

COMMENCEMENT



School of Medicine

CLASS OF
2021



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 congratulate the class of 2021.

During this unprecedented time, you have faced unique challenges to become a physician in the time of a pandemic. Each of you should be recognized for overcoming this unique hardship. As a UTRGV School of Medicine graduate, however, I am confident that you will successfully conquer any hurdle that comes your way in the future.

Throughout your past four years as a medical student, you have had to work diligently in your classes and clinical rotations. In addition to these efforts, however, you have also had to navigate a world in the time of COVID-19. I know that arriving here today at graduation was no easy task, and I commend you for your dedication and hard work.

This Class of 2021 is filled with talented students from the Rio Grande Valley, the state of Texas, and across the country. You each reflect UTRGV's mission-driven efforts in providing educational opportunities, quality healthcare, and cutting-edge research right here in our own backyard.

As a UTRGV School of Medicine graduate, I hope that you carry with you the life lessons you have learned here as you embark on the next chapter of your life. Never forget the sacred oath and commitment you have made to provide your patients with the utmost respect, compassion, and quality healthcare throughout your careers, irrespective of their status in life, their station, or their ability to pay.

I would also like to take a moment to thank the families and friends who provided our medical students with the support and incentive they needed to finish their degrees during a very tumultuous time in our nation. They could not have succeeded without your support.

Finally, I would like to give a special thanks to the dedicated UTRGV School of Medicine's faculty, staff, and administrators who guided our Class of 2021 through its medical school journeys. You can now witness the collective hard work and dedication come to fruition as the members of this class receive their respective degrees. Congratulations to all!



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 school's vision is to be a leader in the creation of a diverse and representative workforce, the stimulation of biomedical innovation, and the delivery of patient-centered health care for the Rio Grande Valley and beyond.

Transforming Healthcare

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 19 hospital-based training programs across the Rio Grande Valley, with more training programs on the horizon.

Our faculty is dedicated to graduating culturally aware medical students who will be able to provide exemplary care to diverse populations and improve health outcomes here in the Valley and throughout Texas and the nation. Training the next generation of physicians is just one way that UTRGV is responsive to the needs of the community. UT Health Rio Grande Valley, part of the UTRGV School of Medicine, also proudly supports the Valley's medical response to the pandemic and currently offers primary and specialty care at 25 clinical sites from Rio Grande City to Laguna Vista.

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 the creation of the Regional Academic Health Center (RAHC) under UT Health San Antonio, formerly UT Health Science Center at San Antonio, with sites in Harlingen and Edinburg.

In **2002**, the RAHC started training third and fourth year medical students.

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 and The University of Texas—Pan American—and the RAHC.

In **2013**, the Texas Legislature authorized the formation of 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, which graduated in 2020.



The UTRGV School of Medicine now has more than **200 medical students** and over **200 medical residents and fellows** serving in 19 hospital-based training programs throughout the Valley, with more training programs on the horizon.

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

**M. Roy Wilson, MD, MS**

President M. Roy Wilson
Wayne State University

M. Roy Wilson, M.D., M.S., was unanimously elected President of Wayne State University by the Board of Governors on June 5, 2013. He assumed the presidency on August 1, 2013.

Prior to joining Wayne State, Dr. Wilson served as deputy director for strategic scientific planning and program coordination at the National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities (NIMHD) of the National Institutes of Health (NIH).

Previously, Dr. Wilson was dean of the School of Medicine and vice president for health sciences at Creighton University, president of the Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center, chancellor of the University of Colorado Denver/Anschutz Medical Campus and chair of the Board of Directors of University of Colorado Hospital. Immediately prior to joining NIH, Dr. Wilson chaired the Board of Directors of Charles R. Drew University of Medicine and Science and was acting president during part of that time.

Dr. Wilson's research has focused on glaucoma and blindness in populations from the Caribbean to West Africa. He holds elected memberships in the National Academy of Medicine (Institute of Medicine), the Glaucoma Research Society, the American Ophthalmological Society, and the Society of Medical Administrators. He has served on the executive committee of the NIH-funded Ocular Hypertension Treatment Study and chaired the Data Monitoring and Oversight Committee of both the NIH-funded Los Angeles Latino Eye Study, and the African-American Eye Disease Study. Dr. Wilson was a member of the advisory councils of both the National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities and the former National Center for Research Resources, and currently serves on the Advisory Council of the NIH Director as well as the NIH Director's National Advisory Committee on Diversity in the Biomedical Research Workforce (Co-chair). He has served on the governing boards of many national organizations including the Association of Public and Land-Grant Universities (APLU) and the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC), where he served as Chair (2017-2018).

Dr. Wilson received his undergraduate degree from Allegheny College, an M.S. in epidemiology from the University of California, Los Angeles, and an M.D. from Harvard Medical School. He was selected for the list of Best Doctors in America for a consecutive 14 years by Best Doctors Inc. and was a finalist for the Los Angeles Business Journal's Healthcare CEO of the Year in 2011.

His additional honors include the American Academy of Ophthalmology's Senior Achievement Award, the Distinguished Physician Award from the Minority Health Institute, the Herbert W. Nickens Award from the Association of American Medical Colleges, the NIH Director's Award, the President's Award from the American Glaucoma Society, the Lifetime Research Award from the W. Montague Cobb Institute, the Justice Award from the Arab-American Civil Rights League and the Detroit branch of the NAACP, and the Excellence in Educational Leadership Award from the Detroit Regional Chamber.

ORDER OF EXERCISES

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

National Anthem

COMMENCEMENT EXERCISE

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

Dean's Greeting and 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

Keynote Speaker M. Roy Wilson, M.D., M.S., President, Wayne State University

Address by Master of Science in Bioethics Director Helene J. Krouse, Ph.D., A.N.P-BC, F.A.A.N.
Founding Program Director of Master of Science in Bioethics

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

Presentation of Candidates

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

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

ANNOUNCING THE CANDIDATES

Carlo Tamayo, M.A. Associate Director of Outreach





**Future Leaders in Medicine,
Research, and Patient Care**



UT Health : School of
Rio Grande Valley : Medicine

DOCTOR OF MEDICINE

Mario R. Aguilar Jr.
Brownsville, TX

Shah Z. Ali
Jersey City, TX

Adrian D. Barrera
Rio Grande City, TX

Lauren M. Bayliss
Seguin, TX

Luis R. Berrios
Rowlett, TX

Benjamin J. Brunell
Temple, TX

Jason C. Burton
Saint George, UT

D'Andrea R. Ceasar
Houston, TX

Jose Chavez
Pecos, TX

Anjalee A. Choudhury
Round Rock, TX

Sabrina L. Doffing
McAllen, TX

Armando J. Flores
McAllen, TX

Giuseppe A. Fonseca Badillo
Houston, TX

Corey V. Fuentes
Mission, TX

Cole E. Glasgow
Dallas, TX

Aaron T. Gomez
South Jordan, UT

Jonathan Guajardo
Baytown, TX

Baine Herrera
Houston, TX

Matthew E. Hidalgo
San Antonio, TX

Shea'-Lynn F. Hopson
Evansville, TX

Rouzbah Kotaki
McAllen, TX

Abraham Lee
Mission, TX

Alexander R. Lee
Houston, TX

Jiyun Lim
College Station, TX

Annalisa Lopez
McAllen, TX

Kathleen Lutchi
Aurora, CO

Christopher L. Martin
Plano, TX

Miriam Martinez
Vinton, TX

Rogelio Z. Mendoza
San Benito, TX

Sarah E. Miller
Grapevine, TX

Sonya R. Montes
Brownsville, TX

Kevin Mutore
Justin, TX

Vania Nwokolo
Houston, TX

Leslie M. Ocampo
Los Angeles, CA

Ibrahim Odewale
Bloomfield, NJ

Macaulay O. Ojeaga
McAllen, TX

Patrick A. Ojeaga
McAllen, TX

Adedayo O. Okanlawon
Missouri City, TX

Alexa Perlick
Houston, TX

Chelsea T. Peterson
Littleton, CO

Courtney E. Remington
Charlottesville, VA

Angel M. Rendon
Monterrey, NL

Lauren E. Roddy
Georgetown, TX

Michael Rotko
McAllen, TX

Stacy M. Sebastian
Houston, TX

Moktar A. Sheikh-Salah
Riverdale, MD

Jacob A. Smith
Highlands Ranch, CO

Abaigeal M. Thompson
College Station, TX

Fabiola Valenzuela
Arlington, TX

Jose R. Velasquez
McAllen, TX

Colton D. Wayne
Arlington, TX

MASTER OF SCIENCE IN BIOETHICS

Julio Cesar Rodriguez Araujo
McAllen, TX

Veronica De Leon
Brownsville, TX

Swathi Holla
McAllen, TX

Kiara Paradyse Olmeda
Houston, TX

Adela I. Parras
Mission, TX

Nicolas Restrepo
McAllen, TX

LeAnna Marie Salinas
Mission, TX





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.)

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS RIO GRANDE VALLEY EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP

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Parwinder Grewal, Ph.D.	Executive Vice President for Research, Graduate Studies and New Program Development
John Krouse, M.D., Ph.D., M.B.A.	Executive Vice President for Health Affairs and Dean, School of Medicine
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Sofia Hernandez, M.P.A.	Chief Operating Officer, Chief Diversity Officer
Michael Patriarca, M.B.A.	Executive Vice Dean, Finance and Administration
Michael Dobbs, M.D., M.H.C.M.	Vice Dean, Clinical Affairs, Chief Medical Officer
Andrew Dentino, M.D., F.A.C.P., A.G.S.F., F.A.P.A., F.A.A.H.P.M.	Vice Dean, Academic Affairs

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John Ronnau, Ph.D.	Senior Associate Dean, Community Health Partnerships
Andrew Tsin, Ph.D.	Senior Associate Dean, Research
Leonel Vela, M.D., M.P.H.	Senior Associate Dean, Educational Resources
Naomi D'Acolatse, M.D., M.P.H., F.A.A.F.P.	Associate Dean, Educational Affairs, Undergraduate Medical Education
Stanley Fisch, M.D.	Associate Dean, Student Affairs
Nausheen Jamal, M.D.	Associate Dean / Designated Institutional Official, Graduate Medical Education
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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
Michael Escamilla, M.D.	Chair, Department of Psychiatry
Nausheen Jamal, M.D.	Chair, Department of Otolaryngology - Head and Neck Surgery
Pratip Mitra, MPharm., Ph.D.	Interim Chair, Department of Pharmacology
Robert Nelson, M.D.	Chair, Department of Pediatrics
Tony Ogburn, M.D., F.A.C.O.G.	Chair, Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology
Ihsan Salloum, M.D., M.P.H.	Chair, Department of Neuroscience
Michael Sander, M.D.	Chair, Department of Orthopedic Surgery
Andrew Tsin, Ph.D.	Chair, Department of Molecular Science
Leonel Vela, M.D., M.P.H.	Chair, Department of Family Medicine
Leonel Vela, M.D., M.P.H.	Interim Chair, Department of Population Health and Biostatistics
Sarah Williams-Blangero, Ph.D.	Chair, Department of Human Genetics



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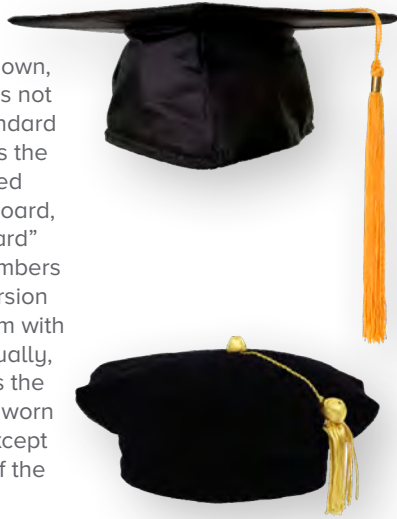
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COSTUMES AND CUSTOMS OF COMMENCEMENT

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 Administration

In the case of the Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) degree, the dark 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 circllet 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.



School of Medicine