

# MD Class of 2025

## Graduation

### Banquet and Awards Ceremony

Thursday, June 5, 2025

Prairieland Park, Saskatoon

**Doors Open @ 5pm**

**Program Begins @ 6:15pm**

**Banquet Begins @ 6:30pm**

**Awards Ceremony Begins @ 7:30pm**



UNIVERSITY OF SASKATCHEWAN  
**College of Medicine**  
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*As we gather here today, we acknowledge we are on Treaty 6 Territory and the Homeland of the Métis. We pay our respect to the First Nations and Métis ancestors of this place and reaffirm our relationship with one another.*

# Program

## **Elder/Indigenous Greeting**

Elder Leo Yahyahkeekoot

## **Masters of Ceremonies**

Drs. Alexander Waslen and Lauren Fraess

## **MD Class of 2025 Co-Chairs Address**

Drs. Mackenzie MacAuley and Karmen Simonson

## **Dean's Address to Graduates**

Dr. Sarah Forgie, Dean, College of Medicine

## **Presentation of Teaching Awards as selected by the MD Class of 2025**

## **Presentation of Academic Awards**

Dr. Meredith McKague, Associate Dean, Undergraduate Medical Education

## **Alumni and Community Program Speech**

Dr. Terry Zlipko, Co-Chair, Community Advisory Committee

## **Presentation of the Spirit of the Class Award**

Dr. Terry Zlipko, Co-Chair, Community Advisory Committee

## **Presentation of the Senior Stick**

Drs. Mackenzie MacAuley and Karmen Simonson

## **Toast to the Families**

Dr. Erin White

## **Toast to the Faculty**

Dr. Richard Williams

## **Student Keynote Address**

Dr. Zoher Rafid-Hamed

## **Closing Remarks**

Drs. Alexander Waslen and Lauren Fraess

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# Class of 2025

Abdirahim Absher	Roya Emadi	Mackenzie MacAuley	Mah Rukh
Ameer Abusada	Jessica Fisher	Aafia Maqsood	Alicja Rutkowski
Aleya Anderson	Lucas Fisher	Austin McGrath	Yousef Abdelkhalek Saber Omar
Gabriella Antaya	Emma Foreman	Abby Miller	Huzaifa Saeed
Candelaria Aristizabal Londono	Lauren Fraess	Navona Muo	Avani Saxena
Mohammed Armanazi	Jenna Francisco	Sydney Murray	Evan Seebach
Reyad Arwini	Danielle Gaultois	Minhal Mussawar	Anya Sigurdson
Faizah Janan Ashique	Iris Geldenhuys	Kamran Nasir	Rachel Silverberg
Lindsay Balezantis	Mimi Girard	Jae Newton	Olena Simko
Abigail Barker	Samuel Girgis	Emiola Ogunjimi	Karmen Simonson
Maricris Bautista	Thomas Goldade	Moyin-Oluwa Onasanya	Zainab Sultan
Graham Beresh	Flinn Herriot	Alyx Orieux	Azasma Tanvir
Stephanie Bigsby	Mujtaba Ibrahim	Monica Ouellet	Natalie Tilbury
Samuel Boctor	Cassidy Jones	Hope Packet	Erin Tilk
Rachel Cey	Sergey Kens	Evan Parchomchuk	Andrew Ujvary
Chantal Chabot	Bardia Khun Jush	John Perverseff	Mikaela Vancoughnett
Kayla Cropper	Raina Kim	Carl Pinter	Adam Wandzura
Jamie Cundal	Ryan Krochak	Arghya Podder	Mark Wang
Namrata Das	Erica Ladham	Zoher Rafid-Hamed	Shayyan Wasim
Taylor Dennison	Devin Laubscher	Retaj Ramadan	Alexander Waslen
Ravdip Dhalawal	Jadyn Lennea	Noaah Reaume	Brock Weston
Claire DuVal	Susan Liu	Kalea Rempel	Erin White
Cole Elaschuk	Thomas Lowe	Luke Ruchotzke	Meghan Wiens
			Richard Williams

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# Teaching Awards

**Prince Albert Resident Teaching Award**

**Prince Albert Faculty Teaching Award**

**SLIC Faculty Teaching Award**

**Saskatoon Resident Teaching Award**

**Saskatoon Faculty Teaching Award**

**Regina Resident Teaching Award**

**Regina Faculty Teaching Award**

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# MD Graduate Awards

## **Lawrence and Penny Clein Scholarship in Palliative Care**

In recognition of a fourth-year undergraduate medical student who has demonstrated the potential and the interest to pursue a career in or related to palliative care.

## **Drs. Shashi and Pravesh Suri Award**

Drs. Shashi and Pravesh Suri established this award to show their appreciation of the University of Saskatchewan medical school, and promote academic excellence. This is awarded to the top graduating student who will be pursuing residency training in anesthesia or family medicine.

## **Professor Popkin Prize in Obstetrics and Gynecology**

This prize is awarded to the final year medical student who, during the clinical clerkship, demonstrated superiority in the acquisition of knowledge, skills, values and attitudes that physicians require to provide reproductive health care.

## **The Artemis Award**

Awarded to the student who has shown the greatest interest in pursuing a career in Obstetrics and Gynecology. It recognizes passion, and dedication to advancing women's health.

## **Dr. Robert G. Murray Undergraduate Award in Medicine**

This award established in memory of Dr. Robert G. Murray, former Dean of the College of Medicine, is to provide financial support to an undergraduate student who has completed their Grade 12 education in the province of Saskatchewan and who intends to establish a family practice in the province.

## **Dr. Eric Lepp Memorial Award in Medicine**

Dr. Eric Lepp was a nuclear medicine specialist, practicing in Regina who was tragically killed in a traffic accident in 1990. In his honour, this award is presented annually to the student receiving the highest mark on the internal medicine rotation during the clinical clerkship year.

# MD Graduate Awards

## **Dr. J. W. Gerrard Prize in Clinical Pediatrics**

In honour of Dr. J. W. Gerrard's lifelong commitment to the care of children and to excellence in clinical pediatrics, the Department of Pediatrics awards a prize to the most distinguished graduating student in clinical pediatrics.

## **The Dr. Karl E. Oberdieck Prize**

The prize is given to the student who attains the second-highest mark in the clinical component of the psychiatry rotation during the clerkship year.

## **Dr. Beattie Award in Psychiatry**

An award has been established in memory of Dr. Beattie, a prominent psychiatrist in Regina for many years. This award will be presented annually to a medical student who has completed the psychiatry portion of their clinical clerkship in Regina.

## **Emergency Medicine Book Prize**

Two annual prizes, one to a student at the Regina site and one to a student in Saskatoon, with the top clinical performance on their emergency medicine rotation.

## **Drs. Epstein and Schnurr Award in Integrative Medicine**

This award, in honour of Dr. Michael Epstein and Dr. Joe Schnurr, is provided to a graduating student in recognition of demonstrated motivation, initiative and achievement in the area of integrative medicine.

## **Mark Cohen Ophthalmology Undergraduate Prize in Medicine**

Dr. Mark Cohen is a practicing ophthalmologist and President of Lasik MD Montreal. He donated this award to the student who, in the opinion of the Department of Ophthalmology, will make an outstanding clinician and who will secure and accept a residency training position in Ophthalmology at a Canadian university.

## **Saskatchewan Psychiatric Association Award**

Awarded to the student with the top academic achievement in the psychiatry rotation.

# MD Graduate Awards

## **Isabelle and Emmett Hall Scholarship**

This award is considered for the five students with the highest marks on the musculoskeletal section of the final systems examination and producing the best essay related to a problem related to Orthopedic surgery.

## **Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation Prize**

This prize is sponsored by the Royal University Hospital Foundation and is presented to the final year student who has shown outstanding academic achievement and clinical performance in physical and rehabilitative medicine.

## **Professors' Prize in Surgery**

This prize is given by the professors in the Department of Surgery to the graduating student who has shown the greatest promise as a future clinical surgeon. The prize is awarded on the basis of excellence in clinical performance and the oral examination.

## **Dr. Walter J. Hader Scholarship in Medicine**

Through the generous donation of Dr. Walter J. Hader, this award is granted to a student in the graduating class, who has matched in physical medicine and rehabilitation.

## **Saskatoon Plainsmen Club Award in Family Medicine**

The Plainsmen Club is a non-profit group made up of local representatives from many innovative pharmaceutical companies currently operating in the northern Saskatchewan territory. This award is granted to a fourth-year student who is from, as well as intends to establish a family medicine practice in the province of Saskatchewan.

## **Dr. G. Ernest McBrien Award**

In memory of her brother, Mrs. Madelene Smith has donated the Ernest McBrien Award in Family Medicine to the medical student(s) with the highest standing in family medicine and who plans to pursue a career in family medicine.

# MD Graduate Awards

## **Dr. Vernon and Mrs. Christine Hoepfner Award for Excellence in Internal Medicine**

This award established by Dr. Rob Basi recognizes one student with the best combined grades in Internal Medicine II, III, IV and the Foundations I, II, III modules who matched to a USask internal medicine residency.

## **The Department of Pediatrics Prize**

This award is presented to the student with the best overall performance in the pediatric rotation.

## **The Reuben Brant Scholarship in Medicine – Academic Achievement in Year 4**

A bequest from the estate of Reuben Brant, this award is given to the student in the graduating class with the highest average in Year 4.

## **Dr. Vince Matthews Prize in Community Health and Epidemiology**

This prize is in honour of Dr. Matthews, Professor and Department Head of Social and Preventive Medicine (now Community Health and Epidemiology). His distinguished career in public service included being Acting Deputy Minister of Health in 1962 when Medicare was introduced in Saskatchewan. Dr. Matthews retired in 1987 and passed away in 1988.

## **Dr. Hugh MacLean Prize and Silver Medal in Surgery**

Dr. J.B. Ritchie, associated for many years with the late Dr. MacLean in the practice of surgery in Regina, has donated this award to the student who shows the highest proficiency in surgery.

## **MacLeod Silver Medal**

Dr. Wendell MacLeod was the second Dean of Medicine at the University of Saskatchewan from 1952 to 1961. In his honour, a silver medal is awarded to a student whose scholastic work and extracurricular activities are outstanding.



# MD Graduate Awards

## **Henry and Cheryl Kloppenburg Prize in Psychiatry**

The Henry and Cheryl Kloppenburg Prize is awarded to the student ranking highest in the psychiatry rotation in the clerkship year. It recognizes the Kloppenburgs' long-standing interest in supporting the pursuit of excellence in psychiatric care.

## **Drs. Ivan Jen and Suzanne Yip Award**

This award, donated by Drs. Yip and Jen, is presented annually to the graduating student with the highest average in all the courses relating to student/patient interaction and the refinement of basic clinical skills.

## **Hilliard Silver Medal and Department of Medicine Prize**

In honour of the first professor of medicine at the University of Saskatchewan, the Hilliard Medal is awarded to a graduating student on the basis of excellent performance in clinical medicine and systems.

## **The Reuben Brant Scholarship in Medicine – Overall Academic Achievement**

A bequest from the estate of Reuben Brant, this award is given to the student in the graduating class with the most outstanding overall academic achievement in the four years of undergraduate medical education.

## **Lindsay Gold Medal**

This award, in honour of Dr. W. Stewart Lindsay, first professor of pathology and first Dean of the School of Medical Sciences, goes to the graduating student with the most outstanding academic achievement in each year of training in the College of Medicine

## **Spirit of the Class**

The first College of Medicine Alumni Association “Spirit of the Class” award was presented in 1985. The award fulfills the Alumni Association’s wish to honour the graduating class and particularly the member of the class who epitomized the “Spirit of the Class” during the four years of medicine.

## **Senior Stick**

The Senior Stick shall be awarded to a graduating student that has made a significant contribution to the social dynamic of their class and supported the development of a strong class bond.

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# The MD Class of 2025 graciously thanks their supporters.

**Undergraduate Medical Education (UGME) Office**  
**Saskatchewan Health Authority**  
**College of Physicians and Surgeons of Saskatchewan**  
**Saskatchewan Medical Association**



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Health Authority**



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Surgeons of Saskatchewan



For more information, visit  
[medicine.usask.ca/md-grad.php](http://medicine.usask.ca/md-grad.php)



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*Thank you to friends and family for helping celebrate the  
MD Class of 2025.*