



Summer 2022

CAMPUS QUARTERLY

HMSOM NEWS

Hackensack Meridian School of Medicine Commencement Ceremony Leads Graduates Into Residencies

Sixty-three students from the Hackensack Meridian School of Medicine are now doctors - and are beginning their residencies to start their careers.

The medical students came from the inaugural 2018 cohort of the medical school (34 students) in a four-year program and the 2019 cohort (29 students), who finished their medical degrees as part of the Phase 3-Residency program.

The commencement's keynote was delivered by Dr. Cornel West, the Dietrich Bonhoeffer Chair at Union Theological Seminary.



MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN

Our School continues to move forward to fulfill its mission and its vision. Our entire inaugural class has now graduated with medical degrees, and that group has set the bar for excellence. Benefactors from Congress to the Community have taken notice of what we're doing, and that's how we continue to grow our impact in New Jersey—and beyond. Discover some of these developments in this quarterly newsletter.

Interim Dean, Dr. Jeffrey Boscamp

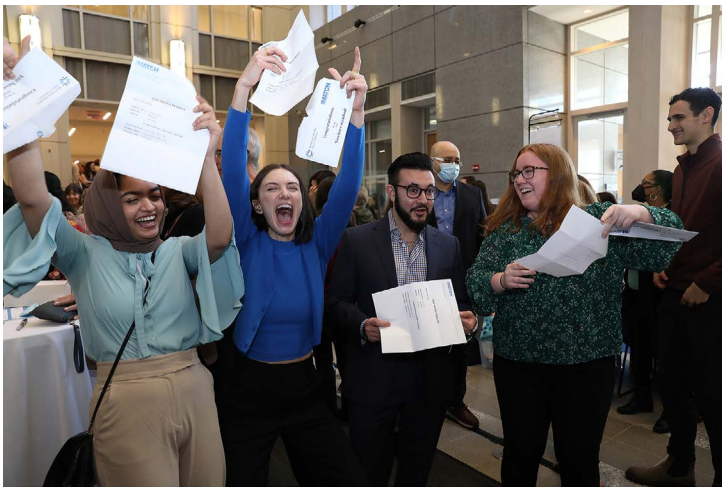
"We believe that to improve healthcare in America, we have to start in how we educate physicians, to teach them to focus on prevention as much as healing," said Robert C. Garrett, CEO of Hackensack Meridian Health. "I am so proud of our graduates and know they will transform healthcare and always put patients at the center of their practice."

Continued on page 2

"We are thrilled that this School's impact continues to grow," said Jeffrey Boscamp, M.D., the interim dean of the School and a professor of pediatrics. "Sending such promising talented doctors out into the world to spread our culture of compassionate and humanistic care is what it is all about."

More than half of the graduates will serve residencies in Hackensack Meridian *Health* hospitals. Residencies for this year include: Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania - Emergency Medicine; the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai - Mount Sinai Hospital - Internal Medicine; and Mayo Clinic School of Graduate Medical Education - Orthopedic Surgery.

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Hackensack Meridian School of Medicine Holds First In-person 'Match Day'

On March 18, students primed to graduate the Hackensack Meridian School of Medicine opened the envelopes and discovered where they will be going for their residencies to start their medical careers. These students have since completed their medical education at the School, with commencement on June 8.

The 63 students are roughly split between students from the inaugural 2018 Cohort who are

completing the four-year track, and a contingent from the 2019 Cohort who are finishing their medical degree in three years, as part of the Phase 3-Residency (P3-R) option. All of the P3-R contingent will assume residencies across the Hackensack Meridian Health network later this year.

They are all among an estimated 44,000 graduating medical students who found out where they will "match" through the National Resident Matching Program® (NRMP).

"Match Day is always rightfully an exciting day for the students – and also for the educators," said Jeffrey Boscamp, M.D., interim dean of the School. "So much hard work goes into getting to this point, and it's a milestone on a professional journey no one ever forgets."

[Read More](#)...and watch [ABC7's coverage of our Day here](#).



'Leveraging the COVID Research Spike': SOM Students, Faculty Publish on New Elective

Given the spike in research needs and ideas across a major health network during the COVID-19 pandemic, faculty members at the Hackensack Meridian School of Medicine created a novel avenue to teach doctors-in-training how better to engage in future research.

The creation of a research elective which taught students how to be innovative physician-scientists in their future careers is described in a new paper published in the Elsevier journal *Medical Science Educator*.

The elective aimed to teach students how to critically assess COVID-19 research proposals by researchers and physicians from across the Hackensack Meridian *Health* network in New Jersey, in response to the needs presented by the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020.

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\$1 Million Gifted to School's Human Dimension Program

A \$1 million gift to the Hackensack Meridian School of Medicine from Roger and Carin Ehrenberg will support the school's Human Dimension program, which benefits both medical students and New Jersey communities. A three-year course, the Human Dimension program provides service-learning experiences and an integrated curriculum for medical students in which they come to understand the many Social Determinants of Health, including personal, economic and environmental challenges that greatly impact health.

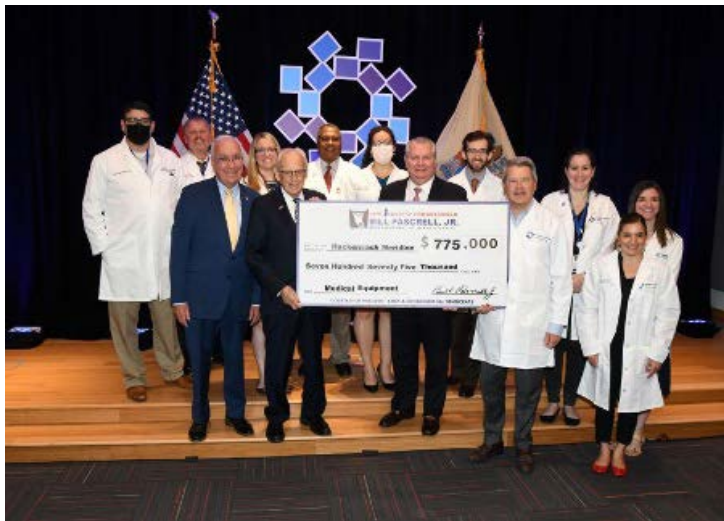
"The Human Dimension program is foundational to the Hackensack Meridian School of Medicine's innovative curriculum," said Robert C. Garrett, CEO of Hackensack Meridian *Health*. "We are grateful for this generous gift which will help us continue to reinvent medical education to create a physician workforce that will thrive in a new state of health care that focuses as much on prevention as curing illness."

Since its start in 2018, 335 students in the Human Dimension program have learned from and assisted 257 families in nine communities across five counties, and have taken on 35 community health projects. The program's 35 faculty mem-

bers have been integral in the success of the program and in leading another key aspect of it: the Professional Identity Formation curriculum. This training includes reflection, narrative medicine, resilience-building, mindfulness and other skills and activities to support student development as resilient, empathic professionals able to meet the needs of their patients.

“By matching our future physicians to individuals and families from underserved areas, and through interactions over the entire core curriculum, they become involved in all aspects of a family’s life to understand drivers of health outcomes, provide education and navigate community resources,” said Jeffrey Boscamp, M.D., interim dean of Hackensack Meridian School of Medicine.

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Rep Bill Pascrell Visits Campus, Announces Funding for SOM

Congressman Bill Pascrell, Jr. visited the campus on May 9 with some great news: his office secured some \$775,000 for additional equipment to bolster our curriculum.

Our School’s Leaders were pleased to once again host the Congressman, and show him some of our

state-of-the-art learning spaces we’re planning to make even better with his help.



Dr. David Kountz recognized by Becker’s Hospital Review

David Kountz, M.D., Professor of Medicine and Founding Senior Associate Dean for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion at the Hackensack Meridian School of Medicine, Co-chief Academic Officer and Vice President for Academic Diversity of Hackensack Meridian *Health*, has been recognized as a key healthcare leader in 2022. Dr. Kountz has been one of our Human Dimension small group faculty member since the school opened in 2018.

[Learn more about Dr. Kountz’s other work](#)



FEATURED FACES

Hoffman, Terlecky Named Vice Deans of the Hackensack Meridian School of Medicine

Two members of the dean's cabinet, who have been part of the Hackensack Meridian School of Medicine since its inception, have been named vice deans of the School.

Miriam Hoffman, M.D., has been named the vice dean for Academic Affairs, and Stanley R. Terlecky, Ph.D., was named vice dean for Research and Medical Sciences.



*Vice deans Miriam Hoffman, M.D. and
Stanley R. Terlecky, Ph.D.*

"These two leaders have been crucial to the development of our medical school," said Jeffrey

Boscamp, M.D., interim dean. "Drs. Hoffman and Terlecky bring expertise which has helped shape our success in just a few short years."

Boscamp, previously the sole vice dean, was named interim dean in January, in the wake of the sudden passing of Bonita Stanton, M.D., the founding dean of the school.

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Voices of HMSOM: Torres Saw Himself Being a Doctor Early On

Joseph Torres remembers being inspired just seeing someone who looked like him – who could someday be him – when he saw the man in the white coat.

Torres was an undergraduate college student doing an internship at Jersey Shore University Medical Center, helping the nurses and doctors in the cardiothoracic intensive care unit with moving patients, monitoring vital signs, everything.

The one particular intensivist was a Hispanic male. Torres, who knew he liked science, but didn't know what lay ahead as a career, immediately saw some of himself in the physician.

"He was similar to me – to see him explaining things to patients and sharing insights with me was really important," said Torres. "I don't even think he even realized this, because I don't think I formally introduced myself. But I kind of saw myself in him. I thought, 'If he can do it, then why can't I?'"

Torres never looked back.

He's now finishing up a successful four years as part of the inaugural class at the Hackensack Meridian School of Medicine. On Match Day he will find out where he will pursue his residency in emergency medicine – and in June he will graduate from the school as a medical doctor. Growing up in a working-class family in nearby Elizabeth, the son of a police officer, he will be the first physician in his family and extended group of friends.

"Joseph Torres is a great doctor-in-training," said Jeffrey Boscamp, M.D., the interim dean of the medical school. "He has a passion, and the intelligence, emblematic of the kinds of excellent physicians we are fostering here from all different backgrounds."

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Congratulations to Emma and Allison!

HMSOM is proud to announce that M3s Emma Baniak and Allison Zuckerberg have been selected for the American Psychiatric Association (APA)'s 2022 Summer Medical Student Program!

The APA Foundation Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) Summer Medical Student Program provides medical students who are interested in serving underserved communities the experiential learning, training, and professional development they need to be leaders in the field of psychiatry.

Allison shared her excitement for being selected. "I'm particularly excited that this program will cover the cost of travel and housing for New Orleans for the APA's annual meeting," she said. "It will be an opportunity to meet and network with some of APA's renowned national leaders. It has been a goal of mine to attend the annual meeting since my first year of medical school. This year's theme is Social Determinants of Health which cannot be understated in psychiatry or all of medicine. Be-

sides this, we will have access to educational material from the APA Learning Center.”

Emma said she is “also thrilled to be going to the APA conference especially because most of our time in medical school we haven’t had many opportunities like this because of COVID. I think being able to go to this conference is especially fitting given the conference theme is social determinants of mental health. I am passionate about this opportunity to learn and network with those with similar interests. I am also excited for the opportunity to go to the conference because I will be presenting a poster on a case report I started while on my psychiatry clerkship so it feels like this opportunity brings me full circle.”

Two new Team Members have joined the Office of Institutional Effectiveness and Assessment!

Evelyn Paredes has dedicated her career to the connection of technology, assessment, and accreditation. Evelyn holds a BS in Computer Science, possesses a strong academic background, and has eleven years of extensive experience in



higher education. She previously held the position of Assessment/Accreditation and Data Manager at Eastern Oregon University (EOU) in La Grande, Oregon where she also served as the Field Placement Coordinator and Teacher Licensure Officer. (i.e., she worked with the Clinical Partnership Coordinators to foster the placement of new student teachers in new field sites). Evelyn previously worked for San Diego State University in Calexico, CA, as an Information Technology Consultant. Earlier in her career, Evelyn worked at Mercy College

in Dobbs Ferry, NY. She has presented at various conferences on topics such as assessment systems, ePortfolios, data reporting, and achieving accreditation from the Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation (CAEP) as well as the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE).

Kyle Featherston is an experienced researcher who holds a Ph.D. in Psychological & Brain Sciences from Washington University in St. Louis. His research background is in cognitive psychology with expertise in the assessment of memory



and the relationship between memory and other areas of cognition. As a research psychologist, Dr. Featherston developed expertise in measurement and assessment as well as research methods and statistics. Prior to graduate school, Kyle received his bachelor’s degree from the College of William & Mary. He has published multiple research articles in scholarly publications and presented his research at many professional conferences. Kyle has both teaching experience in higher ed and a passion for improving education. He is looking forward to working with both students and faculty on research and assessment, being a part of the OIEA team, and helping achieve the vision and mission of the school.



HMSOM UPDATES

COVID Vaccine Drive at Garfield High School

For their Human Dimension Community Health Project, HMSOM students organized a COVID vaccine drive at Garfield High School. Under the supervision of Dr. Jose Contreras and HMH nurses, they administered initial doses and boosters to students, staff, and members of the community!



Community Council Helping to Feed and Clothe Locally

In an effort to make a positive impact and foster a sense of community, the HMSOM Community Council decided to partner with the Nutley Family Services Bureau in collecting food and clothing items for those in need!



SOM, Family Hold Memorial to Dr. Bonita Stanton

The School held a beautiful Celebration of Life ceremony to remember Dean Stanton on March 12. Colleagues, friends, and family shared poignant stories and reflected on her legacy.

