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
Program

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 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 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 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. Madubuonwu, 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*

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