Duke University School of Medicine is one of the nation’s leading institutions for health professions and biomedical education, clinical care, biomedical research, and community partnership. The school comprises more than 2,600 regular rank faculty physicians and researchers, nearly 2,000 students in a variety of health professions and graduate degree programs, and more than 6,200 staff. The School of Medicine and its numerous departments, centers, and institutes — including Duke Global Health Institute and Duke Robert J. Margolis Center for Health Policy — along with Duke University Health System, Duke University School of Nursing, and Duke-NUS Medical School, collectively compose Duke Health.

Planning for the School of Medicine began nearly a century ago in 1925 when businessman James Buchanan Duke, benefactor of Duke University and The Duke Endowment, bequeathed $4 million to establish the Duke University School of Medicine, as well as the Duke University School of Nursing and Duke University Hospital. Less than five years after the school opened in 1930, the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC) ranked Duke in the top quarter of medical schools in the country. In the nearly 100 years since, the School of Medicine has built an international reputation as a world-class academic health care and research institution.

**Core Values**

- Excellence in education, research, patient care, and community partnership
- Respect for and inclusion of people from all backgrounds
- Commitment to service and solving real-world problems
- Sense of urgency in transforming discoveries into improved human health
- Professionalism and integrity demonstrated in all aspects of performance and effort

**Milestones**

- The School of Medicine is ranked fourth in the nation in National Institutes of Health (NIH) funding for all grants and contracts, including R&D, and ninth in the nation in NIH sponsored research grant funding, according to the 2022 Blue Ridge Institute for Medical Research report.
- Duke is home to the Duke Clinical Research Institute, the world’s largest academic clinical research organization.
- Duke was one of the first Clinical and Translational Science award sites designated by the NIH.
- Duke was designated as one of the nation’s first Comprehensive Cancer Centers by the National Cancer Institute to reflect its commitment to cancer care, research, prevention, education, outreach, and training.
- The School of Medicine's unique Patient First MD curriculum gives students the opportunity to learn the core basic sciences through a clinical lens in one year instead of two, care for patients a full year earlier than their peers, and devote their entire third year to scholarly research.
- The NIH selected the School of Medicine as one of the first institutions in the nation to offer a Medical Scientist (MD/PhD) training program.
- The nation’s first Physician Assistant program was created at Duke in 1965, and is ranked first in the nation.
- Duke-NUS Medical School, a partnership between the School of Medicine and the National University of Singapore, offers unique international learning experiences.
Leadership

Duke University School of Medicine is led by Dean Mary E. Klotman, MD. She also serves as Executive Vice President for Health Affairs for Duke University and Chief Academic Officer for Duke Health. She works with a leadership team comprising 13 vice deans and a chief of staff, as well as department chairs and center and institute directors. Associate and assistant deans also assist the dean with the oversight and management of the School of Medicine.

School Priorities

A Commitment to Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion: Duke University School of Medicine works to attract and retain a diverse cadre of talent who positively impact how we teach, learn, and serve in an increasingly diverse world. The school is committed to enhancing racial diversity and equity, inclusion, and respect for our faculty, staff, trainees, and students. From 2019 to 2023, Black or African American representation among regular rank faculty grew by 32%. Women's representation on the faculty has shown steady growth over the years, increasing by 15% from 2019 to 2023.

Community Partnership: The School of Medicine is committed to serving others in our local community and beyond. Faculty, staff, and students make science-based decisions and seek to transform discoveries to improve human health through a variety of innovative community initiatives.

Duke Science and Technology: Launched with a $100 million investment from The Duke Endowment, Duke Science and Technology positions Duke to maximize the potential of revolutionary advances in fields such as genomics, data science, and artificial intelligence.

Advancing Health Together: Patient care is an integral part of what makes Duke University School of Medicine a hub for pioneering research and innovation. Duke University Health System delivers care across three hospitals — Duke University Hospital, Duke Regional Hospital, and Duke Raleigh Hospital — and outpatient services including Duke Primary Care and Duke Health Integrated Practices, Duke HomeCare & Hospice, Duke Health and Wellness, and multiple affiliations.

Data Science and AI: The future of health care will be shaped by our ability to safely harness the potential of technologies such as data science and artificial intelligence. A new partnership between Duke Health and Microsoft will support artificial intelligence applications in medicine and lead transformation in health care delivery, champion health equity, and pioneer advanced research.

Revolutionizing Precision Health: Merging genomics with vast health data, the Center for Precision Health promises a transformative approach to patient care and community health. Led by the Duke Clinical and Translational Science institute, the Center will bridge discovery science with personalized patient care.

Philanthropy

Donors play a vital role in the success of the School of Medicine by funding scholarships and financial aid that help students afford the cost of attendance; endowed professorships that help Duke recruit and retain outstanding faculty; transformative research and discovery; and new buildings, facilities, and infrastructure.

Mission Driven: Education, Research, Patient Care, and Community Partnership