

# Upstate Medical University



*To improve the health of the communities we serve through education, biomedical research and health care.*

## Letter from the Curriculum Office

*The Curriculum Office is responsible for managing, coordinating and evaluating the Medical School curriculum. In addition, we provide support to the students, faculty, and administration.*



# Curriculum Office Newsletter



### Students, Faculty, Staff and Colleagues:

Welcome to Upstate, Class of 2023!

We are excited to have you join our Upstate College of Medicine family. The next four years will be rewarding, yet demanding. As aspiring physicians you will rise to that challenge!

Welcome back, Class of 2022! We hope you enjoyed your break, exploring projects of interest, volunteering, participating in research, and hopefully relaxing a bit. As you move into the MS2 year, the curriculum intensity will increase, building upon what you learned last year. It will prepare you for clinical training, in which the Classes of 2021 and 2020 have been fully immersed since May.

We are excited to highlight our new Interprofessional Simulation Center, which will have a grand opening this Fall. The Center will allow for high-fidelity simulation, where our learners will interact in real-life clinical scenarios, practice hands-on clinical skills in an immersive environment, as well as hone their interprofessional communication skills as part of interdisciplinary teams. We welcome Dr. Erik Rufa, who has joined the Upstate team as Director of Education for the Simulation Center and will lead our efforts with simulation.

New this year are two curriculum advising days - one this

Fall and one in the Spring. Students from all classes will participate in these two days which will include meetings with specialty advisors, sessions on finance/debt management, wellness activities, and much more. All students will be required to attend.

Lastly, we want to highlight some of the many offices and people that are here to support you in medical school. Our Academic Support Center is available to work with you. Do not hesitate to reach out to Katherine Daley or Maryann Grandinetta to be set up with a tutor or to discuss study strategies. Professionals from the Student Counseling Center and Employee Student Health are available to help you stay healthy. Basic science advisors are always willing to meet with you to discuss your progress and specialty advisors will help to guide your way through medical school toward residency. The curriculum deans, Drs. Thomas Poole, Matt Mason, Leann Lesperance and Thomas Schwartz also are happy to meet with you and welcome your feedback.

Please do not hesitate to reach out to us if you have any questions or concerns throughout your time here!



For questions regarding this publication, please contact Susan at [Anderssu@upstate.edu](mailto:Anderssu@upstate.edu)

# Phase 1



## Summer/August 2019

Welcome new students and welcome back MS2's! Here is hoping everyone had a sunny, relaxing Summer. "Phase 1" encompasses both MS1 and MS2 classes. As the new academic year gets underway, we would like to highlight updates and tips for these students.

### Tips/Updates for Both years:

- **Sign up for Course Packs!** A 'Sign Up Genius' link will go out to each class with an option to choose **printed** course packs. While most students prefer to take their notes electronically utilizing the Microsoft OneNote app, some prefer paper notes. A deadline will be given and each link will include the next 2 units. **MS1's:** all students will be provided a printed course pack for Units 1 & 2. The first sign-up will be for Units 3 & 4 and this link will be sent in September.
- **Like us on Facebook!** While our formal communication with students will be via your Upstate e-mail, you can find fun updates out of the Curriculum Office here: <https://www.facebook.com/COMCurriculum/>
- **Attend each Course 'Introduction'.** In addition to our general orientation sessions, a short course introduction is conducted by all courses, usually prior to the first lecture. You will not want to miss these sessions! Course expectations may vary from one another and may be updated from year to year.
- **Plan ahead:** Time-management is important. Exam/quiz and lecture schedules, as well as longitudinal course syllabi are given at the beginning of the year with information about big assignments to come. You will need to plan for these in advance, especially toward the end of the year. The Curriculum Office will send a Weekly Newsflash, which highlights what you can expect out of your courses for the coming week. However, students should always review course syllabi on information for bigger projects.
- **Take advice from previous classes with thoughtfulness.** Remember, this is a curriculum with ever-evolving plans and content. What held true for AY 18-19 may not hold true for AY 19-20. Read your syllabus for the most up-to-date information on each course.
- **Unit Quizzes:** Students should expect 1-2 summative quizzes per unit.

### MS1 Specific:

- MS1 Orientation (COM Academic Blocks): August 8, 11:00AM-12:30PM and August 9, 8:30-10:30AM. Location: Wsk 9295.
- Keep your eyes peeled for an email regarding the Matriculating Student Questionnaire (MSQ) from the AAMC. This web-based questionnaire is sent annually to all first-year medical students to share their thoughts on a variety of topics. Please give us your feedback.

### MS2 Specific:

- MS2 Orientation: August 12, 9-11AM. Location: NAB 4414 B/C.

Again, we look forward to the start of the new academic year!

Tom Poole, PhD  
Assistant Dean, Foundational Sciences

Sarah McNamara, MS  
Curriculum Director, Phase 1



## What's New in Phase 2

Now that we are a couple months into this new academic year, we hope that the third year students are adjusting well to the clinical years and enjoying their time! For our fourth-year students, we wish you the best of luck on your acting-internships, electives, away rotations, and upcoming residency application process!

The majority of students have taken Step 1 and most have their scores back. Please know that Dr. Mason, Dr. Lesperance, and Dr. Schwartz are available to meet with students for career and fourth year advising. If you are interested in meeting with them please contact Susan Anderson at [anderssu@upstate.edu](mailto:anderssu@upstate.edu)

The Phase 2 curriculum continually works to review and make sure that our clerkships are running well. We have an all-year-long continuing process where exams and evaluations are checked for potential sources of bias, to make sure that assessments collect accurate information and are the most fair possible. We continue to focus on the clinical evaluation process during the clerkships, ensuring that all evaluations are completed by evaluating faculty based on a specific set of criteria. We continue to provide education to all faculty and residents a multiple times per year as to how to complete this evaluation properly, in order to ensure that this evaluation is as objective as possible.

We want to encourage our third-year students to continue to do practice USMLE style exam questions throughout the clerkships, as this has been shown to improve exam scores! This goes for both shelf exams and your Step 2 CK at the end of clerkships! Mary Ann Grandinetta from Academic Support recently sent out some information about how the library has a subscription to BoardVitals, with thousands of USMLE style questions for clerkships and the Step 2 CK exam. For any questions on how to access this resource, please contact the Health Sciences Library.

Remember that when you see someone who has a positive impact on your learning, you can fill out a Gold Star Report about them! This goes for faculty, staff, and other students too! You can search for "gold star" on the Upstate website, or you can scan the QR code below. Gold star reports help the College of Medicine continue to improve our learning experiences! Take a look at some Gold Star report examples in this very newsletter!



<http://www.upstate.edu/currentstudents/support/rights/goldstar.php>

To our students in the clinical years, keep up the good work, and know that we are here for you!

Sincerely,  
Matt Mason, MD  
Assistant Dean for Clinical Sciences

# The Testing Corner

## Welcome!!

Welcome/Welcome back to our MS1 and MS2 students. It is time to start a funtastic new academic year!! Please remember to download your calendars from the Google Published Calendar site: <http://www.upstate.edu/curriculum/schedules.php>

## Exemplify!!

Exemplify is the next wave in the test taking software for students from ExamSoft. This year we have made a big step to taking the software into SAML integration. What does that mean? You can use your Upstate active ID and password to sign in. No more remembering of additional passwords. You can download your copy here: <https://ei.examsoft.com/GKWeb/login/upstatemed>.

Faculty or anyone else interested, I will be doing a session for the students on 8/12/18 at 3 pm for anyone who would like to join in and see how Exemplify works.

## 25Live!/Google Calendar

This calendar can easily be downloaded to a Google Calendar. Once in Google (must have a gmail account), you can export it in either an .ics or html format to be able to be brought into your GroupWise, iPhone or other calendars. Google calendars will update automatically with Google push. If you import to your iphone, it may take longer to see those changes. Groupwise is hit or miss. I suggest using Google calendar for keeping up with your class calendar.

Each of the faculty members will be receiving a confirmation with an iCal attachment so that the item can be downloaded directly into their calendar. This will allow that faculty member to have the item directly imported into their calendar, if they wish.

Links for these calendars can be found on the Curriculum Website as well as on your Blackboard Course sites. <http://www.upstate.edu/curriculum/schedules.php>

Any questions regarding Exemplify or the online calendar can be sent to me at [dennistc@upstate.edu](mailto:dennistc@upstate.edu).

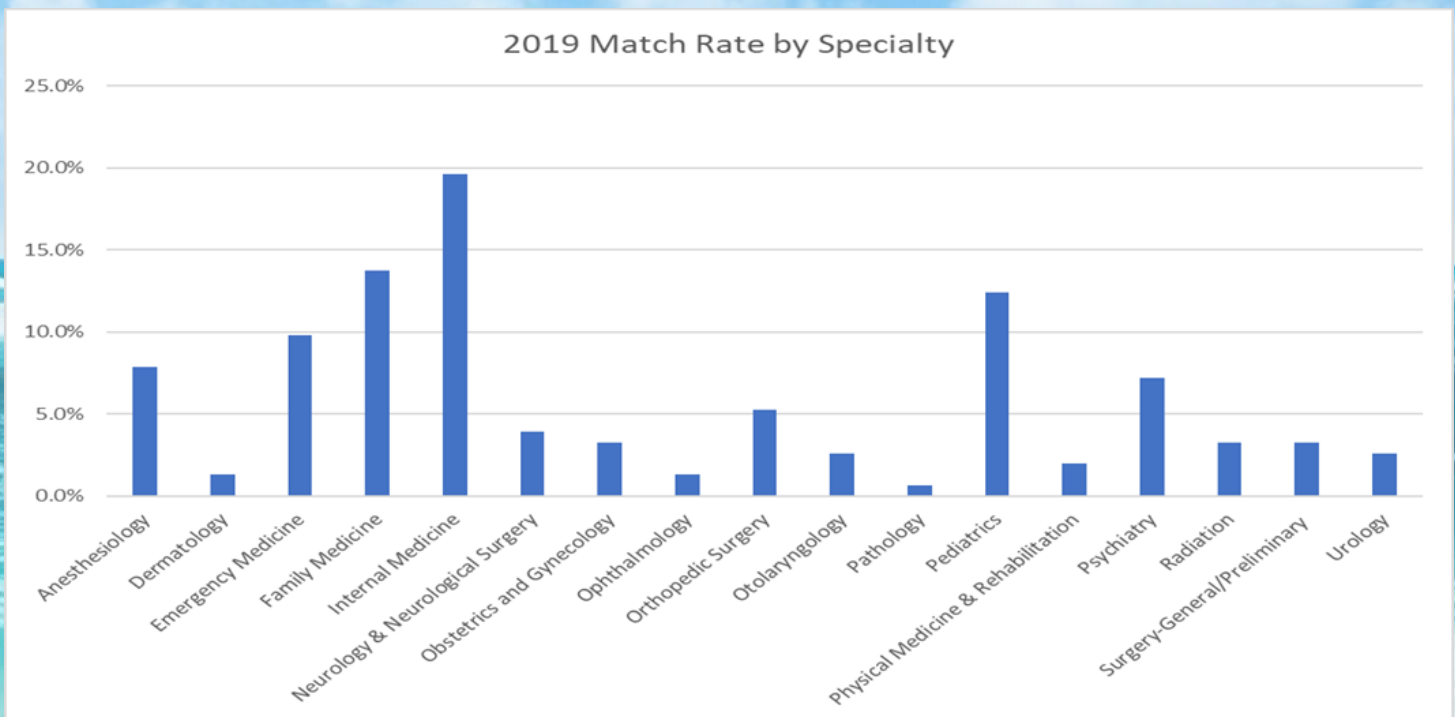
Colleen Denniston  
Testing Coordinator  
Setnor 4508



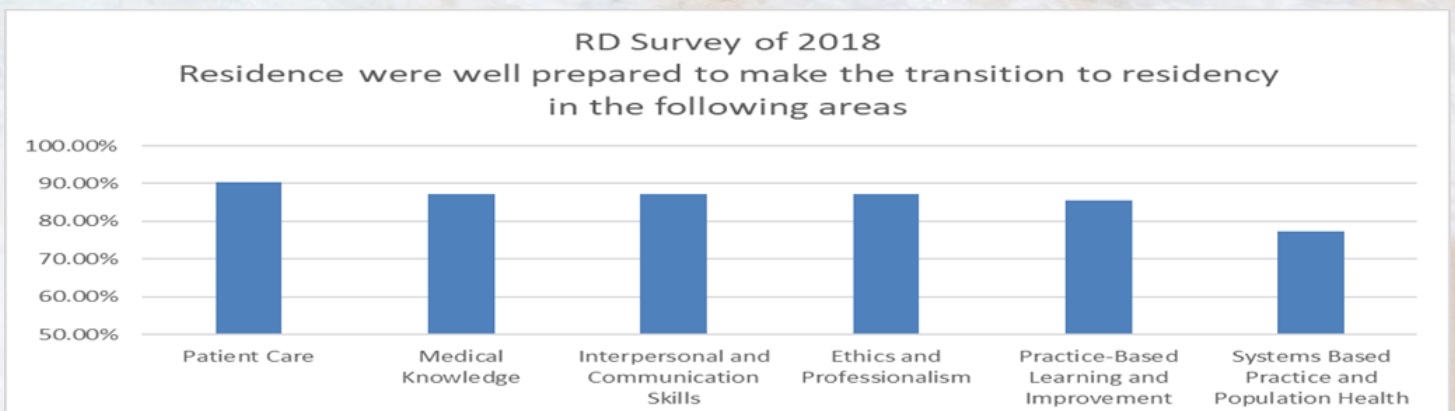
## Welcome SUNY Upstate College of Medicine, Class of 2024!

We are Lauren Germain, PhD and Josie Suser, M.S. from the Office of Evaluation, Assessment and Research. We work with all 4 colleges at Upstate to ensure continuous quality improvement through effective and accurate student assessment, program evaluation and medical education scholarship. We are excited to work with you!

We are so proud to report that the SUNY Upstate College of Medicine class of 2019 had a 100% match rate! The below chart illustrates Upstate's 2019 match rate by specialty.



Every year we survey Residency Directors to hear how our most recent graduates are doing in their PGY 1 year. We are getting ready to release the results from our survey of 2018 graduates. One of the questions we ask RDs is how prepared our graduates were for residency in the following GCEPO's. As the below chart indicates, the vast majority of RDs agreed that our students were well prepared.



# Office of Accreditation and Compliance

## College of Medicine Graduation Competencies and Educational Program Objectives (GC-EPOs)

The GC-EPOs serve as statements of what students are expected to learn or accomplish during the course of medical school at Upstate. They describe the knowledge, skills, behaviors, and attitudes that medical students are expected to exhibit as evidence of their achievement and as a basis for the next stage of their training. The GC-EPOs provide the basis for all course and clerkship objectives.

The College of Medicine has six Graduation Competencies, and they are:

1. Patient Care
2. Medical Knowledge
3. Interpersonal and Interprofessional Communication Skills
4. Ethics and Professionalism
5. Practice-Based Learning and Improvement
6. Systems Based Practice and Population Health

GC-EPOs =  
Learning  
Objectives

The full list of GC-EPOs can be found online (<http://www.upstate.edu/curriculum/objectives.php>) and in all course and clerkship syllabi. Please be sure to review this year's objectives, as there have been some revisions for the 2019-2020 academic year. All our learning goals, assessments, and curricular planning centers around these all-important GCEPOs!

## Results are in from the 2019 AAMC Graduation Questionnaire:



The **Graduation Questionnaire (GQ)** is a national questionnaire administered annually by the Association of American Medical Colleges to fourth year medical students. The GQ asks questions related to pre-clinical and clinical curriculum, student services, learning environment, financial aid, readiness for residency, and general medical school strengths and areas for improvement. In 2019, **94%** of the fourth year class completed the GQ! This feedback will be used to support quality improvement across the College of Medicine!

## Are you an MS 1 student?

The **Matriculating Student Questionnaire (MSQ)** is a national questionnaire administered annually by the Association of American Medical Colleges to first year medical students. The GQ asks questions related to pre-medical experiences, medical school selection processes, future career interests, and educational debts and financing. Your responses will be analyzed and aggregated by the AAMC and provided back to Upstate for quality improvement purposes. The MSQ is currently **open** through September 15!

Completion rates as of July 30<sup>th</sup>:

Status	Percent
Completed	20%
In Progress	8.2%
Not Started	71.8%

To complete the MSQ: Please look for your email from the AAMC sent on June 1<sup>st</sup> with the link to the survey. Or, you can contact the AAMC for log in info at [msq@aamc.org](mailto:msq@aamc.org).



## Gold Star and Commendation Form Reminders



**Commendation Forms** are accessible in MedHub or online for faculty interested in acknowledging students that go above and beyond the call of duty!

[http://www.upstate.edu/curriculum/pdf/policies\\_procedures/professionalism\\_commendation\\_concern\\_report.pdf](http://www.upstate.edu/curriculum/pdf/policies_procedures/professionalism_commendation_concern_report.pdf)

**“Gold Star” Reports** can be filled out by students, faculty, or staff to nominate those who demonstrate exemplary professional behaviors or contribute to a positive learning environment.

Nominations can be made here: <http://www.upstate.edu/currentstudents/support/rights/goldstar.php>

Thank you to all who contribute to a positive learning environment on our campus!

**Assistant Professor, Dr. Rebecca Greenblatt, in the Department of Microbiology and Immunology:**

*"Throughout the first two years of medical school, and especially during MS2, Dr. Greenblatt has been actively involved in our microbiology education. She does an excellent job of emphasizing high yield information for our exams, and at the same time, she also includes clinically useful information throughout our courses so that we can be good physicians. Microbiology was a topic which I initially struggled with, but Dr. Greenblatt's thread was so well orchestrated that microbiology is now my strongest subject."*

**Assistant Professor, Dr. Leah Bennett, in the Department of Emergency Medicine:**

*"Dr. Bennett was an exemplary example of professional standards and a positive influence on the learning environment at Upstate Medical. She consistently went out of her way to make sure students on the clerkship were learning, and also felt comfortable. She took her time to ask us about any difficult experiences we may have had on the clerkship. She is also truly passionate about her patients and her field."*

**Assistant Professor, Dr. Jennifer Campoli, in the Department of Emergency Medicine:**

*"Dr. Campoli was a phenomenal physician and mentor throughout the emergency medicine clerkship. Her ability to converse with anyone and make them feel comfortable was impressive. She always took time to make sure that students felt they were having a productive time on the clerkship, and she also made sure to debrief after any difficult moments we may have experienced. Dr. Campoli is an exemplary example of professionalism and positive role models in the Upstate community."*

**Gross Anatomy Lab (Dr. Dana Mihaila, Leslie Malcott, Daniel Jaeger), in the Department of Cell & Developmental Biology:**

*"The Basic Scientist on the Committee for Accreditation Physical Therapy Education personally commented that of all the institutions he has visited that Upstate's Gross Anatomy Lab was among the best. This was also stated by the Middle States Accreditation team and by the LCME site visit team. It is remarkable that in a single year, three highly valued independent sources made the same conclusion. Dr. Mihaila and the team she leads, Dan Jaeger and Les Malcott, have done a wonderful job for Upstate and created a positive reflection across the country. The body-donation program here is also among the best in the country. Those who have been treated by the fine physicians and students of Upstate want to give back. Thank you Dr. Mihaila, Dan, and Les."*

**Assistant Professor, Dr. Dana Mihaila, in the Department of Cell & Developmental Biology:**

*"Dr. Mihaila expected excellence from us, but also of herself. During the neuro unit, her work to improve the unit was evident. She gave several lectures, review session, practice questions and encouragement during the most difficult unit. Having faculty that puts in as much work as they expect of students is encouraging for us to know that we are getting a high quality education."*



## Gold Star comments continued

**Assistant Professor, Dr. Joseph Resti, in the Department of Anesthesiology:**

*"Dr. Resti goes above and beyond his way to keep medical students engaged and make sure they are actively involved in medical care during our rotation. He's a wonderful physician, and leader, teaching everyone with respect."*

**MS 3 Student, Josh Sen:**

*"I have been so impressed with Josh's work while on his pediatric inpatient rotation. In a very kind and thoughtful manner, he is able to present patients almost flawlessly. He has a great rapport with families and given he has a strong fund of knowledge, is able to answer questions on family centered rounds in a manner that families can understand as well. He is setting a great example for his fellow students and exemplifies what someone would want in a physician."*

### Additional positive feedback from students through course/clerkship evaluations:

**Assistant Professor, Dr. Eric Hojnowski, in the Department of Emergency Medicine:**

*"Dr. Hojnowski is one of the most approachable and knowledgable attending physicians that I have ever worked alongside. He genuinely cares about the education of medical students, and goes above and beyond to ensure that students spend their time in the emergency department learning and interacting with patients. Upstate is truly lucky to have him as a faculty member."*

**Assistant Professor, Dr. Nicholas Baranco, in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology:**

*"Dr. Baranco is an excellent clinician and surgeon. I appreciated the empathy towards the patient. He was also allowed students to get actively engaged during the surgery. I had fun working on cases with him Dr. Baranco took the time to get to know the medical students he was working with. He was an effective teacher and easily approachable with questions."*

**Professor, Dr. Mary Lou Vallano, in the Department of Neuroscience and Physiology:**

*"Lectures are well organized. Dr Vallano does a good of emphasizing key points, while appropriately pointing out finer details that we should know. Over the year I have come to really enjoy Dr Vallano's lectures. Thank you for all the great instruction this year!"*

**Assistant Professor, Dr. Lazarus Gehring, in the Department of Family Medicine:**

*"Dr. Gehring is an excellent leader for this clerkship and made it a great experience and a good environment to learn and develop each student's individual style and skills."*

## Looking for a Policy or Procedure

College of Medicine policies can be found on the Curriculum Office website here:

<http://www.upstate.edu/curriculum/procedures.php>

University-wide and Student Affairs policies can be found in the student handbook here:

<http://www.upstate.edu/student-handbook/index.php>



## LCME Element 6.3: Self-Directed and Life-Long Learning

The faculty of a medical school ensure that the medical curriculum includes self-directed learning experiences and time for independent study to allow medical students to develop the skills of lifelong learning. Self-directed learning involves medical students' self-assessment of learning needs; independent identification, analysis, and synthesis of relevant information; and appraisal of the credibility of information sources.

The Foundations of Reasoning in Medicine course for MS1 and MS2 students is structured around self-directed and life-long learning. This learning style involves medical students' self-assessment of learning needs; independent identification, analysis, and synthesis of relevant information; and appraisal of the credibility of information sources.

Self-directed learning includes 4 key components:

1. Identify, analyze, and synthesize information students believe is relevant to their learning needs.
2. Assess the credibility of information sources.
3. Share the information with their peers and supervisors.
4. Receive feedback on their information-seeking skills.

The FRM Course Directors and Coordinators created a pocket card describing what activities in the course meet each of the above components. Students – keep this pocket card handy throughout the year for your reference!



Choosing a medical specialty is one of the most significant decisions you'll make. With increasing competition for residency positions, it's critical that you make your decisions strategically. Careers in Medicine (CiM) can help you

- assess your interests, values, personality, and skills to help you choose specialties that best fit your attributes
- learn details such as salary and lifestyle, prerequisites and length of training, competitiveness data, types of patients and procedures, and other characteristics of more than 120 specialties
- compare your qualifications, pinpoint your preferences for residency training, and compare programs
- position yourself to be more competitive to land a residency
- and much more

You receive free access to CiM. Sign in using your AAMC Account. This is the same user name and password you created to sign up for the MCAT® exam, AMCAS®, and other AAMC services. If you need help signing in, use the tools in the sign-in box to recover your account information.

<https://www.aamc.org/cim/>

# Students & Physicians



**Upstate China Elective  
Students  
February & April 2019**



**ZAST Physicians  
Observing at Upstate  
Fall 2018 - January 2019**





Third-year medical student Shannon Kaupp used her training to save the life of the driver involved in an automobile crash.

Brighton police say Kaupp saved Cohen's life. In May, the department honored her with a Citizen Citation Award. "You stopped to render aid to a critically injured driver. The driver stopped breathing at one point and you were able to provide lifesaving measures," the plaque reads.

"Had you not assisted, it is likely the driver would have died."

Kaupp told a reporter she did everything she could in the high-pressure situation.

"My mind was racing. If you could've heard my mind during those moments, I was like, 'OK Shannon, think. You got this. You got to help him out,'" Kaupp said.

Cohen's mother attended the ceremony at which the award was presented, and thanked Kaupp on behalf of her son who, according to reports, remains in a coma.

This article was written by Charles McChesney, on June 11, 2019.

<http://blogs.upstate.edu/withdistinction/2019/06/11/medical-student-honored-for-aiding-crash-victim/>



# Student Clinician Ceremony - June 26, 2019

The 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Student Clinician Ceremony was held on Wednesday evening, June 26, 2019, in the Medical Alumni Auditorium, Weiskotten Hall, and was videoconferenced to the Binghamton Clinical Campus. Dr. Amit Dhamoon, GHHS Faculty Advisor, provided opening remarks and welcomed everyone, including the Faculty Speaker, Dr. Kaushal Nanavati. James Osei Sarpong, past GHHS member, spoke about the Upstate GHHS chapter and the activities that the students are involved in. Dr. Dhamoon announced awardees for the Humanism and Excellence in Teaching Award (HETA) to the teaching residents and the new members of Upstate's chapter of the Gold Humanism Honor Society (GHHS). Dr. Matthew Mason presented each honoree with their award. A cocktail reception was held immediately following the ceremony.



**Class of 2020 Student Recipients**

The Society is sponsored through the Arnold P. Gold Foundation, and honors senior medical students for 'demonstrated excellence in clinical care, leadership, compassion and dedication to service. The Society was organized to elevate the values of humanism and professionalism within the field of medicine and its constituent institutions. New members are:

## Class of 2020 Student Recipients



**Resident Recipients with Dr. Dhamoon and Dr. Mason**

Marleny Acosta  
Tanisha Beckford  
Ian Boor  
Hannah Connolly  
Marcia Des Jardin  
Hannah Doyle  
Kadeeja Fredankey  
Kendal Glynn  
Konstantinos Hantzidiamantis  
Paris Hantzidiamantis  
Megan Harris  
Jillian Haynes

Nia Jagroop  
Nathaniel Kaufman  
Atta Kutin-Boateng  
Daniel Lichtenstein  
Joseph Clinton McCabe  
Craig Pille  
Madison Pomerantz  
Lilly Rizzo  
Elisabeth Sulger  
Jared Sweeney  
Claire Triller  
Arianna Wilson

## Resident Recipients



**Reception following the ceremony with family and friends**

Dr. Sirri Atanga, Internal Medicine, Binghamton  
Dr. Michelle Bernshteyn, Internal Medicine, Syracuse  
Dr. Caitlin Gardiner, Psychiatry, Syracuse  
Dr. Michael Kuhn, Internal Medicine, Syracuse  
Dr. Michaela Simmons, OB/GYN, Syracuse



*Patty Gooden*  
*GHHS Upstate Chapter Administrator*

