Professor, Obstetrics & Gynecology, Clerkship Director**

**Flora Ukoli, MD—Professor of Community Medicine, Department of Surgery, Academic Society Master**

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

**Kimberlee Wyche-Etheridge, MD—Assistant Professor, Pediatric Medicine, Academic Society Master**