Dear Incoming Duke Medical Student:

June 2019

Congratulations on your decision to attend Duke University School of Medicine! We, the advisory deans and staff members of the Office of Student Affairs, look forward to welcoming you in person in just a few short weeks. We want to take this opportunity to introduce ourselves and let you know about orientation plans before your arrival. **Please look at the website information carefully, reply to requests for information and RSVPs, and email us at the addresses below with any questions that you have.**

The advisory dean program is the heart of our Office of Student Affairs. For the past thirty years, Duke has had a system of personalized advising for our medical students that we believe is the best way to help students deal with the intricacies of medical school, make the best decisions about how to navigate our unique curriculum and prepare for residency, and thrive despite the stresses of the process. When you arrive, you will be assigned to one of four advisory deans and introduced to all of us. We hope that you will become comfortable making use of any and all of us for support, encouragement, advice, and advocacy.

*We believe that being successful and thriving in medical school is highly dependent upon being part of a nurturing community that helps you recognize that staying healthy yourself is a prerequisite for taking good care of others, and encourages your growth as a person as well as a professional.*

One of our goals is to help you maintain and further develop a clear sense of why you chose a career in Medicine and what the future holds. We will begin that process with five days of orientation that we intend to be fun, informative, and useful, and continue through weekly small group meetings, individual meetings, social events, and seminars throughout the year. In our dean's discussion groups this year, we will discuss your professional development, ethical issues that confront medicine in today's culture, current health issues in North Carolina, and health disparities and bias in healthcare.

Now, on to the logistics. Please review carefully the orientation materials on the School of Medicine website: [http://Medschool.duke.edu/education/student-services/office-student-affairs](http://Medschool.duke.edu/education/student-services/office-student-affairs). You will find forms **to be completed and returned** and policies to review before you arrive.

1. If in Durham, pick out your white coat at the Medical Center Bookstore in Duke Clinic. Select your size and style, and then try it on. Your coat will be embroidered with your name as a gift from our Medical Alumni Association.
2. Order your ID badge by sending in a picture online to the ID Office.
3. Order your parking pass online (refer to links on Orientation main page)

If you wish to apply for accommodations for a disability, the instructions are listed on the “Welcome Class 2023” webpage.
Please note on the schedule that each day during our mandatory five-day orientation starts promptly at 8:00 or 8:15AM, the “dress code for the day” varies depending on activities, and that there are some evening events.

When you arrive on the morning of July 29th, plan to either park in the visitor section of Parking Garage MSC on Pratt Street if you don’t yet have a parking pass, or park in the gated section with your parking pass. The garage is just a block up Fulton Street after you exit the Expressway (Hwy #147) but arrive in time for a 15 minute walk to be at the Medical School Learning Hall in the Trent Semans Center for Health Education to pick up your orientation materials by 8:15. The Vice Dean will be our first speaker, so PLEASE BE PROMPT. If you pick up your parking pass later on Monday, you will be able to exit the parking garage without paying the daily fee.

On the evening of the final day of orientation, August 2nd, your class will be formally welcomed into the profession of medicine at the annual White Coat Ceremony. There will be a reception beginning at 5PM with hors d’oeuvres and cold drinks, since your dinner will be delayed by the ceremony. The White Coat Ceremony will begin at 6PM and usually lasts about 90 minutes. Up to four family members or significant others are welcome to share in this milestone with you, so please RSVP and let us know who will be joining us. If you’d like to bring more guests, you must let us know in advance and we will accommodate more as we have space. You may send your RSVPs via the link (RSVP 2019) on the Student Affairs-First Year Medical Students website by July 5th. If we do not hear from you by this date, we will assume you will not have guests at the White Coat Ceremony.

Our best wishes for an enjoyable summer as you prepare yourself for the excitement ahead. We are confident that you will be an essential part of a wonderful class; we look forward to welcoming you to Duke and to the profession of medicine.

With best regards,

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