UTRGV™ | UT Health Rio Grande Valley™

School of Medicine

2020

INAUGURAL CLASS

MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN

John H. Krouse, MD, PhD, MBA
Dean, UTRGV School of Medicine
Executive Vice President, Health Affairs

On behalf of the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley School of Medicine family, I want to extend a big congratulations and best wishes to the class of 2020.

You are going to be prime examples of what can be accomplished when attending the UTRGV School of Medicine. I am confident that you will continue to serve as worthy representatives for the University throughout the rest of your medical careers and beyond.

This first cohort of medical students represents so much, not only for our University but for the region. The diverse class of 2020 has a majority of students hailing from Texas and South Texas and shows just how unique and special this program is.

The class of 2020 truly represents the University's efforts in providing the Valley with access to quality healthcare closer to home. The future medical professionals that will be graduating today will one day serve this region using the skills obtained at our institution.

The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley School of Medicine takes pride in providing students with the educational knowledge, medical training, expert support, and advanced skills to impact the world of modern medicine and science including right here at home.

As you embark on the next chapter of your lives, I ask that you never forget the lessons you learned at the UTRGV School of Medicine. May you always remember to hold your values and compassion for helping others close to heart.

I would like to thank the families and friends who provided our medical students with the motivation they needed to undergo and finish this very challenging program. They could not have succeeded without your support.

Finally, I would like to give a special thanks to the dedicated UTRGV School of Medicine faculty, staff, and administrators who guided our class of 2020 through their medical school journeys. You can now witness the collective hard work and dedication come to fruition as the first graduating class of 2020 receive their degrees.

I look forward to seeing the class of 2020 bloom into the amazing medical professionals, researchers, and scientists they were destined to become.

Mission

Educate a diverse group of medical students and future biomedical scientists; Develop physicians who will serve across all disciplines of medicine; Bring hope to patients and communities by advancing biomedical knowledge through research; Integrate education and research that advances the quality and accessibility of health care; Engage with Rio Grande Valley communities to benefit Texas and the world.

Vision

The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley School of Medicine provides students with access to high-quality, innovative medical education programs that are designed to train the next generation of physician leaders in medical education, scientific research, and patient care.

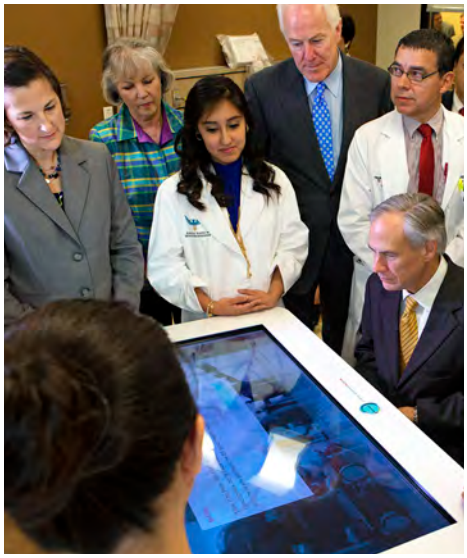
Today, the UTRGV School of Medicine has more than 200 medical students and over 200 medical residents and fellows serving in 13 hospital-based training programs across the Rio Grande Valley, with more training programs on the horizon.

Through advanced medical practice and research, our UT Health RGV clinical program empowers UTRGV faculty physicians and medical students to actively engage in improving the lives and well-being of patients while transforming the quality of health care in the Rio Grande Valley and beyond.

The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley School of Medicine takes pride in providing students with the educational knowledge, medical training, expert support, and advanced skills to impact the world of modern medicine and science.

History of Medical Education in the Valley

The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley School of Medicine is the realization of the decades-long effort of community leaders, legislators, and countless supporters to establish a medical school in the Valley to provide health care to a region that historically has been burdened by health disparities.



In **1997**, the Texas Legislature approved Senate Bill 606, which allowed The University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio (UTHSCSA)—now known as UT Health San Antonio—to open a Regional Academic Health Center (RAHC) to train physicians who would practice medicine in the Valley. UTHSCSA opened its Medical Education Division in 2002 in Harlingen and its Medical Research Division in 2006 in Edinburg.

In **2009**, the Texas Legislature approved for The University of Texas System Board of Regents to create a medical school, using the resources from the RAHC, for the Valley in the future.

Three years later, The UT System Board of Regents approved the creation of a new university and medical school in the Rio Grande Valley, using resources from two universities within the UT System—The University of Texas at Brownsville/Texas Southmost College and The University of Texas-Pan American—and the RAHC.

In **2013**, The Texas Legislature passed Senate Bill 24 to establish The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley and its School of Medicine.

In **2015**, The UTRGV School of Medicine received preliminary accreditation from the LCME, which allowed the school to recruit its first class.

The UTRGV School of Medicine welcomed its charter class of 55 medical students in the summer of 2016.

The UTRGV School of Medicine now has more than **200 medical students** and over **200 medical residents and fellows** serving in thirteen Graduate Medical Education programs throughout the Valley, with more programs on the horizon.

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Kenneth I. Shine, M.D.

Former Executive Vice Chancellor
for Health Affairs, University of Texas System
Professor of Medicine, Dell Medical School

Kenneth I. Shine, MD, served The University of Texas System as Executive Vice Chancellor for Health Affairs for ten years. In that capacity he is responsible for the six U.T. System health components and their aggregate annual operating budget of almost $10 billion dollars. He participated in the establishment of two new medical schools, the Dell Medical School at UT Austin and the UTRGV School of Medicine in the Rio Grande Valley.

Dr. Shine served as president of the Institute of Medicine, now the National Academy of Medicine from 1992-2002. Under Dr. Shine's leadership, the IOM played an important and visible role in addressing key issues in medicine and healthcare. IOM reports on quality of care and patient safety, heightened national awareness of these issues. IOM researchers led studies on nutrition, food safety, child development; and examined availability and side effects of vaccines.

Dr. Shine was the founding director of the RAND Center for Domestic and International Health Security. He led the Center's efforts to make health a central component of U.S. foreign policy and guide the Center's evolving research agenda. Dr. Shine brought to this new role decades-long experience working with international health experts on global issues such as emerging infectious illnesses, bioethics, and access to care.

Dr. Shine is a professor of medicine emeritus at the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) School of Medicine. A cardiologist and physiologist, he received his M.D. from Harvard Medical School in 1961. Before becoming president of the IOM, he was dean and provost for Medical Sciences at UCLA.

Dr. Shine is a member of many honorary and academic societies, including Phi Beta Kappa and Alpha Omega Alpha, fellow of the American College of Cardiology, master of the American College of Physicians, and was elected to the Institute of Medicine in 1988. He served as chairman of the Council of Deans of the Association of American Medical Colleges from 1991-1992 and was president of the American Heart Association from 1985-1986.

ORDER OF EXERCISE

Welcome and Introduction ..... Leonel Vela, M.D., M.P.H., Senior Associate Dean for Education Resources, Senior Associate Vice President for Education

National Anthem ..... UTRGV Music Student

Graduation Exercises

Greetings and Dean's Address ..... John H. Krouse, M.D., Ph.D., M.B.A, Executive Vice President for Health Affairs and Dean, School of Medicine

Presidential Remarks ..... Guy Bailey, Ph.D., President

UT System Board of Regents Chairman Address ..... Kevin P. Eltife

UT System Board of Regents Remarks ..... Nolan Perez, M.D.

Chancellor's Greetings ..... James B. Milliken

Keynote Speaker ..... Kenneth I. Shine, M.D., Former Executive Vice Chancellor for Health Affairs, University of Texas System, Professor of Medicine, Dell Medical School

Presentation of Candidates

Conferring of Degrees

Recitation of Physician's Oath ..... Nausheen Jamal, M.D. Associate Dean / Designated Institutional Official, Graduate Medical Education

Class of 2020 Presidential Address ..... Julien Mahler

Closing Remarks ..... John H. Krouse, M.D., Ph.D., M.B.A, Executive Vice President for Health Affairs and Dean, School of Medicine

Future Leaders in Medicine, Research, and Patient Care

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School of Medicine

INAUGURAL CLASS

Joy Alvarado
Anna Archbold
Amanda Arreola
Daniel Bajwa
Joseph Boateng
Rachel Boren
Leah Bryan
Alexandra Bulga
Cristina Cepeda
Ye Ji Choi
Daniella Concha
Cleo Desmedt
Zachary Donoviel
Jared Eaves
Danielle Feng
Gabriel Franklin
Keith Garrison
Joseph Garza
Nery Guerrero
Kaitlyn Hall
Shawn Izadi
Christian Lalonde
Michael Lapelusa
Christine Loftis
Katarina Longoria
Dylan Lopez
Julien Mahler
Rogerio Montes
Sravan Narapureddy
Shuemara Ondoy
Niral Patel
Eugene Postevka
Victoria Ragland
Rafael Raya
Ramiro Tovar
Veronica Treviño
Ryan Trimble
Ushma Vadher
Shane Wing

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS
PRAESIDIUM

Actions
Problem
Conclusion
Pledge of Allegiance to the Texas Flag
Honor the Texas Flag;
I pledge allegiance
to thee, Texas,
one state under God,
one and indivisible.

Hippocratic Oath

(Modern Version)

I swear to fulfill, to the best of my ability and judgment, this covenant:

I will respect the hard-won scientific gains of those physicians in whose steps I walk, and gladly share such knowledge as is mine with those who are to follow.

I will apply, for the benefit of the sick, all measures which are required, avoiding those twin traps of overtreatment and therapeutic nihilism.

I will remember that there is art to medicine as well as science, and that warmth, sympathy, and understanding may outweigh the surgeon's knife or the chemist's drug.

I will not be ashamed to say "I know not," nor will I fail to call in my colleagues when the skills of another are needed for a patient's recovery.

I will respect the privacy of my patients, for their problems are not disclosed to me that the world may know. Most especially must I tread with care in matters of life and death. This awesome responsibility must be faced with great humbleness and awareness of my own frailty. Above all, I must not play at God.

I will remember that I do not treat a fever chart, a cancerous growth, but a sick human being, whose illness may affect the person's family and economic stability. My responsibility includes these related problems, if I am to care adequately for the sick.

I will prevent disease whenever I can, for prevention is preferable to cure.

I will remember that I remain a member of society, with special obligations to all my fellow human beings, those sound of mind and body as well as the infirm.

If I do not violate this oath, may I enjoy life and art, respected while I live and remembered with affection thereafter. May I always act so as to preserve the finest traditions of my calling and may I long experience the joy of healing those who seek my help.

(Adapted from The Modern Hippocratic Oath written in 1964 by Louis Lasagna, former Academic Dean of the School of Medicine at Tufts University.)

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Vijian Dhevan, M.D. ..... Interim Chair, Department of Surgery
Michael Dobbs, M.D., M.H.C.M. ..... Chair, Department of Neurology
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Robert Nelson, M.D. ..... Chair, Department of Pediatrics
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Ihsan Salloum, M.D., M.P.H. ..... Chair, Department of Neuroscience
Andrew Tsin, Ph.D. ..... Chair, Department of Molecular Science
Leonel Vela, M.D., M.P.H. ..... Interim Chair, Department of Family Medicine
Sarah Williams-Blangero, Ph.D. ..... Chair, Department of Human Genetics

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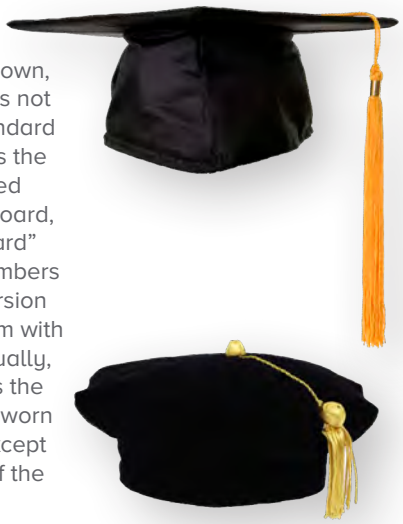
COSTUMES AND CUSTOMS OF COMMENCEMENT

The colorful costumes and traditional customs of college commencements trace their beginnings back to the origins of the modern university in medieval Europe. Modern American colleges and universities carry on many traditions that began at Oxford and Cambridge to demonstrate the continuity of learning over the centuries and to emphasize the importance attached to commencement exercises. Academic regalia refer to the distinctive attire worn by students, faculty and other university officials at commencement. The origins of academic dress date back to the 12th and 13th centuries, when universities were taking form. The ordinary dress of the scholar, whether student or teacher, was the dress of a cleric. Though the custom of wearing academic dress was brought to America in colonial times, it was not until 1895 that a standardized code of academic dress was established and followed by most colleges and universities. The gown, hood, cap and additional ornaments are the main categories of academic regalia and are distinctive for each degree.

CAPS



Headwear is an important component of the cap and gown, and the academic costume is not complete without it. The standard commencement headwear is the Oxford cap, a skullcap topped by a square cloth-covered board, the reason for its "mortarboard" nickname. Some faculty members wear a softer Cambridge version of the cap that is a velvet tam with four, six or eight corners. Usually, the color of the cap matches the color of the gown. Caps are worn throughout the ceremony except for men during the singing of the national anthem.

TASSEL

The tassel is attached to a button on the top of the cap and hangs down to the right for bachelor's candidates until their degree is conferred. Many universities ceremoniously have graduates move their tassel from the right to the left. Both master's and doctoral candidates tassels often begin and remain on the left.

GOWNS

The doctoral degree gown is the most elaborate of academic regalia. The doctoral degree gown is faced down the front and usually black. Three bars of velvet are used across the sleeves. These facings and crossbars may be of the color distinctive for the degree, or the institution's colors. The color associated with the medical discipline is green. In addition, the hood worn for the doctoral degree should only have panels at the sides.

HOODS

The hood is derived from the cowls worn by clerics in the Middle Ages for warmth. Today they are worn symbolically, hanging down the back. Master's hoods are 3 1/2 feet in length and have a velvet trim along the edge. Doctoral hoods are 4 feet in length and have a wider velvet trim. The satin lining of the hood, worn so that it can be seen, reflects the colors of the degree-granting institution. The color of the velvet trim signifies the academic discipline of the wearer's degree. As codified by the American Council on Education, some of the official colors associated with the various degrees and disciplines are:

White: Arts and Letters
Drab: Business/Accounting
Light Blue: Education
Orange: Engineering
Purple: Law
Lemon: Library Science
Green: Medicine
Pink: Music
Brown: Fine Arts
Apricot: Nursing
Olive Green: Pharmacy
Dark Blue: Philosophy
Sage Green: Physical Education
Salmon Pink: Public Health
Golden Yellow: Science
Citron: Social Work
Peacock Blue: Public Administrati

In the case of the Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) degree, the da blue color represents the mastery of learning and scholarship in any field, not just the field of philosophy.

ADDITIONAL ORNAMENTS

Some participants in the commencement ceremony will wear additional ornaments such as colored cords, medallions, stoles, or sashes. These ornaments signify the wearer's membership in an honor society or special group.

CHAIN OF OFFICE AND PRESIDENTIAL MEDALLION

The presidential medallion is the official insignia of the university president and is worn at commencement and other ceremonial occasions. Like many academic traditions, the display of a heavy "chain of office" comes from medieval regalia and represents the weight of responsibility for the wearer.

The UTRGV medallion and chain was designed in 2015 and executed by the jewelry students, jewelry faculty, and craftsman Lino Guiza in the UTRGV School of Art. The medallion is made up of two parts – the seal of The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley surrounded by an abstract sunburst created with a brick and mortar design. The cactus flowers on the outer edges of the seal are placed at the four cardinal points with the largest flower pointing south. The counter weight to the medallion is a representation of the native sabal palm. The Chain of Office is a circlet of art deco-inspired links representing the past, while revealing an infrastructure of bridges, aqueducts and gears that speak to the importance of our solid foundation, water, and movement into the future. The chain features many aspects of the Rio Grande Valley that aid our growth and commitment to higher education:

Arches
Water
Turbine
Neuron Tree
Circuit Board

Abacus
Bone
Binary Code
Leaves/Quills
Butterfly

Tortoise
Finger Print
Road Junction
Satellite

BELL

Our stately bronze bell, circa 1850, lives on the Brownsville campus. It is rung during commencement to symbolize a rite of passage and proclaims that a worthy and well-qualified individual has passed from one station in their life to a loftier one. Our bell is also the icon for the Bell Scholarship Endowment. Two outstanding students are selected to ring the bell at each commencement.

CEREMONIAL MACE

In Medieval Times, the mace was a symbol of authority and carried before or set near a high official when ceremonies or sessions were being conducted. Today, the mace symbolizes the university's governing authority and signifies the proceedings are officially sanctioned. Traditionally, the chair of the Faculty Senate acting as the Grand Marshal carries the mace to lead the academic procession at commencement and other special ceremonies.

The UTRGV 47" ceremonial mace was designed in 2016 by students in the School of Art and a committee of faculty from anthropology, archeology, geology, history, communication and art. The head and seals of the mace were 3D printed and cast at the UTRGV School of Art. The mace is intricately imbued with historical, cultural and architectural meaning.

The handles of the mace are made of mesquite wood locally sourced in the Rio Grande Valley and engraved with a decorative pattern of the state's official turtle, the Ridley, and wind turbines.

The helix, between the handles, represents the coming together of the legacy institutions. The helix is made of petrified palm, the official stone of Texas.

The base is crafted from mesquite and inlaid with blue selenite, thought to be associated with mental clarity, truth and honesty, and to represent the Rio Grande River.

The tip of the mace is made of El Sauz Chert excavated and donated by Dr. Juan L. Gonzalez.

MEMORY STOLE

When students graduate from UTRGV they know they did not make the journey alone. The Memory Stole, a symbol of appreciation, is worn by graduates during the commencement ceremony. Following the ceremony they are encouraged to present the stole to a special family member, professor, or friend as a symbol of gratitude and appreciation for their support, inspiration or mentorship.

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