

# POSTBACCALAUREATE PRE-HEALTH PROGRAM

*Fall 2023 Newsletter*



## Director's Message: New Beginnings

A new start always brings new challenges, new opportunities, and fresh perspectives that cannot help but unlock potential. Our students experience this every year, every semester, every lecture. While the courses needed to prepare our students for their professional goals remain consistent, no semester is the same as those past and those yet to come, as each student and each cohort has a unique composition. I am thrilled to be a part of an eighth year of helping an inspirational group of postbacc students demonstrate their potential in the pursuit of making America's healthcare system better.

As we all know, many new beginnings stem from endings. Professor Ron Tuma, the program's advanced core Physiology instructor since its inception, retired this year. He was a favorite among students and colleagues, and I consider him a friend and mentor. He made everyone he worked with better. Fortunately for the program, Professor Tuma also happens to have both taught and mentored Professor Rebecca Sullivan, who accepted the Physiology teaching appointment with the program. Based on student feedback, Professor Sullivan - the Vice-Chair of the Lewis Katz School of Medicine Department of Biomedical Education and Data Science - is carrying on the tradition of excellent Physiology instruction in the postbacc program. Some other changes will be elaborated upon later in the newsletter.

The program's Founding Director, Grace Hershman, MEd, also retired in December, leaving big shoes to fill. As I step into the role, I feel even more connected to postbacc students because I believe this new start for me is akin to theirs in the program. It is easy to look at the road ahead and know that there are challenges ahead and much work to be done, but that is the tiniest of iceberg tips. Each of us will discover something new every day and become better at adapting to whatever our new stimuli have in store for us. Some days will be easier than others, but each will be educational. There will be highs and lows, but focus and effort will not waiver, resulting in growth and success.

The success of this program has always been a direct result of the hard work and high expectations of its faculty, staff, and students, and that is a tradition I fully intend to foster in every way that the postbacc team and I can dream up.

Thank you,

*Bob Rarig, PhD, Program Director*



Jack Dickson (BCHS '20) and  
Danielle Zolotnitsky (BCHS '22)



Ashley Holland (ACHS '22) and  
Jordan Greene (ACHS '22)

### Dental School Class of 2027 Matriculants

Amer Dhaliwal (ACHS '22) matriculated into **University of Louisville's School of Dentistry!**

Amanda Rappa (ACHS '22) matriculated into **Stony Brook University School of Dental Medicine!**

### Medical School Class of 2027 Matriculants

Safari Baron (BCHS '20), Nicolas Amongero (ACHS '22), Chris Chang (BCHS '22), Marie Staley (BCHS '22), Orrin Wilson (BCHS '22), & Sarah Weiss (BCHS '23) matriculated into **Temple University's Lewis Katz School of Medicine!**

Max Torres (BCHS '20) matriculated into **A.T. Still University – Kirksville College of Osteopathic Medicine!**

Brian Patchett (ACHS '23) matriculated into **Alabama College of Medicine!**

CJ Panza (ACHS '22) matriculated into **Albert Einstein College of Medicine!**

Seth Lutsic (BCHS '21) matriculated into **Campbell University – Jerry M. Wallace School of Osteopathic Medicine!**

William Rathbone, Esq. (BCHS '22) matriculated into **Dartmouth College – Geisel School of Medicine!**

Ulyana Danylyshyn (BCHS '20), Christine Deng (BCHS '20), Jade Dodge (BCHS '21), & Alfred Fustakgi (BCHS '22) matriculated into **Drexel University College of Medicine!**

Jordan Greene (ACHS '22) & Ashley Holland (ACHS '22) matriculated into **Howard University College of Medicine!**

Reed Apostol (BCHS '21) matriculated into **Kansas City University College of Osteopathic Medicine!**

Candy Chen (ACHS '22) matriculated into **Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine!**

Brittney Ramsey (ACHS '20), Magdalena Falasca (BCHS '22), & Liam Rea (BCHS '22) matriculated into **Lincoln Memorial University – DeBusk College of Osteopathic Medicine!**

Annie Phan (ACHS '20) matriculated into **Midwestern University – Arizona College of Osteopathic Medicine!**

Niketa Dixit (ACHS '21) matriculated into **New Mexico State University – Burrell College of Osteopathic Medicine!**

Kaitlyn Beechay (ACHS '22) matriculated into **Noorda College of Osteopathic Medicine!**

Adnan Alladin (ACHS '22) matriculated into **Northeast Ohio Medical University!**

Shauna Barton (ACHS '20) matriculated into **Nova Southeastern Univ. – Kiran Patel College of Osteopathic Medicine!**

Nyambura Mwathi (ACHS '21) matriculated into **Oregon Health and Science University School of Medicine!**

Javeria Siddiqui (ACHS '21), Jarinat Sola-Rufai (ACHS '21), Asher Kim (A/BCHS '22), Jordan McCarry (ACHS '22), Ashima Bhanot (ACHS '23), Suzanna Cantwell (ACHS '23), Alex Finkel (ACHS '23), Daniel O'Lone (BCHS '23), Jina Park (ACHS '23), & Rehman Sardar (ACHS '23) matriculated into **Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine!**

Lillian Alonzo (ACHS '21) & Pranaya Gade (ACHS '22) matriculated into **Rowan-Virtua School of Osteopathic Medicine!**

Shane Martin (ACHS '21) matriculated into **Rush University Medical College!**

Jack Dickson (BCHS '20) & Danielle Zolotnitsky (BCHS '22) matriculated into **Thomas Jefferson University – Sidney Kimmel Medical College!**

Ronan Neuman-Hammond (BCHS '22) matriculated into **Tufts University School of Medicine!**

Samantha Schaefer (ACHS '22) matriculated into **University at Buffalo – Jacobs School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences!**

Priya Patel (ACHS '22) matriculated into **University of Florida College of Medicine!**

Brigdet Njeri (ACHS '22) was accepted (deferred) into **University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine!**

Shane Donahue (ACHS '22) matriculated into **VCOM – Carolinas!**

Ryan Blake (BCHS '22) matriculated into **West Virginia University School of Medicine!**

### Physical Therapy Class of 2026 Matriculants

Anna Merritt (BCHS '23) & Courtney Regan (BCHS '23) matriculated into **Thomas Jefferson University - Sidney Kimmel Medical College's PT Program!**

### Physician Assistant Class of 2025 Matriculants

Sophia Got (ACHS '19) matriculated into **Salus University's PA Program!**

Hannah Cramer (ACHS '22) matriculated into **Cornell University Weil Cornell Graduate School's PA Program!**

Revti Patel (ACHS '22) matriculated into **Temple University Lewis Katz School of Medicine's PA program!**

Megan Saich (ACHS '22) matriculated into **Lock Haven University's PA program!**

Karyn Yates (ACHS '22) matriculated into **University of Maryland Eastern Shore's PA Program!**





**From top to bottom, left to right:**

The E2023 BCHS welcomed Dr. Giardini & Adeola Ogunleye (ACHS '16) from PCOM for an OMM workshop.

Alfred Fustakgi (BCHS '22) welcomes leadership alumna Deneen Ciancaglini to Drexel!

Jarinat Sola-Rufai (ACHS '21) takes a break from being a medical assistant with the office puppy!

Liam Rea (BCHS '22), Magdalena Falasca (BCHS '22), & Britney Ramsey (ACHS '20) pose for photo between duties at DeBusk College of Osteopathic Medicine!

The Postbacc Student Organization help blood donors keep their blood sugar up at their blood drive.

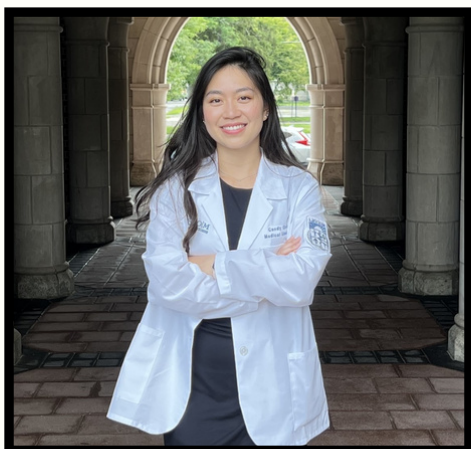
Julie Erhart (BCHS '21) stopped by the office to say hello (ft. the picture of our '22 PCOM Linkage class!).

Sarah Stigberg & Bradley Carpenter (BCHS '23) finished the Philadelphia marathon in Fall '22!

Ryan Blake (BCHS '22) at his class welcoming at West Virginia School of Medicine!

Reintroducing Zobaku Acholonu, MMS, PA-C (ACHS '20)!





**From top to bottom, left to right:**

Nyambura Mwathi (ACHS '21) sporting her white coat after joining Oregon Health and Science University School of Medicine!

Jade Dodge (BCHS '21) strikes a pose in her white coat after joining Drexel College of Medicine!

Nargiza Babaeva (ACHS '20) and her son celebrate her white coat ceremony at Rowan-Virtual!

The E2023 BCHS cohort take advantage of a photo op with Dr. Bloxton after Gen Chem II.

Reed Apostol (BCHS '21) stands tall on the South Pole (ft. a CST postbacc tshirt!).

Candy Chen (ACHS '22) celebrates her white coat ceremony at LECOM!

Kaitlyn Beechay (ACHS '22) officially joins Noorda COM in her white coat!

Asra Khan (ACHS '17) graduates from University of Tampa's PA program!

# Welcome!



**Rebecca Sullivan, PhD, LKSOM**  
Professor of Biomedical Education and  
Data Science, has joined the CST  
Postbacc ACHS faculty to teach  
Physiology!

**Adrienne Pesce, PhD ABD,**  
Assistant Professor of Chemistry  
Instruction, has joined the CST  
Postbacc BCHS faculty to teach  
Organic Chemistry!



**Jackie L. Sackie, MS** has joined the  
CST Postbacc Program as a Senior  
Academic Advisor and will also be  
supporting the program's alumni!



# School Acceptances

**KEY:** \* indicates an acceptance in the latest application cycle; red text indicates a school that is new to our acceptance list!

## ALABAMA

- Alabama COM \*
- University of Alabama at Birmingham - Marnix E. Heersink SOM
- VCOM - Auburn

## ARIZONA

- A.T. Still University - Arizona School of Dentistry & Oral Health
- A.T. Still University - SOM in Arizona
- Midwestern University College of Dental - Arizona
- Midwestern University - Arizona COM \*

## ARKANSAS

- Arkansas COM

## CALIFORNIA

- American University of Health Sciences College of Pharmacy
- California Health Sciences University COM \*
- California Northstate University COM
- Charles R. Drew/UCLA Medical Education Program
- Touro COM - California**
- USC - Keck School of Medicine
- Western University College of Dental Medicine
- Western University - COM of the Pacific \*

## COLORADO

- Rocky Vista University COM - CO \*
- University of Colorado SOM

## CONNECTICUT

- Quinnipiac University - Frank H. Netter SOM \***
- University of Connecticut SOM \***

## DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

- Howard University COM \*

## FLORIDA

- Barry University - PA Program
- Florida Atlantic University - Schmidt COM \***
- Larkin University College of Pharmacy
- Nova Southeastern University - Kiran C. Patel COM \*
- South University, West Palm Beach - PA Program \***
- University of Central Florida COM \***
- University of Florida COM \***
- University of Miami - Leonard M. Miller SOM
- University of South Florida - Morsani COM
- University of Tampa - PA Program

## GEORGIA

- Augusta University Medical College of Georgia
- Emory University SOM
- Moorehouse SOM - PA Program \***
- PCOM Georgia \***
- PCOM South Georgia \***

## IDAHO

- ICOM \*

## ILLINOIS

- Midwestern University - Chicago COM
- Midwestern University College of Dental - Illinois \***
- Rosalind Franklin University - Chicago Medical School \***

## ILLINOIS (continued)

- Rosalind Franklin University - PA Program
- Rush University Medical College \*
- University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign - Carle Illinois COM \*

## INDIANA

- Indiana University School of Dentistry \***

## IOWA

- Des Moines University COM
- University of Iowa - Roy J. and Lucille A. Carver COM \***

## KANSAS

- Kansas COM \*

## KENTUCKY

- University of Kentucky COM \***
- University of Louisville School of Dentistry \***
- University of Louisville SOM \***

## LOUISIANA

- VCOM - Louisiana

## MAINE

- University of New England COM

## MARYLAND

- University of Maryland Eastern Shore - PA Program \***
- University of Maryland School of Dentistry
- University of Maryland SOM

## MASSACHUSETTS

- Boston University - Chobanian & Avedisian SOM
- MGH Institute of Health Professions - PA Program
- Tufts University School of Dental Medicine
- Tufts University SOM \*
- University of Massachusetts - Chan Medical School

## MICHIGAN

- Michigan State University College of Human Medicine
- Michigan State University COM
- Oakland University - William Beaumont SOM
- Wayne State University SOM
- Western Michigan University - Homer Stryker SOM \***

## MINNESOTA

- University of Minnesota SOM

## MISSOURI

- A.T. Still University - Kirksville COM \*
- Kansas City University COM \*

## NEBRASKA

- Creighton University SOM

## NEVADA

- Touro University Nevada COM
- Roseman University College of Pharmacy
- Roseman University COM \***
- University of Nevada, Las Vegas - Kirk Kerkorian SOM
- University of Nevada, Reno SOM

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## NEW HAMPSHIRE

- Dartmouth College – Geisel SOM \*

## NEW JERSEY

- Hackensack Meridian SOM
- Rowan University - Cooper Medical School
- Rowan-Virtua SOM \*
- Rutgers University - NJMS
- Rutgers University - RWJ Medical School \*

## NEW MEXICO

- New Mexico State University - Burrell COM \*

## NEW YORK

- Albany Medical College
- Albert Einstein COM \*
- Canisius College - PA Program
- Cornell Univ. - Weill Cornell Graduate School, PA Program \*
- Hofstra University - Zucker SOM at Hofstra/Northwell
- New York College of Podiatric Medicine
- New York Institute of Technology COM
- New York Medical College \*
- NYU College of Dentistry
- Stony Brook University - Renaissance SOM \*
- Stony Brook University School of Dental Medicine \*
- SUNY Downstate - PA Program
- SUNY Downstate COM
- SUNY Upstate Medical University \*
- Touro COM - Middletown
- Touro COM – NY \*
- University at Buffalo - Jacobs SOM and Biomedical Sciences \*
- University of Rochester School of Medicine and Dentistry

## NORTH CAROLINA

- Campbell University - Jerry M. Wallace SOM \*

## NORTH DAKOTA

- University of North Dakota SOM

## OHIO

- Case Western Reserve University SOM
- Kent State University College of Podiatric Medicine
- Northeast Ohio Medical University \*
- University of Cincinnati COM
- University of Toledo COM \*
- Wright State University - Boonshoft SOM \*

## OREGON

- Oregon Health and Science University SOM \*

## PENNSYLVANIA

- Arcadia University - PA Program
- Drexel University COM \*
- Geisinger Commonwealth SOM \*
- LECOM \*
- Lock Haven University - PA Program \*
- PCOM \*
- Penn State COM \*
- Saint Joseph's University - Philadelphia College of Pharmacy

## PENNSYLVANIA (continued)

- Salus University - PA Program \*
- Temple University - LKSOM \*
- Temple University - LKSOM, PA Program
- Temple University - Maurice H. Kornberg School of Dentistry \*
- Temple University - School of Podiatric Medicine
- Thomas Jefferson University - Sidney Kimmel Medical College \*
- Thomas Jefferson University - SKMC, PT Program \*
- Thomas Jefferson University College of Pharmacy
- University of Pittsburgh SOM \*

## SOUTH CAROLINA

- North Greenville University - PA Program
- University of South Carolina SOM
- VCOM – Carolinas \*

## SOUTH DAKOTA

- University of South Dakota - Sanford SOM

## TENNESSEE

- Lincoln Memorial University - DeBusk COM \*
- Meharry Medical College

## TEXAS

- Texas Tech Univ. Health Sciences Center - Paul L. Foster SOM
- UT Austin - Dell Medical School
- UT San Antonio - Long School of Medicine
- UT Southwestern Medical School
- UTMB Galveston

## UTAH

- Noorda COM \*
- Roseman University College of Dental Medicine

## VERMONT

- University of Vermont - Robert Larner COM \*

## VIRGINIA

- Eastern Virginia Medical School \*
- Liberty University COM
- VCOM - Virginia
- Virginia Tech Carilion SOM \*

## WASHINGTON

- Pacific Northwest University of Health Sciences COM \*
- Washington State University - Elson S. Floyd COM

## WEST VIRGINIA

- West Virginia University SOM

## WISCONSIN

- University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health \*