



SCHOOL OF DENTAL MEDICINE COMMENCEMENT

ADVANCED STANDING
INTERNATIONAL STUDENT PROGRAM

Friday, December 8, 2023

University of Colorado
Anschutz Medical Campus



School of Dental Medicine

UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO
ANSCHUTZ MEDICAL CAMPUS

SCHOOL OF DENTAL MEDICINE
COMMENCEMENT

ADVANCED STANDING
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MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN



Dear Graduates, Families and Friends of the ISP Class of 2023:

On this special Commencement Day, we celebrate the accomplishments of the Dental Class of 2023. To the graduates, their families and friends, let me offer my congratulations on this momentous occasion, and acknowledge the academic accomplishments and personal sacrifices it has taken to reach this goal.

Graduates, the faculty and staff of the University of Colorado School of Dental Medicine take great pride in the educational, research and clinical programs that have provided you with the knowledge and skills that you now possess as new dentists. While you are now distinguished alumni of our great school, your education is not over. As capable professionals, you are entering the dental profession at a time when both your skills and compassion are much in demand.

As you meet the new challenges of treating patients in your communities, please remember the underserved and less fortunate populations who also need your care. Commit to increasing access to oral health care and improving lives.

May the opportunities and privilege to treat others be a source of great professional and personal satisfaction for you.

Best wishes for a rewarding future,

Denise K. Kassebaum, DDS, MS
Dean of the School of Dental Medicine

ORDER OF EXERCISES

INTRODUCTION

Krithika Baskaran, BDS, DDS

*Director, Advanced Standing International Student Program
Associate Professor, Restorative Dentistry
School of Dental Medicine*

GREETING

Denise K. Kassebaum, DDS, MS

Dean and Professor, School of Dental Medicine

ADDRESS TO THE GRADUATES

Roderick Nairn, PhD

*Executive Vice Chancellor for Academic and Student Affairs
Commencement Speaker*

REMARKS

Isaura Cirillo, BDS, DDS (ISP '23)

*Class President 2023
Class of 2023*

PRESENTATION OF DOCTOR OF DENTAL SURGERY DEGREES

Krithika Baskaran, BDS, DDS

*Director, Advanced Standing International Student Program
Associate Professor, Restorative Dentistry
School of Dental Medicine*

PLACEMENT OF ACADEMIC HOODS

Ronald Brown, DDS

*Associate Professor, Restorative Dentistry
School of Dental Medicine*

Kunjan Kakar, DDS (ISP'10), MS, BDS

*Assistant Professor, Restorative Dentistry
School of Dental Medicine*

OATH

Lonnie R. Johnson, DDS, PhD

*Sr. Associate Dean for Clinics and Professional Practice
President's Teaching Scholar | Professor of Periodontics
School of Dental Medicine*

Class of 2023

CONGRATULATORY REMARKS

Brett Kessler, DDS

President-elect, American Dental Association

NORLIN CHARGE

Elizabeth Ramos, DDS, MS

*Assistant Dean for Academic Achievement and Equity
Associate Professor, Diagnostic Sciences and Surgical Dentistry
School of Dental Medicine*

COMMENCEMENT SPEAKER

RODERICK NAIRN, PhD



Roderick Nairn, PhD, was appointed executive vice chancellor for academic and student affairs at the University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus, effective July 1, 2021. Prior to that, Dr. Nairn was provost and executive vice chancellor for academic and student affairs from 2015 to 2021, and provost and vice chancellor for academic and student affairs from 2008 to 2015, for the consolidated University of Colorado Denver | Anschutz Medical Campus. From April 2007 to June 2008, he was vice chancellor for university initiatives for CU Denver | Anschutz. He is also a professor of biology in the CU College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and a professor of immunology in the CU School of Medicine.

Dr. Nairn obtained his PhD in biochemistry from the University of London and the Medical Research Council, National Institute for Medical Research in London, England. After postdoctoral training in immunology/immunogenetics at Albert Einstein College of Medicine in New York, New York, Dr. Nairn joined the faculty of the Department of Microbiology and Immunology at the University of Michigan Medical School in Ann Arbor, Michigan. While at the University of Michigan, Dr. Nairn established a research program in basic cell and molecular immunology, developed a continuing interest in medical and graduate education, and was director of the Medical Scientist (MD/PhD) Training Program.

Dr. Nairn was professor and chair of the Department of Medical Microbiology and Immunology at Creighton University School of Medicine from 1995 through 2003, served as interim dean in the School of Medicine from 1997 to 1998, and then became senior associate dean for academic affairs from 1998 to 2003, with responsibility for oversight of research, faculty affairs and development, medical education, student affairs and admissions, graduate medical education and continuing medical education.

Dr. Nairn was executive vice president for academic affairs and Dean of the Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences, and professor of microbiology and immunology at Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center from January 2004 to March 2007, where he was responsible for oversight of the academic and research missions, all university institutes, institutional planning and effectiveness, institutional compliance, the health sciences center libraries, and student support services and operations.

He has published widely in several basic science areas, been a reviewer for various scientific journals and funding agencies and co-authored a textbook for medical students.

As executive vice chancellor for academic and student affairs, he has responsibility for faculty, academic and student affairs across the CU Anschutz Medical Campus.

CONGRATULATORY REMARKS

BRETT KESSLER, DDS



Dr. Brett Kessler, the new President-elect of the American Dental Association (ADA), has been an active volunteer leader and member of the organization for 26 years. Since 2019, he has represented the 14th District on the ADA Board of Trustees, and he has chaired several ADA committees, including the Diversity and Inclusion Committee, the Audit Committee and the Science and Research Institute, on which he is currently serving his second term.

Dr. Kessler's vast ADA leadership involvement also extends to the House of Delegates, the Dental Wellbeing Advisory Committee and the Council of Dental Benefit Programs, where he was Vice Chair. Additionally, he has served as a Board of Trustees

Liaison to the Council on Advocacy for Access and Prevention, Council of Communications and Council on Dental Practice. He was also awarded the Golden Apple award for "Outstanding Leadership in Mentoring" in 2010, which is the highest award bestowed from the ADA.

Dr. Kessler is also involved in numerous other organizations, including the Metropolitan Denver Dental Society, the Colorado Prosthodontic Society, the American College of Dentists, the International College of Dentists, the Pierre Fauchard Academy and the Colorado Dental Association Foundation, where he was a Founding Chair.

He served as president of the Colorado Dental Association from 2014-2015, and prior to his term, he held a plethora of other leadership roles within the organization. Dr. Kessler graduated from the University of Illinois Chicago College of Dentistry and completed his General Practice Residency at Northwestern Memorial Hospital. He has a wide variety of practice modalities, including hospital setting, employee dentist, practice owner in a fee-for-service startup, chief dental officer at a Dental Support Organization and currently practices in a restorative Preferred Provider Organization.

Dr. Kessler has been an educator at the University of Colorado School of Dental Medicine and University of Michigan. A national wellness and leadership speaker, he is also a five-time Ironman triathlete, ultra-marathoner and avid trail runner. In addition to his work as a clinician, he has been involved with volunteer organizations which promote substance abuse advocacy and wellbeing. He is married to Gina Kessler, DDS, and they have four children together.

SPECIAL RECOGNITION

The following teaching awards were celebrated during the Advanced Standing International Student Program's Graduation Banquet & Awards Ceremony.

The award recipients were chosen by the Class of 2023.

OUTSTANDING DIDACTIC INSTRUCTOR

Kunjan Kakar, DDS (ISP '10), MS, BDS
Assistant Professor, Restorative Dentistry

OUTSTANDING CLINICAL INSTRUCTOR

Daniel Melamed, DDS
*Assistant Professor, Restorative Dentistry
Faculty Senate Vice President*

OUTSTANDING PRE-CLINICAL INSTRUCTOR

Krithika Baskaran, BDS, DDS
*Associate Professor, Restorative Dentistry
Director, Advanced Standing International Student Program*

OUTSTANDING PART-TIME FACULTY

Charles Schonberger, DDS '82
Clinical Assistant Professor, Restorative Dentistry

HUMANISM IN DENTISTRY FACULTY AWARD

Eric Mediavilla, DDS '00
*Associate Dean of Student Affairs and Admissions
Associate Professor, Restorative Dentistry*

ADVANCED STANDING INTERNATIONAL STUDENT PROGRAM CLASS OF 2023



ALHAITHAM ABDULLAH

Kassala, Sudan
University of Khartoum, Sudan
Implant Prosthodontics Award



ALA IBRAHIM AL SHAFIEI

Arlington, Texas
Jordan University of Science and Technology,
Jordan
Oral Medicine Award



SONDUS ALKADRI

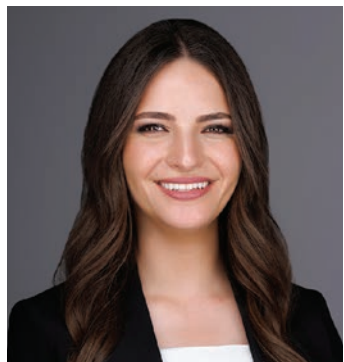
Ar Riyadh, Saudi Arabia
International University for Science and
Technology, Syria
*American College of Dentists Award for Ethics and
Service
Removable Prosthodontics Award*



BAHAA ASFAR

Baghdad, Iraq
University of Baghdad, Iraq

ADVANCED STANDING INTERNATIONAL STUDENT PROGRAM
CLASS OF 2023



LOBNA BANIMOSTAFA
.....

Jarash, Jordan
Jordan University of Science and Technology,
Jordan

Esthetic Dentistry Award
Pediatric Dentistry Award
Omicron Kappa Upsilon Inductee



AMISHKA BANTHO
.....

Gauteng, South Africa
University of Pretoria, South Africa



ISAURA CONCEPCION CIRILLO
.....

Veracruz de Ignacio de la Llave, Mexico
Universidad Veracruzana, Mexico

International College of Dentists Leadership Award
Class President Award



FERNANDO DEON
.....

Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil
Universidade Federal do Rio Grande do Sul,
Brazil

Oral Surgery Award
Omicron Kappa Upsilon Inductee

ADVANCED STANDING INTERNATIONAL STUDENT PROGRAM
CLASS OF 2023



MANPREET KAUR DHANJAL
.....

Punjab, India
Baba Farid University of Health Sciences, India

Periodontics Award
Special Care Award



ANKUSH DUGGAR
.....

Jammu and Kashmir, India
Baba Farid University of Health Sciences, India



VANDANA DUGGIRALA
.....

Telangana, India
Dr. NTR University of Health Sciences, India

Comprehensive Care Award



SIRISHA GANGURU
.....

Andhra Pradesh, India
Dr. NTR University of Health Sciences, India



CHAITANYA GEORGE

Punjab, India
Rajiv Gandhi University of Health Sciences,
India



**VENKATA NAGA SRAVANTHI
JONNALAGADDA**

Telangana, India
Dr. NTR University of Health Sciences, India

*Oral Pathology Award
Orthodontics Award
Omicron Kappa Upsilon Inductee*



MALEK KALLEL SOUAYAH

Monastir, Tunisia
Université de Monastir, Tunisia

*Pierre Fauchard Academy Award for Ethics and
High Standards*



JASKIRAN KAUR

Punjab, India
Baba Farid University of Health Sciences, India



**AMR ADEL ABDELMONEIM
KHORSHEH**

Al Iskandariyah, Egypt
Alexandria University, Egypt



SHAROON SEENAL LATA

Western, Fiji
University of the South Pacific, Fiji National
University, Fiji



**SHIVANI SHIVKUMAR
MALLISHERY**

Maharashtra, India
Maharashtra University of Health Sciences,
India

*American Equilibration Society Award
Omicron Kappa Upsilon Inductee*



ERINE DORADO MAMARIL

National Capital Region, The Philippines
University of the Philippines Manila, Philippines

Operative Dentistry Award

ADVANCED STANDING INTERNATIONAL STUDENT PROGRAM
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KUBER NADIG

Ulster, Ireland
University of Glasgow, United Kingdom



SARAH OMEISHI

Baghdad, Iraq
University of Baghdad, Iraq



JOSIE KURIAN PAUL

Kerala, India
Baba Farid University of Health Sciences, India



SUNAINA PURI

Delhi, India
Manipal Academy of Higher Education, India
Oral Diagnosis Award

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TARUN SACHDEVA

Punjab, India
KLE Academy of Higher Education and
Research, India
Public Health Award



MOHITA SHARMA

Punjab, India
Panjab University, India
Colorado Dental Association Award
Dr. Victoria Saniukovich Humanitarian Award



SURAMYA SHARMA

Delhi, India
Manipal Academy of Higher Education, India
Evidence Based Dentistry Award



SAURABH SINGH

Uttar Pradesh, India
Manipal Academy of Higher Education, India



ELENA STOROZHENKO

Poltavska Oblast, Ukraine
Voronezh State Medical Institute, Russia
American Association of Endodontists Award



SUCHITRA SURESH MENON

Kerala, India
Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham University, India



**ANDREA SURESH RAJKUMAR
ARULDOSS**

Tamil Nadu, India
Tamil Nadu Dr. M.G.R. Medical University,
India



JYOTHIRMAI TALASILA

Andhra Pradesh, India
Dr. NTR University of Health Sciences, India
Research Award



**ANDREA BEATRIZ TINOCO
IRAHETA**

La Libertad, El Salvador
Universidad de El Salvador, El Salvador
Treatment Planning Award
Omicron Kappa Upsilon Inductee



KEZIA VARGHESE

Kerala, India
Tamil Nadu Dr. M.G.R. Medical University,
India



ASHITA VIJAY

Kerala, India
Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham University, India
Fixed Prosthodontics Award



UDEY SINGH WIRING

Punjab, India
Panjab University, India



DEVYANI MANSINGH YADAV
.....

Maharashtra, India
Maharashtra University of Health Sciences,
India



**ASMAA NASERALDEEN
MOHMED YAGOB**
.....

Ad Dawhah, Qatar
University of Khartoum, Sudan



SYED SHAFAY YAQEEN
.....

Sindh, Pakistan
Hamdard University, Pakistan

DENTAL PROFESSIONS OATH

DEAN: Today you stand before family, friends, faculty, and colleagues, ready to become dentists. In closing this ceremony, you now have the opportunity to articulate your commitment to the profession. The oath you have chosen sets forth ideals and principles to guide the work ahead of you.

CLASS: Now being admitted to the profession of dentistry, I pledge myself to the service of humanity, my patients, my community, and my profession. I will use my skills to serve all in need, with openness of spirit and without bias. The health and well-being of my patients will be my first consideration. I will hold in confidence all that my patients entrust to me. I will not subordinate the dignity of any person to monetary, scientific or political ends.

I recognize that I have responsibilities to my community, to promote its welfare and to speak out against injustice. The high regard of my profession is born of society's trust in its practitioners; I will strive to merit that trust.

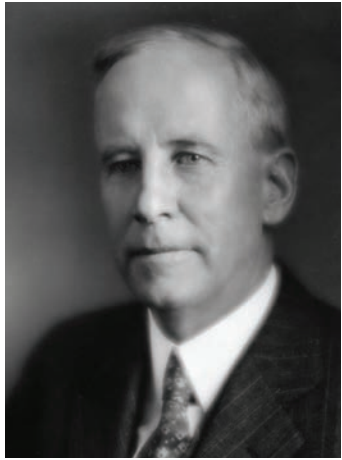
I will promote the integrity of my profession with honest and respectful relations with other health professionals. I am indebted to those who have taught me its art and science and I recognize my responsibility, in turn, to contribute to the education of those who come after me. I will strive to advance my profession by seeking new knowledge and by reexamining the ideas and practices of the past.

I assume these responsibilities, knowing that their fulfillment depends upon my own good health. I ask that my colleagues be attentive to my well-being as I will be to theirs. I will seek to improve my practice by maintaining my skills and addressing my mistakes.

I take this oath freely and upon my honor.

Based on the Hippocratic Oath

THE NORLIN CHARGE



We now come to a most solemn moment in our proceedings — The Norlin Charge. In 1935 University of Colorado President George Norlin gave a charge that has been repeated at every university graduation since. It is one of our most honored traditions. Graduates, please stand and listen closely as I read the Norlin Charge.

It is tradition at this ceremony to read the charge that the late University President George Norlin addressed to the class of 1935. Dr. Norlin was a professor of Greek at CU from 1899 to 1942. For 23 of those years, he served as President of the University, and the library he helped plan during that time now bears his name.

While at CU, President Norlin was an eloquent champion of democracy and human equality during a time of serious threats to those principles across the nation and the world. In 1924, the governor of Colorado reportedly took daily orders from the KKK, which controlled the Legislature. One of those orders was that President Norlin was to rid the faculty of all Catholics and Jews. Norlin refused and the University received limited funds that year. In the early 1930's, President Norlin was an early and vocal critic of Hitler's Nazi regime.

He devoted his career to two great causes: the life of the mind and love of this university. His devotion is heard in this 1935 charge, which closes all CU graduations.

"You are now certified to the world at large as alumni of the university. She is your kindly mother and you her cherished sons and daughters.

This exercise denotes not your severance from her, but your union with her. Commencement does not mean, as many wrongly think, the breaking of ties and the beginning of life apart. Rather, it marks your initiation in the fullest sense into the fellowship of the university, as bearers of her torch, as centers of her influence, as promoters of her spirit.

The university is not the campus, not the buildings on the campus, not the faculties, not the students of any one time — not one of these or all of them. The university consists of all who come into and go forth from her halls, who are touched by her influence and who carry on her spirit. Wherever you go, the university goes with you. Wherever you are at work, there is the university at work.

What the university purposes to be, what it must always strive to be, is represented on its seal, which is stamped on your diplomas — a lamp in the hands of youth. If its light shines not in you and from you, how great is its darkness! But if it shines in you today, and in the thousands before you, who can measure its power?

With hope and faith, I welcome you into the fellowship. I bid you farewell only in the sense that I pray you may fare well. You go forth but not from us. We remain but not severed from you. God go with you and be with you and us."

A MESSAGE FROM THE CU ANSCHUTZ ALUMNI TEAM

Congratulations to the Class of 2023!
We welcome you to our CU Anschutz
alumni community.

Our alumni are important ambassadors
between the university and the greater
healthcare community, and vital mentors for our
students and recent grads. Our alumni network
has more than 56,000 graduates from all
schools on the CU Anschutz Medical Campus.
The CU School of Dental Medicine alumni
network has more than 3,200 graduates.

To get involved, please connect with us:

healthalumni@cuanschutz.edu

 [@cuanschutzalumni](https://www.instagram.com/cuanschutzalumni)

dental.cuanschutz.edu/alumni



CONGRATULATIONS
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