

Quinnipiac
UNIVERSITY

FRANK H. NETTER MD

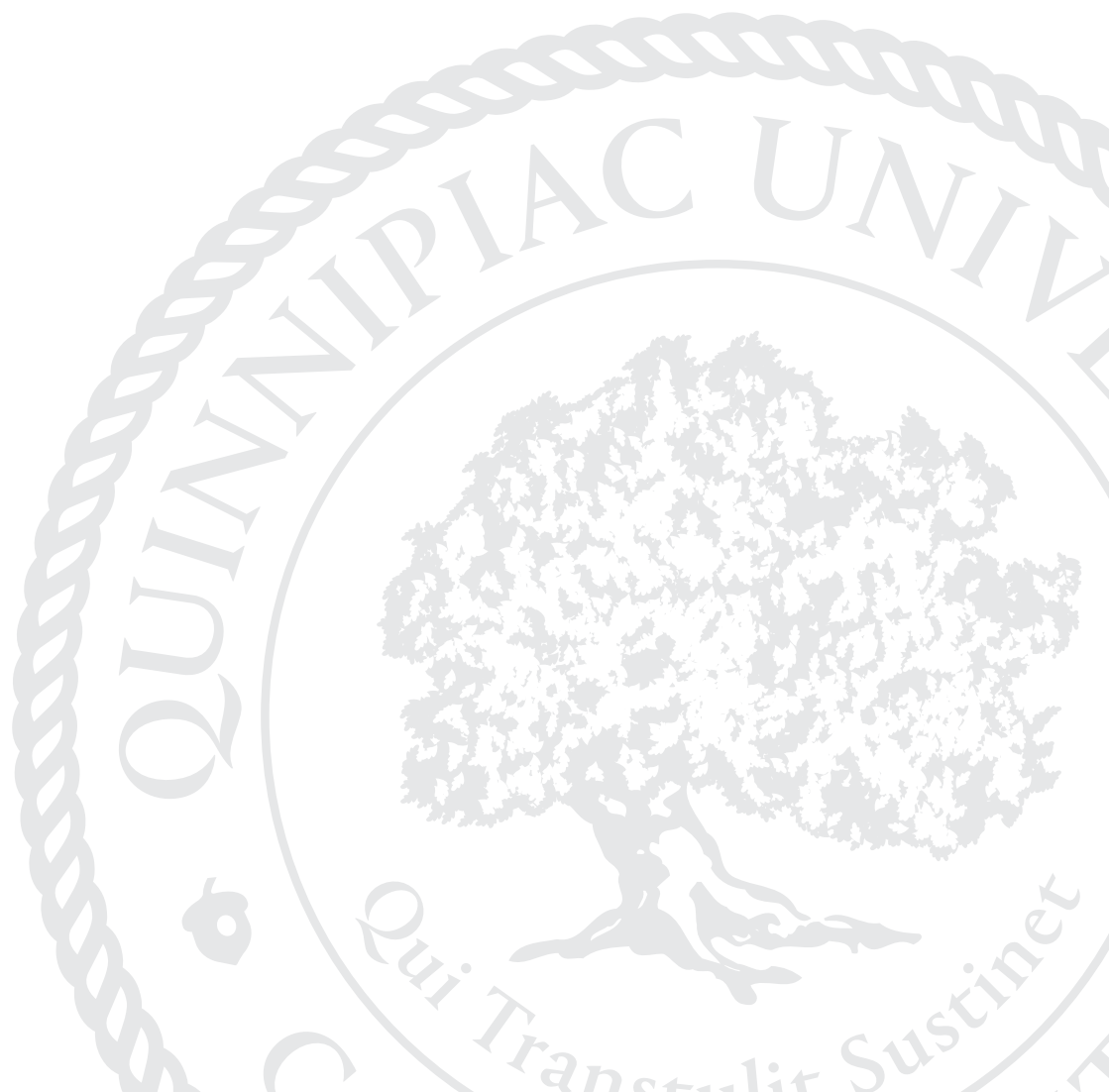
SCHOOL OF MEDICINE COMMENCEMENT

EXERCISES

Friday the Eighth of May

2026

Ten o'clock





GREETINGS FROM PRESIDENT HARDIN

Congratulations to the Class of 2026 as we celebrate this important milestone in your lives. We are delighted to welcome your families and friends to Quinnipiac today to share in your success and the promise that awaits you.

Your journey to this day is more than a ceremony. It is a testament to your hard work, your dedication and your commitment to the highest standards of health care. Your education has prepared you well for residencies that launch careers as impactful doctors and leaders of patient-centered health care teams.

You also learned the values of empathy, compassion and resilience from an extraordinary faculty and a dedicated staff. At the same time, you learned from each other, whether it was studying for exams or working on group assignments. I encourage you to nurture and maintain those friendships as you embark on your next chapter.

As graduates of the Frank H. Netter MD School of Medicine, we are so very proud of you. We know the future of medicine is in good hands with you, the doctors of tomorrow.

Warmly,

Marie C. Hardin, PhD



A MESSAGE FROM DEAN COPLIT

Dear Graduates of the Frank H. Netter MD School of Medicine
Class of 2026,

Congratulations on this extraordinary milestone. It is a true honor to celebrate this moment with you — made even more meaningful as my first commencement as Dean and as someone who has had the privilege of being part of this community since its early days.

You began your medical education during a time of profound uncertainty, and throughout your journey, you demonstrated resilience, adaptability, and an unwavering commitment to one another and to your patients. These qualities have not only shaped who you are as individuals, but have strengthened the fabric of our community.

You enter the profession of medicine at a time of both challenge and possibility. You are exceptionally well prepared to navigate the evolving landscape of science and healthcare and to lead with integrity, curiosity, and compassion. The way you care for patients, support your colleagues, and engage with your communities will define your impact as a physician and I know that you will do so with care and purpose.

As a member of the QU Netter community, you carry forward a legacy grounded in humanism, service, and a deep commitment to improving the health of others. Wherever your path leads, remain curious, embrace challenges, and continue to grow.

You will always be part of the QU Netter family. We are immensely proud of you and look forward to following your journey and celebrating the many ways that you will make a difference.

With warmest congratulations,

Lisa Coplit, MD

ORDER OF EXERCISES

Trumpet Prelude and Processional

Pomp and Circumstance | Sir Edward Elgar

Call to Commencement

Debra J. Liebowitz, PhD
Provost

National Anthem

Addison Prunier

Greetings

Marie C. Hardin, PhD
President

Dean's Remarks

Lisa D. Coplit, MD
Dean of the Frank H. Netter MD School of Medicine

Introduction of Commencement Speaker

R. Ellen Pearlman, MD
Senior Associate Dean of Education

Commencement Address

Monique Nugent, MD, MPH
Hospitalist and Author

Presentation of Candidates for Medical Degrees and Conferral of Hoods

Lisa D. Coplit

Renu Boatright, MD
Interim Associate Dean for Student Affairs

Conferral of Degrees

Marie C. Hardin

Student Remarks

Paulina Naser-Saravia, MD Candidate '26

QU Netter School of Medicine Physician's Pledge

R. Ellen Pearlman

Alumni Welcome

Robert Passero '70
Alumni Association Board

Recessional

Amor Vittorioso | G. Gastoldi
March | A. Valenti

Please remain at your seats until the Commencement procession files out.
A post-ceremony reception will take place at the Rocky Top Student Center.

CANDIDATES FOR GRADUATION

Doctor of Medicine

Arun Narikatte Abraham

Distinction in Basic, Translational and Clinical Science Research
UMass Chan Medical School, MA
Psychiatry

Enock Godfred Arthur

High Distinction in Medical Education
Brown University/Rhode Island Hospital, RI
Internal Medicine

John Russell Baekey

Distinction in Basic, Translational and Clinical Science Research
University of Vermont Medical Center, VT
Neurology

Stephanie Anne Balint

Distinction in Health Policy and Advocacy
NYP Hospital-Columbia & Cornell, NY
Emergency Medicine

Noam Bar Brutzkus

Distinction in Basic, Translational and Clinical Science Research
Kaiser Permanente-SF, CA
Internal Medicine

Zachary Daniel Barber

Distinction in Health Policy and Advocacy
Ohio State University Medical Center, OH
Family Medicine/Rardin Family Practice Center

David Bartfeld

Distinction in Healthcare Management and Organizational Leadership
Waterbury Hospital, CT
General Surgery

Erika Mandi Belitzky

High Distinction in Medical Education
Brown University/Rhode Island Hospital, RI
Internal Medicine

Kathryn Bindel

High Distinction in Global, Public and Community Health
Northwestern McGaw/Lurie Children's, IL
Pediatrics

Cassidy Larkin Blakeley

High Distinction in Medical Humanities
U Colorado SOM-Denver, CO
Obstetrics-Gynecology

Matthew Bossert

Distinction in Basic, Translational and Clinical Science Research
Mass General Brigham, MA
Pathology-AP only or AP/CP

Andrew Kalsem Brandser

High Distinction in Healthcare Management and Organizational Leadership
University of Chicago Medical Center, IL
Radiology-Diagnostic

Ryan Timothy Brennan

High Distinction in Healthcare Management and Organizational Leadership
Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center, NH
Anesthesiology

Nadezhda Bulekova

High Distinction in Global, Public and Community Health
Boston University Medical Center, MA
Internal Medicine

Nicholas Anthony Carola III

Distinction in Healthcare Management and Organizational Leadership
Quinnipiac University/Netter MD SOM, CT
Family Medicine/Rural Hungerford Hospital

Suzanne Sarah Cayer

High Distinction in Health Policy and Advocacy
University of Utah Health, UT
Emergency Medicine

Scott Craig Childs

Distinction in Healthcare Management and Organizational Leadership
Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center, MA
Anesthesiology

Lucas Cordova

Distinction in Medical Humanities
Duke University Medical Center, NC
Family Medicine

Megan Eileen Cortés

Distinction in Medical Humanities
Duke University Medical Center, NC
Pediatrics

Louisa Offei Darko

Distinction in Healthcare Management and Organizational Leadership
University of Rochester Medical Center, NY
Internal Medicine

Jason Dinh

Distinction in Basic, Translational and Clinical Science Research
UMass Chan - Baystate, MA
General Surgery

Andrea Echarri-Gonzalez

Distinction in Global, Public and Community Health
U Miami/Jackson Health System, FL
Neurology

Paul Farris

Distinction in Interprofessional Education and Practice
U Connecticut School of Medicine, CT
Physical Medicine & Rehab

Julie Sklar Gaziano

High Distinction in Global, Public and Community Health
MGB-Brigham & Women's Hospital, MA
Internal Medicine

Ludhe Naïka Gernier

Distinction in Global, Public and Community Health
U Connecticut School of Medicine, CT
Obstetrics-Gynecology

Sophia Claire Gibson

High Distinction in Medical Humanities
Maine Medical Center, ME
Internal Medicine

Shannon Melody Hanggodo

Distinction in Basic, Translational and Clinical Science Research
George Washington University, DC
Internal Medicine

Sana Haroon

High Distinction in Global, Public and Community Health
ISMMS Mount Sinai Hospital, NY
Internal Medicine/Community Primary Care

Chelsea Celeste Hiciano

High Distinction in Healthcare Management and Organizational Leadership
Johns Hopkins Hospital, MD
Emergency Medicine

Estelle Avelina Khan

Distinction in Basic, Translational and Clinical Science Research
UMass Chan – Baystate, MA
Obstetrics-Gynecology

Umme Hasna Hossain

Distinction in Global, Public and Community Health
Zucker SOM-Northwell Lenox Hill Hospital, NY
Internal Medicine

Elisabeth Brontë Jenkins

High Distinction in Basic, Translational and Clinical Science Research
Indiana University SOM, IN
Vascular Surgery

Jacob Michael Johnson

High Distinction in Basic, Translational and Clinical Science Research
SUNY Upstate Med University, NY
Orthopaedic Surgery

Andrew James Kehm

Distinction in Healthcare Management and Organizational Leadership
Maine Medical Center, ME
Urology

Olivia Nicole Kelly

Distinction in Medical Humanities
U Connecticut School of Medicine, CT
Pediatrics

Candice Kent

Distinction in Basic, Translational and Clinical Science Research
Yale-New Haven Hospital, CT
Anesthesiology

Emelei Rose Klein

High Distinction in Medical Humanities
University of Rochester Medical Center, NY
Radiation Oncology

Tatyana Koustov

Distinction in Medical Humanities
UMass Chan Medical School, MA
General Surgery

Alexandra Krishnamurthi

Distinction in Global, Public and Community Health
Valley Health System, NV
Emergency Medicine

Elina Kurkurina

High Distinction in Healthcare Management and Organizational Leadership
Yale-New Haven Hospital, CT
Emergency Medicine/Research

Sara Larosiliere

Distinction in Global, Public and Community Health
Lehigh Valley Hospital, PA
General Surgery

Rose Lassalle-Klein

High Distinction in Medical Humanities
UCSF Benioff Children's Hospital, CA
Pediatrics

Sarah Jayne Levitt

High Distinction in Global, Public and Community Health
Rochester Regional Health, NY
Interventional Radiology

Meredith Haak LiCalzi

Distinction in Global, Public and Community Health
Emory University SOM, GA
Anesthesiology

Jacob Francis Liff

Distinction in Medical Education
Kent Hospital, RI
Emergency Medicine

Derrick X. Liu

High Distinction in Basic, Translational and Clinical Science Research
UMass Chan Medical School, MA
Ophthalmology

Douglas Joseph MacLean

Distinction in Basic, Translational and Clinical Science Research
Brown University/Rhode Island Hospital, RI
Anesthesiology

Faria Mahjabin

Distinction in Medical Education
Zucker SOM-Northwell South Shore, NY
General Surgery

Mirwat Majumder

Distinction in Health Communications
NYU Grossman School of Medicine, NY
Emergency Medicine

Alex Nikhil Malhotra

Distinction in Medical Education

Noa Rachel Marx

High Distinction in Global, Public and Community Health
NYP Hospital-Columbia University Medical Center, NY
Pediatrics

Demitrios Leonidas Master

*Distinction in Healthcare Management
and Organizational Leadership*
Swedish Medical Center, WA
Family Med/SIHB

George Matli

Distinction in Global, Public and Community Health
Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center, MA
Anesthesiology

Alexandra Lindsay McGuire

Distinction in Medical Humanities
MGB-Massachusetts General Hospital, MA
Pediatrics

Megan Violet McNamara

Distinction in Basic, Translational and Clinical Science Research
Yale-New Haven Hospital, CT
Medicine-Primary

Isabella Michael Miele

Distinction in Medical Humanities
Mass General Brigham, MA
Emergency Medicine

Sasha Sharif Mir

Distinction in Medical Education
OBH Brookdale University Hospital Medical Center, NY
Psychiatry

Grace Mockaitis

Distinction in Global, Public and Community Health
Maine Medical Center, ME
Neurology

Vanad Mousa

*Distinction in Healthcare Management
and Organizational Leadership*
Childrens Hospital-Los Angeles, CA
Pediatrics

Terry Ann Muldoon

High Distinction in Medical Humanities
UMass Chan Medical School, MA
Psychiatry-Neurology

Kathleen L. Mulligan

High Distinction in Medical Humanities
Yale-New Haven Hospital, CT
Medicine-Pediatrics

Robert John Nardella

Distinction in Basic, Translational and Clinical Science Research
NYU Grossman Long Island SOM, NY
Internal Medicine

Paulina Naser-Saravia

*High Distinction in Basic, Translational and Clinical
Science Research*
Stamford Hospital/Columbia, CT
General Surgery

David Neider

Distinction in Basic, Translational and Clinical Science Research
Portsmouth Regional Hospital, NH
Family Medicine

Nicole Masako Nishime

High Distinction in Global, Public and Community Health
Albany Medical Center, NY
Plastic Surgery (Integrated)

Agustín Ernesto Olivares Felipe

Distinction in Basic, Translational and Clinical Science Research
JHME-Jefferson Einstein Philadelphia, PA
Internal Medicine

Michelle Asantewa Opore

Distinction in Global, Public and Community Health
UMass Chan Medical School, MA
Family Medicine/Queen St. Family Health Center

Vishal Mahendrakumar Patel

*Distinction in Healthcare Management
and Organizational Leadership*
Maimonides Medical Center, NY
Radiology-Diagnostic

Samantha Mae Pecenka

*Distinction in Healthcare Management
and Organizational Leadership*
Kaiser Permanente-Napa/Solano, CA
Family Medicine

Willem Reece Philibert

*Distinction in Healthcare Management
and Organizational Leadership*
Zucker SOM-Northwell Danbury Hospital, CT
Internal Medicine

Brynn Elizabeth Rankin

Distinction in Basic, Translational and Clinical Science Research
MedStar Georgetown University Hospital, DC
Interventional Radiology (Integrated)

Henry Ren

Distinction in Global, Public and Community Health
Boston University Medical Center, MA
Emergency Medicine

Alexandra Randolph Rich

Distinction in Basic, Translational and Clinical Science Research
U Connecticut School of Medicine, CT
Obstetrics-Gynecology

Brendan Leo Rooney

High Distinction in Basic, Translational and Clinical Science Research
Tufts Medical Center, MA
Internal Medicine

Julia Goldie Ross

High Distinction in Basic, Translational and Clinical Science Research
Case Western/University Hospitals Cleveland Medical Center, OH
Medicine-Preliminary

Krista Ayrán Runcie

High Distinction in Global, Public and Community Health
Temple University Hospital, PA
Anesthesiology

Sarah Sammataro

Distinction in Medical Humanities
Rutgers-R. W. Johnson Medical School, NJ
Psychiatry

Mary Elizabeth Seibel

Distinction in Global, Public and Community Health
UC Davis Medical Center, CA
Anesthesiology

Maira Y. Silva

Distinction in Global, Public and Community Health
ISMMS Mount Sinai Morningside-West, NY
Emergency Medicine

Khalid Sirawan

Distinction in Basic, Translational and Clinical Science Research
NYMC-Metropolitan Hospital Center, NY
Surgery-Preliminary

Phillip H. Smit

High Distinction in Basic, Translational and Clinical Science Research
U Connecticut School of Medicine, CT
Anesthesiology

Calvin Smith

Distinction in Basic, Translational and Clinical Science Research
University of Utah Health, UT
Internal Medicine

Sophia Kekai Smith

High Distinction in Medical Humanities
U Connecticut School of Medicine, CT
General Surgery-Preliminary

Diana Samantha Sosa-Carola

Distinction in Global, Public and Community Health
Middlesex Hospital-CT
Family Medicine

Christopher Laurence Taylor

Distinction in Basic, Translational and Clinical Science Research
Stanford Health Care, CA
Interventional Radiology (Integrated)

Edison Tenecela

Distinction in Medical Education
Yale-New Haven Hospital, CT
Radiology-Diagnostic

Isis Torres Nunez

Distinction in Basic, Translational and Clinical Science Research
U Connecticut School of Medicine, CT
Anesthesiology

Julia Tupper

Distinction in Medical Education
UMass Chan Medical School, MA
Emergency Medicine

Rachel Kay Vallejo

Distinction in Medical Humanities
Indiana University SOM, IN
Medicine-Pediatrics

Victoria Ann Van Riper

Distinction in Medical Humanities
Rutgers-Jersey City Medical Center, NJ
Obstetrics-Gynecology

Shiv Ratan Verma

Distinction in Basic, Translational and Clinical Science Research
Loma Linda University, CA
Surgery-Preliminary

Eric Smith Vilsmark

High Distinction in Health Policy and Advocacy
Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center, NH
Psychiatry

Alexandra Mary Murphy Ward

High Distinction in Health Policy and Advocacy
Brown University/Rhode Island Hospital, RI
Emergency Medicine

Lucas A. Webb

Distinction in Global, Public and Community Health
Boston University Medical Center, MA
Psychiatry

Alexandra Rain Whicker

Distinction in Global, Public and Community Health
Atrium Health Cabarrus, NC
Family Medicine/Cabarrus



ACADEMIC AWARDS AND HONORS

Excellent Performance in a Required Clinical Clerkship

Critical Care—Scott Craig Childs

Emergency Medicine—Chelsea Celeste Hiciano

Family Medicine—Zachary Daniel Barber

Internal Medicine—Agustín Ernesto Olivares Felipe

OB/GYN—Cassidy Larkin Blakeley

Pediatrics—Noa Rachel Marx

Psychiatry—Eric Smith Vilsmark

Surgery—Elisabeth Brontë Jenkins

Awards for Leadership and Service

Gerald R. Berg, MD, Service Award—Rose Lassalle-Klein

Dean's Leadership Award—Phillip H. Smit

Leonard Tow Humanism in Medicine Award—
Victoria Ann Van Riper

National Awards

2026 Excellence in Public Health Award from U.S. Public Health Service—Lucas Cordova

2026 American College of Emergency Physicians National Outstanding Medical Student Award Winner—
Elina Kurkurina

Awards for Outstanding Capstone Projects

Barbara Pober, MD, MPH, Clinical Science Scholarship Award—Elisabeth Brontë Jenkins

Scholarship in Community or Global Health Award—
Lucas A. Webb

Scholarship in Health Equity Award—Suzanne Sarah Cayer

Scholarship in Humanism Award—Victoria Ann Van Riper

Scholarship in Medical Innovation and Education Award—Derrick X. Liu

Scholarship in Primary Care Award—Kathryn Bindel

Stephen Wikel, PhD, Scientific Scholarship Award—
Khalid Sirawan

Awards for High Distinction in a Capstone Concentration

Enock Godfred Arthur

Erika Mandi Belitzky

Kathryn Bindel

Cassidy Larkin Blakeley

Andrew Kelsem Brandser

Ryan Timothy Brennan

Nadezhda Bulekova

Suzanne Sarah Cayer

Julie Sklar Gaziano

Sophia Claire Gibson

Sana Haroon

Chelsea Celeste Hiciano

Elisabeth Brontë Jenkins

Jacob Michael Johnson

Emelei Rose Klein

Elina Kurkurina

Rose Lassalle-Klein

Sarah Jayne Levitt

Derrick X. Liu

Noa Rachel Marx

Terry Ann Muldoon

Kathleen L. Mulligan

Paulina Naser-Saravia

Nicole Masako Nishime

Brendan Leo Rooney

Julia Goldie Ross

Krista Ayrán Runcie

Phillip H. Smit

Sophia Kekai Smith

Eric Smith Vilsmark

Alexandra Mary Murphy Ward

Gold Humanism Honor Society

Enock Godfred Arthur

Lucas Cordova

Ludhe Naïka Gernier

Rose Lasalle-Klein

Grace Mockaitis

Paulina Naser-Saravia

Nicole Masako Nishime

Henry Ren

Brendan Leo Rooney

Sophia Kekai Smith

Eric Smith Vilsmark

Edison Tenecela

Isis Torres Nunez

Victoria Ann Van Riper

FRANK H. NETTER MD SCHOOL OF MEDICINE PHYSICIAN'S PLEDGE

AS A MEMBER OF THE MEDICAL PROFESSION:

- I SOLEMNLY PLEDGE to dedicate my life to the service of humanity;
- THE HEALTH AND WELL-BEING OF MY PATIENT will be my first consideration;
- I WILL RESPECT the autonomy and dignity of my patient;
- I WILL MAINTAIN the utmost respect for human life;
- I WILL NOT PERMIT considerations of age, disease or disability, creed, ethnic origin, gender, nationality, political affiliation, race, sexual orientation, social standing or any other factor to intervene between my duty and my patient;
- I WILL ADVOCATE for social, economic, educational, and political changes that ameliorate suffering and contribute to the well-being of my patients and the communities I serve;
- I WILL RESPECT the secrets that are confided in me, even after the patient has died;
- I WILL PRACTICE my profession with conscience and dignity and in accordance with good medical practice;
- I WILL FOSTER the honor and noble traditions of the medical profession;
- I WILL GIVE to my teachers, colleagues, and students the respect and gratitude that is their due;
- I WILL SHARE my medical knowledge for the benefit of the patient and the advancement of healthcare;
- I WILL ATTEND TO my own health, well-being, and abilities in order to provide care of the highest standard;
- I WILL NOT USE my medical knowledge to violate human rights and civil liberties, even under threat;
- I MAKE THESE PROMISES solemnly, freely, and upon my honor.

*Adapted from the WMA Declaration of Geneva Updated October 2017
(The Physician's Pledge) and the AMA Declaration of Professional Responsibility*



Hamden and North Haven,
Connecticut
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