



St. George's University
SCHOOL OF MEDICINE
GRENADA, WEST INDIES



**Northumbria
University**
NEWCASTLE

WHITE COAT CEREMONY

FRIDAY, JANUARY 24, 2025

Great Hall, Sutherland Building
Northumbria University, United Kingdom

PROGRAM

“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

Master of Ceremonies	James Coey, BMedSci, BMBS, SFHEA Assistant Dean of Basic Sciences (UK), St. George’s University
Remarks	Andy Long, FEng Vice Chancellor and Chief Executive, Northumbria University
Remarks	Glen Jacobs, DEd Provost, St. George’s University
Remarks	Marios Loukas, MD, PhD Dean, School of Medicine, St. George’s University
Remarks	Robert Grant, MD, MSc, FACS Senior Associate Dean, Clinical Studies, St. George’s University
Introduction of Keynote Speaker	James Coey, BMedSci, BMBS, SFHEA Assistant Dean of Basic Sciences (UK), St. George’s University
Keynote Speaker	Edward Morris, CBE, FRCOG Regional Medical Director and Chief Clinical Information Officer, NHS - East of England Region
Presentation of White Coats	Dr. Mary-Anne Morris, Dr. Lee Dvorkin, Dr. Robert Grant, Dr. Haider Hilal
Professional Commitment	Shubhra Malhotra, MBBS, PGDip Assistant Dean of Students, St. George’s University

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

EDWARD MORRIS, CBE, FRCOG



Dr. Edward Morris, CBE, serves as regional medical director for the National Health Service (NHS) - East of England Region, a position he began in December 2022. He has been a clinical faculty member at St. George's University's School of Medicine since 2001 and remains an enthusiastic teacher to the School's medical students.

Dr. Morris is also a consultant in obstetrics and gynaecology at the Norfolk and Norwich University Hospital NHS Foundation Trust and an honorary associate professor at the Norwich Medical School, University of East Anglia. Additionally, he is chair of the Multiprofessional Advisory Panel for the UK charitable organization, Baby Lifeline.

He is past president of the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists (RCOG). Prior to his presidency at RCOG, he served as the institution's vice president for clinical quality and the fellows' representative for the East of England on RCOG Council. During his presidency, he also held the position of vice chair at the Academy of Medical Royal Colleges.

Dr. Morris is globally recognized for his work in patient safety, standards, and guideline production and his medical device work with the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA). He was the inaugural chair of the RCOG Patient Safety and Quality Committee and chairman of the British Menopause Society from 2013 to 2015.

Dr. Morris was awarded a Commander of the Order of the British Empire (CBE) in HM The King's Birthday Honours List 2023 for services to the improvement of women's healthcare and to patient safety.

MASTER OF CEREMONIES

JAMES COEY, BMEDSCI, BMBS, SFHEA



Dr. James Coey is assistant dean of basic sciences at St. George's University School of Medicine and an associate professor of anatomical sciences at Northumbria University, UK.

Dr. Coey was the academic lead in establishing the SGU/NU program in 2007, which created a pathway for highly qualified international students to pursue medical education. Dr. Coey is also a senior fellow of the Higher Education Authority (SFHEA). He is actively involved in SGU's curriculum design and assessment along with the formulation and implementation of academic policies, procedure development, external accreditation processes, and course management.

Dr. Coey's international clinical experience spans the United States (Beth Israel Deaconess Hospital, Boston), South Africa (Red Cross Children's Hospital, Cape Town), Haiti (Hospital Bon Samaritan, Limbe), India (Raphael, Dehra Dun), and Thailand (Siriraj Hospital, Mahidol Oxford Tropical Medicine Research Unit, Bangkok).

He is also passionate about research as a means of delivering the knowledge, skills, and behaviors paramount to students' evidence-based medical education. In 2013, he co-founded a collaborative research group with Northumbria University with several areas of interest, including pedagogy, 3D-printing, ultrasound, and procedural anatomy.

Dr. Coey holds a diploma in tropical medicine and hygiene from Mahidol University, Thailand, and certificates in medical ultrasound from both Thomas Jefferson University in Philadelphia, PA and the Institute of Urban Transport (IUT) in Delhi, India.

THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF DR. KEITH B. TAYLOR



Appointed the Vice Chancellor at St. George's University in 1989, Keith B. Taylor, DM, FRCP, had a vision of St. George's University becoming one of the world's most renowned centers of international medical education and research. During his nine years at the University, he turned that vision to a reality, forever changing the University's path and opening its students' eyes to a world without boundaries.

Dr. Taylor's vision of a shrinking world, of medical education with a public health framework, led to the creation of the Windward Island Research and Education Foundation (WINDREF) in 1994, which in turn brought the St. George's University name out into the world of scientists and researchers. Dr. Taylor, who came to SGU from Stanford University where he had served in academic medicine for 30 years, guided the University into a graduate program and was instrumental in instituting the School of Arts and Sciences in 1996, which broadened the academic opportunities for students in Grenada and the region.

Of his contributions, St. George's University Chancellor Charles R. Modica said: "Dr. Taylor prevailed upon us to continue excelling as a medical school and was instrumental in establishing the School of Arts and Sciences which has since provided the opportunity for hundreds of Grenadians to have access to quality tertiary education. He had a profound impact on St. George's University and on the nation of Grenada."

In recognition of his vision and dedication to the international growth of St. George's University, it honored his memory with the creation of the Keith B. Taylor Global Scholars Program and established Keith B. Taylor Hall on the True Blue campus in 2007. In addition, the prestigious WINDREF Lecture, which has brought some of the world's most renowned researchers to speak at SGU, was renamed the Keith B. Taylor Memorial Lecture beginning in 2008.

Dr. Taylor's legacy lives on in the continued partnership between Northumbria University and St. George's University. Since its inception, the SGU/NU partnership has created a pathway to medicine for more than 1,700 international medical students.

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.

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

Sandra Alhaj
Samantha Alvarez
Kiereth Atariwala
Caitlyn Brown
Irene Choi
Madeline Cotto
Norah Daghestani
Dianna Daniel
Summer Den Haese
Moyinoluwa Femi-Gege
Girija Ganeshan
Pinima Godpower
Natasha Hastings

Desann James
Moazzam Khan
Yousef Kosho
Abshiro Mayow
Salima Meskine
Jeffrey Michaels
Noreena Ogidan
Madison Olexson
Adam Parker
Shefali Pati
Hrithik Ramanulla
John Ramatowski
Astrit Sabani

Padmini Sangaraju
Bassem Sherif
Ethan Slouha
Amanda Stroiney
Mosammath Sultana
Yasir Taki
Vanshika Talasila
Mario Torres
Eleonora Vapheas
Arman Virabov
Gavin Ward

PROFESSIONAL COMMITMENT

Today is the beginning of my medical education and training as physician. I acknowledge my responsibility to continue the pursuit of knowledge and understanding while recognizing the limits of my abilities and seeking assistance when necessary.

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 healthcare 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, honesty, and cultural humility. I will treat all members of the St. George's University community and its visitors with equity, regardless of rank, as I will do with my future patients.

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. Taking full responsibility for my choices and actions, 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

Revised by the Office of Multicultural Affairs
with input from SOM faculty and students

THE WHITE COAT CEREMONY

More than 25 years since its inception at the College of Physicians & 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, twice a year, 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*