



# St. George's University

**SCHOOL OF MEDICINE**

Grenada, West Indies

## WHITE COAT CEREMONY

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2024

Patrick F. Adams Hall  
True Blue Campus, Grenada

“Tonight is a transition in life—an opening, a passage, and a precious opportunity to reassert what we share, what we deeply believe beyond subspecialty or gender or age—that the chains of pain and suffering can and will be broken, that the world can change one person, one situation, one diagnosis, one dignity-affirming moment, one life-affirming moment at a time.”

Jonathan M. Mann, MD, MPH  
St. George's University White Coat Ceremony  
January 1998

# PROGRAM

Processional

Master of Ceremonies ..... **Kazzara Raeburn, MD '08, MSc**  
Assistant Dean, Curriculum, Basic Sciences,  
St. George's University

Remarks ..... **Glen Jacobs, DEd**  
Provost, St. George's University

Remarks..... **Marios Loukas, MD, PhD**  
Dean, School of Medicine,  
St. George's University

Remarks and Introduction of Keynote Speaker ..... **Charles R. Modica, JD**  
Chancellor, St. George's University

Keynote Address ..... **Robert Grant, MD, MSc, FACS**  
Senior Associate Dean, Clinical Studies,  
St. George's University

Presentation of White Coats ..... **Dr. Myanna Charles,**  
**Dr. Vineeta Naraine-Ramnauth, Dr. Simone Pierre,**  
**Dr. Michael Montalbano, Dr. Rachael George,**  
**Dr. Alvin Billey, Dr. Krystal Rampersad, Dr. Tiffany Clementson,**  
**Dr. Theofanis Kollias, Dr. Ayesha Sultana,**  
**Dr. Gabrielle Walcott-Bedeau, Dr. Rohan Cummings,**  
**Dr. Bhaktavatsalam Peta, Dr. Stephen Onigbinde,**  
**Dr. Kevlian Andrew**

Professional Commitment ..... **Anna Cyrus-Murden, MD, MPH**  
Assistant Dean, Simulation and Co-Chair, Clinical Skills,  
St. George's University

Recessional

# KEYNOTE SPEAKER

ROBERT GRANT, MD, MSC, FACS



Robert T. Grant, MD, is the senior associate dean for clinical studies at St. George's University School of Medicine. Dr. Grant is responsible for all aspects of the medical clinical training activities, including developing the shared third- and fourth-year curriculum with clinical partners, site visits, and monitoring activities.

Prior to joining SGU, Dr. Grant was plastic surgeon-in-chief at NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital (NYPH), the University Hospitals of Columbia, and Weill Cornell Medical Schools from 2004 to 2021. From 1999 to 2019, Dr. Grant directed the plastic surgery residency program at NYPH, and from 2010 to 2018, he served as vice chair and then chair of the hospital's Graduate Education Committee, a role for which he was responsible for oversight for all residency training programs across the hospital's Columbia and Weill Cornell campuses. Dr. Grant was also a professor of surgery at Columbia University Irving Medical Center, College of Physicians and Surgeons, and an adjunct professor of surgery (plastic surgery) at University of Pennsylvania Perelman School of Medicine.

Dr. Grant has supervised medical student education in his specialty for more than 20 years and was a member of the Columbia and Weill Cornell Core Course Directors Committees. In this role, he helped oversee all medical student education and participated actively in the curriculum revisions that took place at both medical schools. In addition to having a robust reconstructive plastic surgery clinical practice, he also served as the NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital System's physician advisor, director of care coordination, and medical staff office for more than a decade.

Dr. Grant received his medical degree from Albany Medical College, where he graduated cum laude and completed his general surgery and plastic surgery residencies at The New York Hospital-Cornell Medical Center. He finished clinical training with a microsurgical fellowship at NYU Medical Center/Bellevue Hospital. He also received his Master of Science in management from NYU in 2000.

# MASTER OF CEREMONIES

KAZZARA RAEBURN, MD '08, MSC '20



Kazzara Raeburn, MD '08, is an assistant professor and co-chair of the Department of Anatomical Sciences at St. George's University School of Medicine. Dr. Raeburn also has significant experience in curriculum development, serving as assistant dean for curriculum in basic sciences and is chair of the Basic Sciences Curriculum Subcommittee. In this role, she is involved in expanding the teaching and assessment of communication skills and professional behaviors within the SOM courses.

Additionally, Dr. Raeburn became the youngest course director of the integrated Term 1 course in the new systems-based curriculum in 2016. She was actively involved in the development of this new curriculum and was tasked with being the first course director to implement it with a pilot class of medical students. Over the next three years, Dr. Raeburn directed this popular course and introduced innovative ideas that increased the integration of clinical knowledge into the basic sciences. This included the expansion of ultrasound and simulation labs, integrated small groups, and clinical cases within the course.

Dr. Raeburn is a member of several professional societies, including the American Association for Anatomy (AAA) and the American Association of Clinical Anatomists (AACA), where she serves on the Association Council and chairs several standing committees.

A proud alumna, Dr. Raeburn earned her Doctor of Medicine, graduating *cum laude* from SGU. She later completed her clinical training in the UK and returned to serve at the Grenada General Hospital. Dr. Raeburn began her career at SGU as a clinical instructor in the Department of Anatomical Sciences and was quickly promoted to lecturer. In 2020, she received a master's degree in anatomy, where her research focused on the clinical application of ultrasound with a special interest in the posterior forearm.

# MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT EMERITUS

G. RICHARD OLDS, MD, MACP

Today should have special meaning to both you and your families in that it symbolizes your entry into the medical profession. Doctors in training are afforded very special privileges. Taking on the mantle of doctors also carries great responsibilities. Although you may not in the beginning know a great deal about medicine, you will be expected to hold yourselves to the very highest standards of integrity, honesty, and compassion. Today is but the first step in what I hope is a great career for you.

# MESSAGE FROM THE CHANCELLOR

CHARLES R. MODICA, JD, DCL (HONORARY)

I welcome all of you to St. George's University School of Medicine. You have chosen a great and noble career. This White Coat Ceremony symbolizes your entry into the medical profession, a milestone in your life that carries with it a profound obligation of service to others.

As you begin your studies for this challenging career, you must weigh opportunity against responsibility. St. George's University will equip you with all the right tools for the job, but how much you take away with you will depend on how you approach the experience and how much effort you invest in it. I wish you every success.

# MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN, SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

MARIOS LOUKAS, MD, PHD

Today bears reflecting on a few of the principles of the oath you will affirm upon graduation from this institution. At the heart of that oath is a resolve to treat the sick to the best of your ability, to preserve patient privacy, and to safeguard life. It also calls to mind a responsibility to share your wisdom with others. Recognize that in entering the field of medicine you join a community, wherein the team is as pivotal to success as individual effort. To this end, you must strive for excellence in your pursuit of knowledge, for you can only give your best when you fulfill your potential.

As you don these white physician coats, you pledge an oath of professionalism and service. While these values are under attack, they are a necessary requirement in medical practice. Professionalism is a commitment to integrity, altruism, competence, and ethics in the service of others.

A physician must constantly balance the needs of his patients and society against the available resources and his own interests. We must endeavor to honor the sacred trust and privilege that society places in medical professionals, cognizant that the standard is an ideal that we must continuously aim to achieve.

# HONOR CODE

## ST. GEORGE'S UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

As a member of the student body of St. George's University School of Medicine, an institution of medical education dedicated to a high standard of ethics and academic achievement, and recognizing that it is the duty of the University community to nurture responsible, competent, and safe physicians who exhibit professional maturity and sound moral character, I agree:

- To adhere to the University policy of maintaining a high standard of honor and academic integrity;
- To uphold these ideals by refraining from cheating, plagiarism, lying, and theft; and,
- To accept the responsibility of reporting such wrong doing upon witness.

It is understood that any breach of this Code necessitates disciplinary action, subject to the discretion of University officials. Once signed, acquiescence to this Code is in effect.

## PROFESSIONALISM COMMITMENT

Today is the beginning of my medical education and training as a physician. I acknowledge my responsibility to continue the pursuit of knowledge and understanding until that day when I will cease to be a practicing physician.

I am entering training for a noble profession in which my interest must always be subservient to those who may seek my assistance. I must be ever conscious of the value of my fellow health professionals and treat them with respect at all times. My classmates at St. George's University are now my colleagues and I owe to them the same support and encouragement to achieve their goals as I hope to receive from them. I will work alongside my colleagues and professors with tolerance, compassion, and honesty.

I acknowledge my obligation to adhere to the University Honor Code and to conduct myself with integrity and in an ethical manner at all times henceforth. I shall do all within my power to show in myself an example of all that is honorable and good throughout my medical career. It is a privilege to have been given the opportunity to become a physician. May I be ever conscious of that privilege and never abuse it.

Written by the Student Ethics Task Force  
and Alexander P. Ross, MS, FRCS



# GOLD HUMANISM HONOR SOCIETY

Every academic year, a group of students is inducted into St. George's University School of Medicine Chapter of the Gold Humanism Honor Society (GHHS). Inductees are nominated by their peers and selected on the basis of their humanistic qualities and community service. Our GHHS strives to promote humanism and high ethical standards in medicine and medical education. The White Coat Ceremony Committee extends congratulations to our most recent inductees:

## INDUCTEES

Adeyemi Adefolarin	Daniel Grunberg	Richard Pelligrini
Sameel Ahmed	Cynthia Gutierrez	Taylor Perdomo
Clayton Anderson	Bola Gyras	Valeria Ramirez Lombana
Jessie Andino Rios	Mahgol Hamidi	Roger Raveiro
Priya Atodaria	Brady Hernandez	Krystal Reid Watson
Anastacia Azor	Seth Huprich	Oscar Rios
Teja Bollepalli	Anna Iankovitch	Sean Rivero
Kendra Butler	Hisard Jack	Hiranya S
Irwin Cabrera	Aishwariya Jain	Somia Said
Emaan Chaudhry	Melyssa James	Juhi Saxena
Cortney Collins	Khezia Kawaya-Tshola	Sara Sayed
Gabriela Cossyleon	Clara Keum	Mohammad Shafiq
Sabrina Costantini	Madison Kropp	Melanie Simourd
Nicholas Distefano Mercier	Radzhesh Laptev	Jacqueline Stenersen
Foluke Egbeniran	Danielle Lombardo	Fatima Talaver
Miya Elie	Sthefany Chavez Loor	Haylee Unruh
Emily Farmer	Summer Nasr	Shabina Wigneswaran
Olivia Foy	Marla Nazee	
Jacob Fujioka	Vanessa Osei-Bonsu	
Sudhish Gogula	Eric Teye Otumi	
Jheanelle Gregory	Akil Paturi	

# THE WHITE COAT CEREMONY

More than 25 years since its inception at the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Columbia University in 1993, the White Coat Ceremony has become an important ritual symbolizing a student's induction into the medical profession. St. George's University School of Medicine embraced the White Coat Ceremony in 1996.

Affirming this oath of commitment to the medical profession at the beginning of their studies inducts our MD students into the medical profession—and its highest ethical and professional standards—from the very beginning of their career.

The ceremony is significant not just to each incoming class, but for all who attend including: St. George's University faculty; its staff; students' families and friends; and the White Coat Ceremony keynote speakers who inspire first-term students with heartfelt words of wisdom and personal reflections. It is their spoken contributions that we treasure, and are honored to share with past, present, and future generations of St. George's University students.

“Time, sympathy, and understanding must be lavishly dispensed, but the reward is to be found in that personal bond which forms the greatest satisfaction of the practice of medicine.

One of the essential qualities of the clinician is the interest in humanity, for the secret of care of the patient is caring for the patient.”

Francis W. Peabody

*From a lecture to Harvard medical students in 1925  
Accessed from the American College of Physicians, 2007*