



School of Podiatric Medicine

White Coat CEREMONY

CLASS OF 2026

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 28, 2022

ORDER OF PROGRAM

Welcome and Introduction to Ceremony

Javier Cavazos, DPM, FACPM, RCPS

Associate Dean of Academic Affairs, UTRGV School of Podiatric Medicine

Student Processional

Class of 2026

National Anthem

Sharmin Bootwala

Katherine Castillo

Vanessa Cortez

Sean Smith

SOPM Class of 2026

Presentation of Faculty and Dean

Javier Cavazos, DPM, FACPM, RCPS

Associate Dean of Academic Affairs, UTRGV School of Podiatric Medicine

School of Podiatric Medicine Dean's Address

Javier La Fontaine, DPM, MS, Med

Dean, UTRGV School of Podiatric Medicine

Welcome Message on behalf of Faculty

Tyreen Heybeck, DPM

Assistant Professor and Academic Program Coordinator for Surgery and

Biomechanics, UTRGV School of Podiatric Medicine

Keynote Speaker

George "Tye" Liu, DPM, FACFAS

Associate Professor, Medical Director, Orthopaedic Surgery Outpatient Clinic

Department of Orthopaedic Surgery

University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center

ORDER OF PROGRAM

Presentation of Students and Cloaking of White Coats

Veronica Villarreal, MS, LPC

Medical Education Evaluation & Assessment Manager

Javier La Fontaine, DPM, MS, Med

Dean, UTRGV School of Podiatric Medicine

Javier Cavazos, DPM, FACPM, RCPS

Associate Dean of Academic Affairs, UTRGV School of Podiatric Medicine

Pinning of White Coats

Recitation of Hippocratic Oath

Veronica Villarreal, MS, LPC

Medical Education Evaluation & Assessment Manager

Students

SOPM Class of 2026

Ringling of the Bell

Ariana Ruiz, SOPM Class of 2026

Madeleine Mehaffey, SOPM Class of 2026

Closing Remarks and Instructions

Madeleine Mehaffey, SGA President

Student Recessional

Class of 2026

Prerecorded Processional and Recessional Music by: UTRGV Wind Ensemble under the direction of Dr. Saul Torres, Lecturer III

TEXAS PODIATRIC MEDICAL ASSOCIATION



The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley School of Podiatric Medicine gratefully acknowledges The Texas Podiatric Medical Association for its ongoing support and guidance.

The Texas Podiatric Medical Association has generously provided each podiatric medical student in the Class of 2026 with a label pin.

The Texas Podiatric Medical Association (TPMA) is a non-profit professional association representing more than 640 members who are doctors of podiatric medicine licensed to practice podiatry in the State of Texas. The stated mission of the Association is unifying and empowering podiatric physicians in providing excellence in foot and ankle care for all Texans.

HIPPOCRATIC OATH

I do solemnly swear, by whatever I hold most sacred: That I will be loyal to the profession of medicine and just and generous to its members. That I will lead my life and practice my profession in uprightness and honor.

That into whatsoever house I shall enter, it shall be for the good of the sick to the utmost of my power, holding myself far aloof from wrong, from corruption, from the tempting of others to vice. That I will exercise my profession solely for the cure of my patients, and will give no drug, perform no operation for a criminal purpose, even if solicited; far less suggest it. That whatsoever I shall see or hear of the lives of all persons which is not fitting to be spoken, I will keep inviolably secret.

These things do I swear. While I continue to keep this Oath unviolated, may it be granted to me to enjoy life and the practice of the art, respected by all, in all times. But should I trespass and violate this Oath, may the reverse be my lot!

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

CLASS OF 2026

Stephanie Bender
Rancho Viejo, Texas

Victoria Bender
Rancho Viejo, Texas

Sharmin Bootwala
San Antonio, Texas

Katherine Castillo
League City, Texas

Ashily Chemplayil
Pearland, Texas

Vanessa Cortez
San Antonio, Texas

Garrett Edwards
Mission, Texas

Peter Elvin
Corpus Christi, Texas

Joccelyn Garcia
San Juan, Texas

Elissa George
Pearland, Texas

Ricardo Gonzalez
McAllen, Texas

James Hughes
Signal Hill, California

Olivia Mackey
Houston, Texas

Serena Markose
Pearland, Texas

Madeleine Mehaffey
Hamilton, Texas

Ileana Morfin
Beach City, Texas

Saqib Nasir
Houston, Texas

Nicholas Obias
Houston, Texas

Abelardo Osuna
Laredo, Texas

Zachary Perez
Edinburg, Texas

Erin Poulin
Houston, Texas

Nathaniel Primous
Marshall, Texas

Alfonso Reyes
Allen, Texas

Jonathan Rodriguez
Cleburne, Texas

Ariana Ruiz
Eagle Pass, Texas

Sean Smith
Houston, Texas

Isabella Strash
San Antonio, Texas



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