Pledge of Commitment

As I embark upon the study of medicine at the Rowan University School of Osteopathic Medicine, I will:

Enter into a relationship of mutual respect with my teachers and my colleagues to enhance the learning environment and gain the knowledge, skills and attitudes of a competent osteopathic physician;

Accept responsibility only for those matters for which I am competent, maintain the trust expected of an osteopathic physician and never take advantage of the patient-doctor relationship;

Show compassion and respect for all others;

Set worthy examples in the application of humanistic principles in my relationships with patients and others within the medical community;

Work toward improving my sensitivity and skills in human interaction, understanding and respecting the differences among my patients and colleagues;

Value the knowledge and wisdom of the physicians who have preceded me in the profession and endeavor to contribute to the osteopathic tradition;

Recognize my weaknesses and strengths and strive to develop those qualities that will earn the respect of my patients, my colleagues, my family and myself;

Continue learning throughout all the days of my life.
SOM History
40 Years of Achievement, Service and Excellence

Forty years ago, the legislation to create a new medical school in South Jersey was met with opposition from some who did not see the need for a third medical school in the state. But thanks to the energy and persistence of men like Sen. Joseph Maressa, Dr. Howard Levine and Dr. Joseph Riley, the legislation to create the School of Osteopathic Medicine (SOM) was signed by Gov. Brendan Byrne in 1976. The following year the inaugural class of 24 future physicians began their careers at SOM, New Jersey’s only osteopathic medical school and the first four-year medical school in South Jersey.

In the early years, SOM students logged nearly as many miles commuting as hours spent studying, traveling to the Rutgers Robert Wood Johnson Medical School in Piscataway for the first two years of study and to affiliated community hospitals in South Jersey for clinical training in the last two.

In 1986, SOM’s second decade welcomed the establishment of the New Jersey Institute for Successful Aging (then called the Center for Aging), a statewide center of excellence dedicated to training health care professionals while providing medical care and public policy advocacy to benefit older adults and their families. Supported, in part, by approximately $30 million in extramural funding since its inception, the NJISA has led the medical school to national renown in geriatric medical education. This year, US News & World Report named SOM one of America’s top schools in the field, marking the 15th time that the school has achieved this national honor.

In 1987, SOM began to establish its footprint on its campus in Stratford, with the opening of a medical office building. In 1988, the CARES (Child Abuse Research, Education and Service) Institute opened its doors as the diagnostic and treatment center serving the needs of children who have suffered abuse or neglect in the seven counties that comprise the southern portion of the State. From its Stratford location, CARES staff members have reached across the globe. Diagnostic techniques and therapeutic interventions developed at CARES have helped children in Asia, Europe, Africa and South America to recover from traumas associated with abuse, wars and natural disasters.

Mission

The Rowan University School of Osteopathic Medicine is dedicated to providing excellence in medical education, research and health care for New Jersey and the nation. An emphasis on primary health care and community health services reflects the School’s osteopathic philosophy, with specialty care and centers of excellence demonstrating our commitment to innovation and quality in all endeavors. The School seeks to develop clinically skillful, compassionate and culturally competent physicians from diverse backgrounds, who are prepared to become leaders in their communities.

The White Coats for the Class of 2020 are supplied through a generous contribution from the New Jersey Association of Osteopathic Physicians and Surgeons.

The Humanism in Medicine pins are a gift from the Arnold P. Gold Foundation, initiators of the first White Coat Ceremony in 1993.
Gold Humanism Honor Society
Class of 2017 Inductees

Class of 2017
Naznin Ahmed
Danielle Alaimo
Daisy Amato
Frederick Barnum
Cathy Chen
Timmy Cheung
Dennis DeBernardis
Giovanna Finocchio
Nicole Gentile
Bianca Hall
Mustafa Jafri
Kumail Kazim
Joseph Levi
Celia Ligorski
Lauren Matera
Melissa Melendez
Ronak Mistry
Alec Moran
Janisha Patel
Jay Shah
William Wecks

Faculty Inductees
James W. Bailey, DO
Linda Boyd, DO
Martin A. Finkel, DO

By 1990, new and newly renovated buildings allowed SOM to finally call the Stratford campus home to its entire four-year program. That was followed by a decade of 'firsts' that solidified SOM's reputation as one of the nation's premier osteopathic medical schools. SOM was the first osteopathic medical school to hold a White Coat ceremony (1996), the first to offer dental medicine as part of its curriculum (1997) and the first to offer a problem-based learning curriculum (1998).

At the same time, SOM consistently ranked among the top three osteopathic schools for federal research funding. Among the scientific advancements under development at SOM are new technologies to combat rare childhood diseases, a blood test that can accurately diagnose neurological diseases associated with aging and new therapeutic approaches that interrupt the growth and spread of cancer.

Just as it was an early voice in recognizing the needs of children through the CARES Institute or of the challenges presented by an aging population with the NJISA, the medical school was among the first to respond to the predicted shortage of physicians facing New Jersey and the rest of America. Twice since 2009, SOM has received permission from its accrediting agency to increase class size. In 2017, the entering class will enroll 200 students, doubling the size of the class that entered the school less than a decade ago. The vast majority – more than 80 percent – of these students are New Jersey residents.

SOM's July 2013 integration into Rowan University has expanded the school's reputation and reach. The Stratford campus, with more than 800 students and dozens of clinical offices, is a bustling hub for research, education and patient care. Rowan Medicine, the school's faculty practice plan, is a regional leader in patient care with nearly 250,000 patient visits each year.

SOM's first affiliate and its principal teaching hospital is Kennedy Health, with divisions in Stratford, Cherry Hill and Washington Township. Other affiliated hospitals and health systems include Lourdes Health System, Inspira Health Network, Cooper University Hospital, Meridian Health System, Christ Hospital and Atlantic Health System.
Class of 2020
White Coat Ceremony

8:30 AM
Continental Breakfast, Student Club Displays and Student Check-In

10:00 AM

Processional
Class of 2020

National Anthem
The Pacemakers

Video Presentation
40 Years of Achievement, Service and Excellence

Welcome
Thomas A. Cavalieri, DO
Dean

Greetings from Rowan University
Ali A. Houshmand, PhD
President

Keynote Speaker
Ira Monka, DO ’84
SOM Distinguished Alumni Award Recipient (2016);
Immediate Past President, RowanSOM Alumni Association;
Board Trustee and Vice Chair, Bureau of State Government Affairs,
American Osteopathic Association

Student Remarks
Ashley Sam ’18
Student Council President

Presentation of the Class of 2020
Paula Watkins, MAS
Assistant Dean for Admissions

Presentation of White Coats
Linda Boyd, DO
Senior Associate Dean for Academic Affairs
Thomas A. Cavalieri, DO
Dean

Student Pledge
Class of 2020

Gold Humanism Honor Society (GHHS) Induction
Kathryn Lambert, DO
Assistant Dean for Student Affairs
George Scott, DO
Assistant Dean for Clinical Affairs
Professionalism Director

Closing Remarks and Recessional
Kathryn Lambert, DO
Assistant Dean for Student Affairs

Student club displays and light refreshments will follow the ceremony.