

INTEGRATED CURRICULUM

DEBUTING IN AUGUST 2019, GEISEL'S NEW INTEGRATED MD CURRICULUM—one that reflects evolving changes in healthcare and healthcare education and creates a cohesive pedagogical approach throughout all four years—builds on the medical school's strong foundation in biomedical sciences and clinical competence. It also creates expanded clinical opportunities in the fourth year.

Completing the preclinical curriculum in 20 months affords greater opportunities for students to participate in sub-internships and electives. New courses will largely be comprised from current course content while some may be shifted to later in the curriculum. The On Doctoring and Patients and Populations courses both remain as core components of the preclinical experience.

After working with faculty, clinicians, and students, the medical education committee curriculum sub-committee—co-chaired by Gregory Ogrinc, MD, MS, senior associate dean for medical education, and Rand Swen-

son, MD, PhD, chair of the Department of Medical Education—presented and discussed the proposed curricular changes with the Geisel Board of Advisors, the Alumni Council, and student organizations.

Noting that the trend in medical education of earlier transition to required clerkships has been accelerating over the past five years, Swenson explained, “Earlier completion of our required clerkship sequence will afford our students more flexibility in career exploration and in activities that strengthen their residency application. Importantly, it will permit incorporation of additional required

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experiences that reinforce and enhance the appreciation of fundamental pathophysiology in our students at a stage when they are differentiating themselves and preparing for transition to residency.”



Matthew Duncan MED '01 helps Syed Rakin Ahmed '22 don his white coat.

Rob Strong

DONNING THEIR WHITE COATS

IN SEPTEMBER, 92 MEMBERS OF THE GEISEL CLASS OF 2022 gathered with family and friends for the school's annual White Coat ceremony where they received the symbol of their new profession. Tucked into the pockets of their white coats were notes from Geisel alumni welcoming the students to medicine.

Dean Duane Compton, PhD, an avid hiker, used hiking as a metaphor for the journey through medical school—a great deal of preparation is required prior to beginning a hike, but once on the path the thrill of what lies ahead is intoxicating. “You are now on the path... but you are not alone,” he said. “We are walking that path with you.” He also reiterated Geisel's dedication to providing the best medical education in the nation.

In a ceremonial tradition welcoming the incoming class, a second-year student, Arunsrinivasan Ponshumugam '21, shared his thoughts about wearing the white coat. He related a story about visiting a home-bound patient with multiple health issues. When the patient leaned in as if sharing a secret, he whispered that his television remote was broken—it was stuck on the Weather Channel. Living alone, the television was this patient's

only companion. Though he may not have been able to fix the patient's health issues, Ponshumugam fixed the remote because he recognized its importance to the patient. “Love the patient in front of you—show compassion when responding to the depth of the human condition,” he said. But also, he said, have compassion for yourself.

This is Geisel's 222nd MD class, its 92 students include 90 MD and two MD-PhD candidates.