



Summer 2023

CAMPUS QUARTERLY

MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN



We continue to make history at our unique School—including Gov. Phil Murphy’s inspirational remarks at our latest Commencement ceremony. We also admitted our sixth class. The talented doctors we are training are changing the world, day by day.

Dr. Jeffrey Boscamp,
President and Dean

HMSOM NEWS

Commencement 2023: A Celebration

Eighty-five students from the Hackensack Meridian School of Medicine have received their medical degrees—and will now start their careers.

The medical students came from the 2019 cohort of the medical school (56 students) who graduated after four years; and also the 2020 cohort (29 students), who completed their education in three years.

The commencement’s keynote was delivered by New Jersey Governor Phil Murphy, who commended the school for its continuing commitment to medical education in the state.

“It is a great honor to have the Governor deliver the speech at our first commencement as a fully-accredited institution,” said Robert C. Garrett, FACHE, CEO of Hackensack Meridian *Health*. “It further validates what our medical school is doing for the health of all New Jerseyans.”

“The Governor’s words, as usual, are inspirational as we continue our mission to train the best, most compassionate doctors anywhere,” said Jeffrey R. Boscamp, M.D., dean and president of the School.

Fifty-seven percent of the Class of 2023 (48 students) will train in New Jersey for the first year of residency. Of these, 39 of the students matched into a Hackensack Meridian *Health* program. Other states where students matched for residency include New York (20 students) and California, Florida, and Pennsylvania (with three doctors apiece), among other states. Residencies where this class has matched include: Brown University/Rhode Island Hospital; Montefiore Medical Center, Einstein Campus; New York Presbyterian Hospital, Columbia University Medical Center; New York University, Grossman School of Medicine; Tufts University Medical Center; Vanderbilt

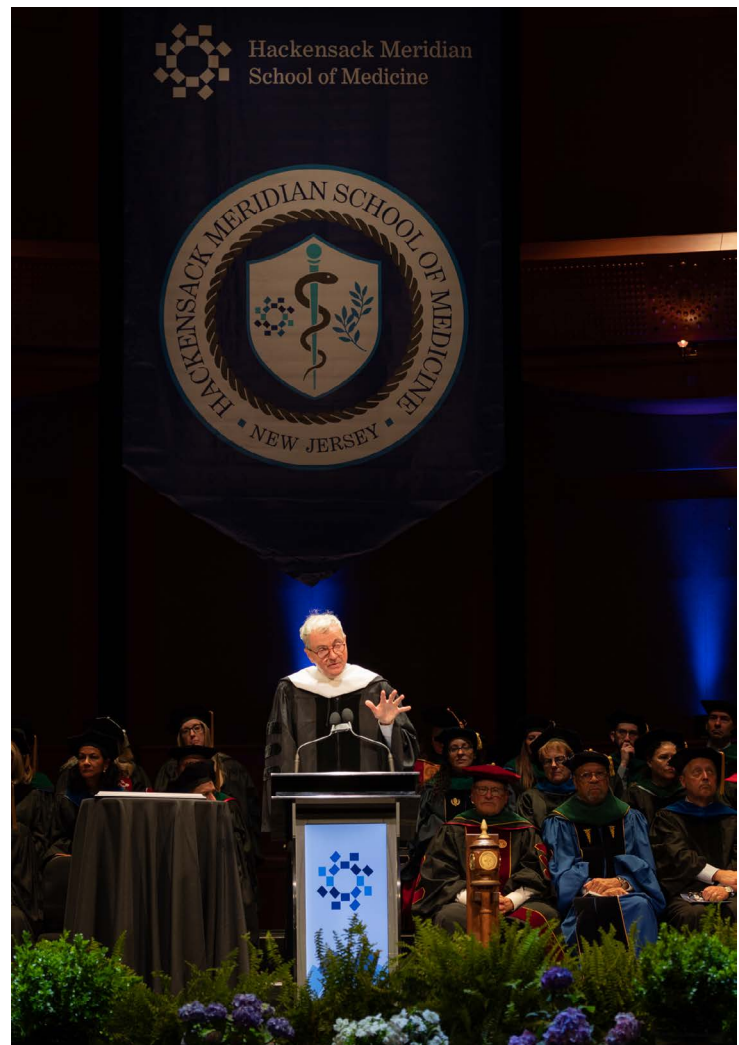
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University Medical Center; and many others.

The specialties the students matched into include: Internal Medicine (21); Psychiatry and Psychiatry-Neurology (13); General Surgery (6); and Anesthesiology, Emergency Medicine, Family Medicine, Orthopedic Surgery, and Pediatrics (5 each), Neurology (4), Obstetrics and Gynecology (3), Internal Medicine – Pediatrics (2), Radiology – Diagnostic (2), Dermatology (1), Ophthalmology (1), Otolaryngology (1), Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation (1), Plastic Surgery (1), Radiology – Diagnostic (2).

The School of Medicine's inaugural class in 2018 included 60 students. The latest incoming class numbers more than 160, admitted from more than 6,000 applicants.

In the Fall 2023 Edition: Catch the 2023 White Coat Ceremony!





AROUND THE SCHOOL

Inaugural Medical Education Week Brings Together SOM's Best Ideas, Bright Minds

New ideas and novel solutions were on display during the Hackensack Meridian School of Medicine's (HMSOM's) inaugural Medical Education Week.

The week-long series of workshops, presentations, journal clubs, discussions, and awards highlighted the work of faculty, staff, students, and residents from across the HMSOM community, as well as the Hackensack Meridian *Health* network.

"We are doing important work here at the SOM. As we have seen at national meetings and organizations – others are taking notice and want to hear about it and learn from us," said Miriam Hoffman, M.D., a vice dean of the Hackensack Meridian School of Medicine. "This week is a wonderful venue to share our scholarship with each other, learn from colleagues and learners, and find collaborators."

Some of the highlights included:

- The Medical Education Journal Club kicked off the week on April 17 with a discussion led by Jennifer Zepf, D.O., assistant professor in the Department of Medical Sciences. The concept of asking whether "measuring outcomes (is) enough" was explored using various models based on traditional assessment approaches, and those based more on the evaluation of

programs themselves.

- The Interprofessional Health Sciences Campus (IHS) Library hosted a virtual discussion on "Developing Your Research Presence," led by Christopher Duffy, MLIS, and Peggy Dreker, MPA, MLS. The various venues of online scholarship – including SCOPUS, ORCID, Google Scholar, hIndexes, Altmetrics, and social media platforms, among others – was explored in-depth for both veteran and novice researchers alike.
- The IHS Book Club hosted a discussion of Twice as Hard: The Stories of Black Women who Fought to Become Physicians, from the Civil War to the 21st Century by Jasmine Brown. The discussion was guided by librarian Allison Piazza, MHA, MLIS.
- A Cultural Humility Workshop exploring integrating the concept into the learning environment was held on April 20. Paramount was a discussion on the importance of organizational structural competency as a framework for delivering cultural humility content. Strategies involving this in the Human Dimension course were also shared. Participating in this conversation were: Michal Divney, LCSW, the Human Dimension and Community Programs Manager; Caryn Katz-Loffman, LSW, the Human Dimension Assistant Course Director & Professional Identity Formation Director; Lawrence Rosen, M.D., associate professor; and Carmela Rocchetti, M.D., the director of the Human Dimension.

- Human Dimension Capstone Scholarship Day included projects presented by the 2020 cohort. Projects included those impacting the health of communities, including everything from substance use disorder strategies, barriers to wellness among medical trainees, the monetary benefits of tourniquets, to barriers to digital and health literacy in online Medicaid applications. “Everything we do is in the context of community, and this day shows it the best,” said Jeffrey Boscamp, M.D., dean of the Hackensack Meridian School of Medicine, during Capstone Day.
- Also on Capstone Scholarship Day, Munifa Wheeler, a fourth-year student at the school, received the 2023 Excellence in Public Health Award from the United States Public Health Service. Wheeler has made a mark in projects involving the Pipeline Program to connect undergraduate students with the HMSOM, as well as smoking cessation projects, among other work.
- Inaugural Medical Education Scholarship Day included a plenary address by Hetty Cunningham, M.D., a pediatrician from Columbia University Vagelos College of Physicians and Surgeons, on how to build curricula that are inclusive, anti-racist, and anti-bias. She also spent time talking with our students, faculty, and staff. Her talk relates directly to the work HMSOM’s Cultural Humility Subcommittee is doing within our curriculum.
- A poster session with faculty, staff, residents, and students from across the school and the Hackensack Meridian *Health* network presenting, shared a wide range of innovation, research, and scholarship in medical education.
- Awards for the best abstracts in Innovation and Research were presented to trainees and faculty and staff.

Medical Student Research Day Dazzles with Ideas, Science



The Hackensack Meridian School of Medicine’s second annual Medical Student Research Day on May 5 featured fresh presentations from students who are looking at medicine – and the science to push it forward—in a whole new way.

The afternoon affair included more than 80 research posters by students, two featured student presenters, and a keynote address from Rachel Rosenstein, M.D., Ph.D., an assistant professor of internal medicine and an assistant member of the Hackensack Meridian Center for Discovery and Innovation (CDI).

The crowd numbered over 130 for the entirely in-person event.

“This event shows how vibrant a learning environment exists at this school,” said Stanley R. Terlecky, Ph.D., vice dean of research and medical sciences at the School. “We are a place that questions and innovates, because of the talent we have attracted from across the country.”

Among the highlights:

- Dr. Rosenstein’s talk was titled “Chance Favors the Prepared Mind: Studies of Skin Immunity and Inflammation,” and examined translational studies linking human skin disease, sequencing, and the response to therapies.
- Aishwarya Sridhar (M2), working with Andrew Ip, M.D., of John Theurer Cancer Center, was

one of the featured student presenters. The work focused on a case study of refractory diffuse large B-cell lymphoma following CAR T cell therapy. The results indicated that CAR T cells may persist in the body long after infusion, and clinicians should use sequencing to monitor patients.

- Meghana Singh (M2), offered another featured student presentation. Working with Michael Stifelman, M.D., professor and founding chair of urology at the School, Singh's work showed a retrospective and prospective review of robotic pyeloplasty (a surgical procedure to remove a blockage preventing urine from reaching the bladder). The data suggested that single-port surgeries of this kind are a safe and acceptable alternative to multi-port varieties of the procedure.
- The 80 posters spanned the gamut of topics and were a product of partnerships with experts across Hackensack Meridian Health. These included: a new methodology to predict newborn outcomes with ultrasounds; a look at preventing injuries in lacrosse; assessing the prevalence of rashes in patients with certain cancers; analyzing new possible cancer treatment compounds; health screenings of public school students in Paterson during the COVID-19 pandemic; and many others.

The event was co-sponsored by the Hackensack Meridian *Health* Research Institute, the School, and the Hackensack Meridian *Health* Foundation.

HMHRI Research Roundup Newsletter: Keep Track of our Discovery and Innovation

The Hackensack Meridian *Health* Research Institute, which encompasses the talented researchers and scientists at HMSOM, has a quarterly roundup which is a sister publication to this one. [Be sure to keep track of our exciting new developments here.](#)



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF ACADEMICS, RESEARCH, AND INNOVATION

The network's research operations continue to astound. We are expanding into new spaces, making trailblazing discoveries, and we're even planning a look into science in outer space! But all of these developments continue to keep an eye on the ultimate prize: the well-being of our patients.

Ihor Sawczuk, M.D., FACS

Ihor Sawczuk, M.D., FACS



NOTE FROM THE VP

The scope and breadth of research extends from COVID-19, to cancer, to community outreach. Being the largest health network in New Jersey has allowed us to help spearhead so many advances within the umbrella of the Hackensack Meridian Health Research Institute.

Cheryl Fittizzi, RN, MBA, CIP

Cheryl Fittizzi, RN, MBA, CIP,
Vice President of Research and
Regulatory Affairs

HMH RESEARCH NEWS



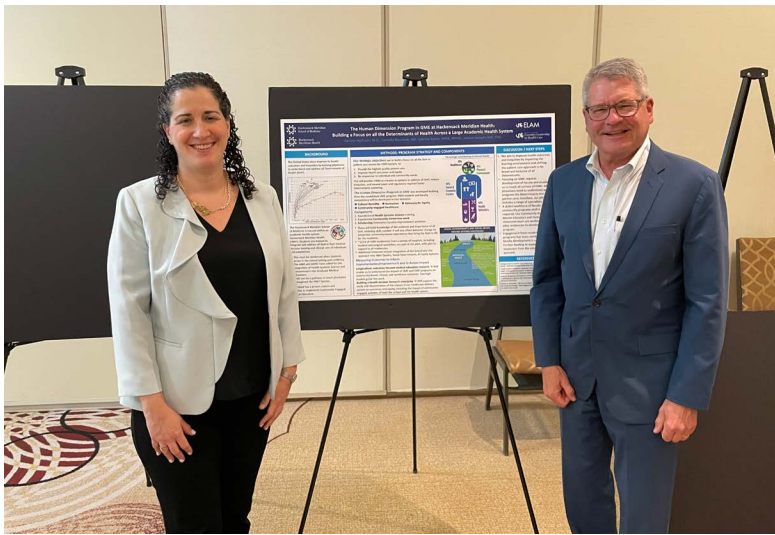
CDI, Axiom Space Sign Agreement to Pursue Science - In Space

The Hackensack Meridian Center for Discovery and Innovation (CDI) and Axiom Space, a Houston-based company currently building the world's first commercial space station, will collaborate to better understand the dynamics of biology and disease by conducting experiments in space. The CDI and Axiom Space will work together to study the influence of microgravity on the body with the intent to better understand human health and disease on Earth and ensure safe space travel. The initial collaboration may explore the impact of microgravity on the human immune system and how that affects the human body as it responds to space travel.

"The CDI and Axiom Space partnership is a critical deal which could benefit virtually all of us back on Earth," said Robert C. Garrett, FACHE, chief executive officer of Hackensack Meridian Health. "The sky isn't the limit when it comes to the expertise of our scientists."

"Space travel in microgravity places stress on the body," said David Perlin, Ph.D., chief scientific officer and executive vice president of the CDI. "By learning about factors that keep space travel safe, we can apply the knowledge to improve the terrestrial health of humans with a wide variety of conditions and diseases." (continued page 2)

KEEP GETTING BETTER



Hoffman Graduates from Prestigious ELAM Program

Miriam Hoffman, M.D., Vice Dean for Academic Affairs, graduated from The *Hedwig van Ameringen* Executive Leadership in Academic Medicine® (ELAM®) in Philadelphia in April. ELAM is a core program of the Institute for Women’s Health and Leadership at Drexel University College of Medicine, Philadelphia, Pa. The Institute continues the legacy of advancing women in medicine that began in 1850 with the founding of the Female Medical College of Pennsylvania, the nation’s first women’s medical school and a predecessor of today’s Drexel University College of Medicine. The ELAM program is a year-long part-time fellowship for women faculty in schools of medicine, dentistry, public health and pharmacy. The program is dedicated to developing the professional and personal skills required to lead and manage in today’s complex health care environment, with special attention to the unique challenges facing women in leadership positions. More than 1,200 ELAM alumnae hold leadership positions in institutions around the world.



Boscamp Honored at Investiture Dinner

Leaders from [Hackensack Meridian Health](#) and our school celebrated the leadership of Dean [Jeffrey R. Boscamp](#) at his investiture dinner in NYC on May 10. It was a celebration of incredible leadership - and so much greatness to come. Bravo!



New Strategic Initiatives Coordinator Joins HMSOM

The school welcomes **Lietys Novoa-Rodgers, MS.** She has joined us as the dean's Strategic Initiatives Coordinator. Lietys previously served as the Strategy and Business Development Coordinator in the Strategy department in Edison. She writes, "My goal in my current role is to assist in achieving future goals and initiatives at the School of Medicine. I am originally from New York and currently live in Maywood. I have worked at HMH for 21 years and began my HMH journey at the HUMC Children's Hospital."

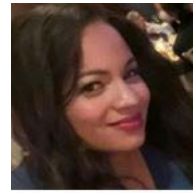


Boscamp Honored by Boy Scouts

Dean Boscamp was honored by the Boy Scouts' Northern New Jersey Council on May 17 at their annual Healthcare and STEM Awards Dinner. Dr. Boscamp, who is an Eagle Scout, was honored as a 2023 Healthcare Honoree. The proceeds from the event support STEM programs. Congratulations to our Dean!



New Faces, New Hires, New Ideas



Beatriz Martinez, MPH, joined the SOM in May as a Clinical Skill Project Coordinator. She is a public health professional with more than ten years of experience in the field of healthcare. Previously, Beatriz worked with local and state health departments managing infectious disease surveillance programs. Beatriz is a graduate from Montclair State University where she obtained her master's degree in public health. In her spare time Beatriz likes to spend time with her family and read fiction novels.



Lauren Katz is the newest member of the Clerkship Course Coordinator team and started with the school in June. She has a background in Tourism and Commercial Roofing. Lauren is an avid Disney fan and knows any-and-everything about it; she was even married at Disney World with Mickey and Minnie as guests at her wedding. Lauren enjoys traveling, concerts, and spending quality time with her husband and their pup named Lilo.



Manuella Adu, MSHM, joined the HD & Community Programs Team as our new Human Dimension Coordinator in June. Manuella recently obtained her Masters in Healthcare Management from Rutgers University, following her experience as a Health Aide at a nursing facility and as an Assistance Operations Manager for a children's care management organization (CMO). She likes reading, dancing, listening to music, and going for walks. She is a first-generation graduate student and is very excited to learn and grow with the SOM. Manuella will sit across from 4444 in 4434.



Kountz Thanked by ACGME for Service

David Kountz, M.D., was recently given a nice “thank you” by the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME).

Kountz, the school’s senior associate dean of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, was cited by Thomas J. Nasca, M.D., MACP, the president and CEO of the ACGME for his many hours dedicated as a volunteer for a review committee, in a letter addressed to Ihor Sawczuk, M.D., FACS, the President of Academics, Research, and Innovation for HMH.

“I want to personally express my sincere thanks to you for your continued support of Dr. Kountz’s commitment to the physicians of tomorrow, the future of medical education, and the health of the public,” wrote Nasca.

Kountz is also the chief academic officer and vice president of Academic Affairs for Hackensack Meridian *Health*.





HMSOM UPDATES

Passaic Charter School Visits, Tours Campus

On May 24 and June 7, HMSOM hosted Passaic Arts & Science Charter School as part of a Community Health Project milestone. Our medical students gave a tour to approximately 70 high school students between both days in which they saw the SIMU Labs, learning studios, and library. The tour ended with our medical students presenting a session on the “Effects of Bullying” with some unique interactive gameplay. Dr. Miriam Hoffman, Vice Dean of Academic Affairs, greeted the students and shared words of encouragement. We hope the next time we see these students; they will walk through our doors as accepted medical students!



HMSOM SNMA Attends Medical Education Conference

The HMSOM chapter of the Student National Medical Association recently attended the 59th Annual Medical Education Conference held in Hartford, Connecticut. The theme was “Brilliance Embodied: Elevating the Mission and Revitalizing our Purpose” with multiple efforts focused on diversity in medicine, serving under-served populations, and promoting health equity and social justice.



Vaughn McEnough, Jr., Angelique Ogunsemowo, Suzette Omane, Elma Chowdhury, Chioma Uka, Bruce Osei-Frimpong, Bryan Ezema, Cairo Stanislaus, and Nneka Ajah represented HMSOM and were able to take part in the House of Delegates, attend leadership workshops and network with residency programs and faculty physicians.

