

SCHOOL OF MEDICINE



Fifty-Fifth Commencement Ceremony

May 16, 2026
Robert and Margrit Mondavi Center
or the Performing Arts

University of California, Davis

Founded in 1908 as the University Farm, the University of California, Davis, has become one of the country's top teaching and research universities. Building on its historical strengths in the agricultural and biological sciences, UC Davis has developed comparable stature in the arts, social sciences, humanities, environmental sciences, engineering and physical sciences. It excels, as well, in the professional areas of law, education, medicine, nursing, veterinary medicine and management.

The campus is dedicated to teaching students to be independent thinkers and lifelong learners, to pursuing research that advances our knowledge of the world and to serving the public by sharing and applying those discoveries. UC Davis is committed to effective engagement with the many communities it serves—in the state, the nation and the world.

The School of Medicine

The UC Davis School of Medicine accomplishes its three fundamental missions—teaching, research and public service—through the collective contributions of more than 710 regular faculty (including physicians and basic scientists), 2,200 volunteer clinical faculty and 1,100 staff personnel.

Founding dean, C. John Tupper, M.D., was appointed in 1966. The inaugural class was admitted in 1968 and graduated in 1972. The Medical Sciences I Complex, the school's first permanent facility for instruction, research and administration, was completed in 1977. Four years earlier, the university acquired the Sacramento County Hospital as its primary clinical facility and renamed it the UC Davis Medical Center. Major renovations and expansions of the hospital and clinics were undertaken to create a modern academic medical center.

In a typical year, the school graduates 120 new physicians, some of whom also earn Ph.D. degrees in one of our basic science departments. Our M.D. graduates now number 5,167.

Academic Symbols

The academic dress worn by those in the procession includes the cap, gown and hood and indicates the level of the highest degree obtained by the wearer, as well as the nature of the degree and the institution that granted it. The gowns of holders of bachelor's degrees are closed in the front and have full-length sleeves. Master's degree gowns are open in the front, and have pointed, elbow-length sleeves. The doctor's degree level is indicated by a gown having velvet facings at the front and three velvet bars across each of the full bell-shaped sleeves. Hoods are faced with velvet in the color that represents the field of study in which the degree is awarded and are lined with satin in the colors of the university awarding the degree. The M.D. degree is indicated by green velvet and, for the University of California, a blue and gold satin lining. Doctoral level hoods are in the full shape with a rounded base and are four feet in length. Caps are worn by holders of all degrees and their design varies slightly, depending on the degree-granting university. Holders of doctoral degrees may wear a gold tassel and a tam.

Among the faculty will be several with gowns of very different characteristics. These usually indicate a degree from a non-American university, a member of one of the American Specialty Colleges (the American College of Surgeons or the American College of Physicians), or a unique gown designed for and approved by a specific university.

The School of Medicine banner is green in keeping with the academic color of medicine.

Program

OPENING

Tonya Fancher, M.D.
Associate Dean, Workforce Innovation and Education Quality Improvement

ACADEMIC PROCESSION AND ENTRY OF CANDIDATES

Candice Sauder, M.D., M.Ed., F.A.C.S.
Assistant Professor, Department of Surgery
Faculty Senate Chair

WELCOME REMARKS

Melody Hou, M.D., M.P.H.
Senior Associate Dean for Undergraduate Medical Education

VICE CHANCELLOR'S REMARKS

Mark I. Rosenblatt, M.D., Ph.D., M.B.A., M.H.A.
Vice Chancellor, UC Davis Human Health Sciences

STUDENT SPEAKER FOR THE CLASS OF 2026

Mustafa Jundi
Candidate for the degree of Doctor of Medicine
"Texture"

KEYNOTE ADDRESS

Paul Tran, M.D.
Assistant Professor, University of Arizona College of Medicine Phoenix
"Enough Good"

PRESENTATION OF AWARDS

Susan Murin, M.D.
Dean, UC Davis School of Medicine
Presenting the
SCHOOL OF MEDICINE MEDAL
GOLDEN GOBLET AWARD

PRESENTATION OF THE CLASS OF 2026

Susan Murin, M.D.
Dean, UC Davis School of Medicine

CONFERRING THE DEGREES

Mary Croughan, Ph.D.
Provost and Executive Vice Chancellor

ANNOUNCING NAMES OF NEW PHYSICIANS

Tonya Fancher, M.D.
Associate Dean, Workforce Innovation and Education Quality Improvement

Sean Muñoz, M.D., FAAP
Interim Associate Dean, Office of Medical Pathways

PLACING OF ACADEMIC HOODS

Sharad Jain, M.D.
Associate Dean for Students

THE UC DAVIS PHYSICIAN'S OATH

Mark Henderson, M.D.
Associate Dean of Admissions

RECESSIONAL

The Stage Party, the Class of 2026, the Faculty

School of Medicine
Degree of Doctor of Medicine
Conferred Upon

FERHEEN ABBASI

B.A., B.A.

University of California, Berkeley
M.S.

The University of Osaka
Obstetrics & Gynecology
Massachusetts General Hospital
Boston, MA

ALI ABDULLAH-HERNANDEZ

B.S.

California State University, Fresno
Transitional
Saint Agnes Medical Center
Fresno, CA

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M.P.H.
Harvard University
Obstetrics & Gynecology
University of California,
Davis Medical Center
Sacramento, CA

MICHAEL DAVEN JOHN AGARRADO

A.A.

Shasta College

B.S.

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Roseville, CA

GRISELDA AGUILAR

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Family Medicine
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Salinas, CA

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Family Medicine
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San Francisco Medical Center
Fresno, CA

CICA AKPOVI

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Family Medicine
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Kaweah Delta Health Care District
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Radiology
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Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation
Sunrise Health GME Consortium
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M.S.
University of Southern California &
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Prime West Consortium
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Class Officers

Class Co-Presidents

JULIE NOVAES
EMILY WARD

Class Treasurer

ARMAN FAKHARIAN

Class Historians

DAVIS CHONG
CAROLINE LIU
PAULA RANGEL

Social Chairpersons

RACHEL AZAR
KAILI BARNES
AARON BARRERA
TYRA FURTADO
JANETH GARCIA SWARTWOOD
ADAM GUEMIDJIAN
MARIA HAMMETT
VIKKI KRYSOV
SIMON MENTUKH
EDDIE TANN
SOFIA ZEIDAN

Wellness Representatives

HIBA HUMMADI
PRAVEENA SINGH
CYNTHIA SUN
NOELLE TERRERO

Committee on Education Policy

THOMAS LE

Committee on Student Promotions

CICA AKPOVI
SOFIA ZEIDAN

Gold Humanism Honor Society Class Of 2026

FERHEEN ABBASI

TEJASWI ADHIKARI

GRISELDA AGUILAR

CICA AKPOVI

RACHEL AZAR

ERIKA BOLES

VÂN DU’O’NG

ARMAN FAKHARIAN

SHAHBAJ GHOTRA

MONICA JOY

MUSTAFA JUNDI

VENINA KALISTRATOVA

ASEEM KELLY

SONAM KUMARI

ARAIYE MEDLOCK

NICOLE NAGAYAMA

JULIANA NOVAES

MARLISA OLEA-GALLARDO

ANERI PATEL

SAMANTHA PEÑA

JADE REGALADO

ANDREA RINCON

HABIB SALAMAH

MARIA ELENA SANCHEZ-ANGUIANO

MARIA ZEPEDA

Members of the Gold Humanism Honor Society wear a white and gold honor cord.

The School of Medicine Medal

The School of Medicine Medal is presented to the student who best displays the qualities of leadership, scholarship and respect for human life that are so necessary to fulfill a physician's pledge to be of service to humanity.

The Golden Goblet Award

The Golden Goblet is a special award, indeed. The Goblet symbolizes the Davis campus and the School of Medicine at UC Davis, which aspire to teach physicians of excellence. It symbolizes the deep roots of this campus in the soil of California, the study of the fruits of the earth, and the application of science and inquiry to the betterment of humankind. It is the cup of joy and celebration of deep fulfillment in service to others. It is the cup of commitment, which seeks sometimes to heal, often to relieve and always to comfort. It is awarded each year to that member of the graduating class who, in the opinion of the class, best and most consistently demonstrates this joy and commitment. The recipient is chosen by secret ballot of the members of the graduating class. The School of Medicine, in cognizance of the unbroken lineage of physicians from ancient days to the future, asks the recipient of the Golden Goblet to return it to us when he or she no longer practices medicine, for presentation to yet another young physician.

Class of 2026 Awards

LOREN D. CARLSON ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP RESEARCH AWARD
Jade Tso

ELI BENJAMINI ENDOWED FUND FOR BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES
Michelle Wang

O.M.E. MEDICAL STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP AWARD
John Lew

RENA & GABRIEL SMILKSTEIN HUMANITARIAN AWARD
Tejaswi Adhikari

J.T. SIMON LIE, MD MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP AWARD
Araiya Medlock

MERCK MANUAL AWARDS
Jingyanshan Li
Nina Nguyen
Tiffany Wong

DAVID M. IGDALOFF, MD & MICHAEL A. IGDALOFF MEMORIA
SCHOLARSHIP AWARD
Jade Regalado

HEALING ARTS AWARD
Cica Akpovi

HELEN MCCONNELL PALTHE FELLOWSHIP AWARD
Sujin Jeong

JAMES FRANKLIN MCMANUS SCHOLARSHIP AWARD
Sage Dillon

THE JOHNSON FAMILY SCHOLARSHIP AWARD
Jace Decker

MANSOOR ALLY MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP AWARD
Yaseen Hakim

ALLAN T. NUNN, M.D. MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP
Eliseo Garcia

Department Awards

OUTSTANDING MEDICAL STUDENT IN
ANESTHESIOLOGY & PAIN MEDICINE

Michael Daven John Agarrado
Connie Chan

OUTSTANDING MEDICAL STUDENT IN DERMATOLOGY

Aneri Patel

ERNEST M. GOLD AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN INTERNAL MEDICINE

Alexandra Diaz
Yaseen Hakim
Vikki Krysov

OUTSTANDING MEDICAL STUDENT IN CHILD NEUROLOGY

Sydney Talmi

OUTSTANDING MEDICAL STUDENT IN NEUROLOGY

Vista Farkhondeh
Thomas Le
Christine Pons
Julián Prieto

OUTSTANDING MEDICAL STUDENT IN
OPHTHALMOLOGY & VISION SCIENCE

Jaipreet Virk

AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN OTOLARYNGOLOGY

Cynthia Sun

ROBERT E. STOWELL, M.D., PH.D. AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN PATHOLOGY

Augustin Beall

OUTSTANDING MEDICAL STUDENT IN
PHYSICAL MEDICINE & REHABILITATION

Nicole Nagayama

OUTSTANDING MEDICAL STUDENT IN PSYCHIATRY

Sujin Jeong
Habib Salamah
Paige Hamilton-Conaty

ACE-PC OUTSTANDING MEDICAL STUDENT AWARD
Sonam Kumari

REACH OUTSTANDING MEDICAL STUDENT AWARD
Jennifer Lozano

RURAL PRIME OUTSTANDING MEDICAL STUDENT AWARD
Griselda Aguilar

TEACH-MS OUTSTANDING MEDICAL STUDENT AWARD
Jade Regalado

TRIBAL HEALTH OUTSTANDING MEDICAL STUDENT AWARD
Justin Rehwaldt

FREDERICK J. MEYERS ACADEMIC RESEARCH CAREERS
FOR MEDICAL DOCTORS ACHIEVEMENT AWARD
Ferheen Abbasi

THE DOCTORING AWARD
Ferheen Abbasi
Taylor Boske
Paige Hamilton-Conaty
John Lew

AMERICAN MEDICAL WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION GLASGOW-RUBIN
CITATION FOR ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT

Tejaswi Adhikari
Sage Dillon
Sonam Kumari
Jingyanshan Li
Nicole Nagayama
Hanh Nguyen
Nina Nguyen
Cynthia Sun
Ellie Tsang
Michelle Wang
Tiffany Wong
Jady Yang

UNITED STATES PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES EXCELLENCE AWARD
Juan Floriano Muniz

The UC Davis Physician's Oath

Now being admitted to the high calling of the physician, I solemnly pledge to consecrate my life to the care of the sick, the promotion of the health and the service of humanity.

I will practice medicine with conscience and in truth. The health and dignity of my patients will be my first concern. I will hold in confidence all that my patients relate to me. I will not permit considerations including those based on race, ethnicity, gender, age, disability, sexual orientation, religious or political beliefs, or any of the other differences among people that have been excuses for misunderstanding, dissension or hatred to influence my duty to care for those in need of my service.

I will respect the moral right of patients to participate fully in the medical decisions that affect them.

I will assist my patients to make choices that coincide with their own values and beliefs.

I will try to increase my competence constantly and respect those who teach and those who broaden our knowledge by research. I will try to prevent, as well as cure, disease. I make these promises solemnly, freely, and upon my honor.

The Regents of the University of California

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Governor of California

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This list of candidates was compiled from information available to the Office of the Chancellor and the Office of the University Registrar by the appropriate graduation filing deadlines and should not be regarded as conclusive evidence of graduation, honors or academic standing. Degrees will be awarded following certification by the chancellor, Davis Division of the Academic Senate and Office of the University Registrar that all degree requirements have been satisfied.

