

# Med School Watercooler

NEWS FROM FREDERICK P. WHIDDON COLLEGE OF MEDICINE  
AT THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH ALABAMA

Wednesday, May 20, 2020

## USA College of Medicine honors class of 2020



Although this year's graduating class could not gather in person for honors convocation and commencement, the significance of their achievements is not diminished. Below are the award and scholarship recipients from the University of South Alabama College of Medicine class of 2020.

[View the full Honors Convocation program.](#)

[Watch the virtual Commencement ceremony.](#)

### Dean's Award: **Davis Copeland Diamond**

Awarded to the graduating senior who has accumulated the highest scholastic grade point average for the full four years of medical school.

### Merck Award: **Travis Bedsole Goodloe III, Daniel Philip Zieman**

Awarded to senior students who have demonstrated superior academic achievement.

### Glasgow-Rubin Achievement Citations: **Erin Savanna Bouska**

Presented to those women students who graduate in the top 10% of their class.

### Dr. Robert A. Kreisberg Endowed Award of Excellence: **Maria Siow**

Awarded to a graduating senior student in the top 25% of the class who is distinguished in both the clinical and basic sciences. This student has demonstrated superior leadership and integrity, possesses a strong work ethic, and has performed in such a way as to earn the respect of his or her fellow students and faculty.

### The Leonard Tow Humanism in Medicine Award: **Michael Patrick Steadman, Nicolette Holliday, M.D.**

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Presented by The Arnold P. Gold Foundation to the senior student and to the faculty member nominated and selected by the senior class who have demonstrated outstanding compassion to patients and their families.

Medical Alumni Leadership Award: **Tyler Joseph Kaelin**

Awarded to the senior student by vote of classmates, in recognition of outstanding leadership of the graduating class.

Excellence in Public Health Award: **Supraja R. Sridhar**

Presented by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and the U.S. Public Health Service to recognize the medical student who has demonstrated a commitment to public health and public health practice and has exhibited leadership and hard work with a passion and dedication to public health within the medical profession.

Community Service Award: **Supraja R. Sridhar, Jeremy R. Towns**

Presented by the Medical Society of Mobile County to two senior medical students whose classmates believe best fulfill the ideals of humanitarian public service as demonstrated by superior awareness of, and achievement in, civic and community programs.

SNMA Leadership Award: **Destini Aliyah Smith**

Awarded by the Student National Medical Association to a graduating senior who has demonstrated outstanding community, school, and organizational service and leadership qualities.

Ritha Baliga Memorial Medical Scholarship: **Erin Savanna Bouska**

Awarded to an outstanding senior student who demonstrates a merit ranking within the top 50% of the class and is interested in pursuing a career in pediatric healthcare.

Dr. Richard William Gurich Memorial Endowed Scholarship: **Hannah Marie Ficarino**

Awarded to a graduating senior student who has not only performed at the highest level during the third and fourth year, but has also demonstrated efficacy in patient relations and professionalism.

Dr. William James Atkinson Jr. Memorial Endowed Scholarship: **Michael Patrick Steadman**

Presented to a fourth year medical student exhibiting exemplary character, possessing a dedication to the field of medicine, and demonstrating a commitment to compassionate patient care. This student is interested in primary care and plans to practice in the state of Alabama.

Dr. Joseph G. Hardin Jr. Memorial Scholarship: **William Berney Caine Nicolson**

Awarded to a graduating senior student who is interested in pursuing a career in internal medicine.

John A. Desak Award: **Kristin Nicole Sheehan**

In honor of USA College of Medicine graduate Dr. Maryella Sirmon's father, this award is presented to the highest ranking female in the graduating class who has accepted a residency in internal medicine.

Steven Karl Teplick, M.D., FARC Memorial Award: **William Chase Wiggins**

Awarded to a graduating senior student specializing in radiology and committed to lifelong learning as exemplified by Dr. Steven Teplick.

Outstanding Student in the Pre-Clerkship Curriculum: **Davis Copeland Diamond**

Awarded to a graduating senior student for outstanding performance in the pre-clerkship curriculum.

Award for Excellence in Teaching Clinical Skills: **Maria Siow**

Awarded to a graduating senior student for outstanding teaching skills and student mentoring in the Clinical Skills Program. This student has demonstrated a dedication to education in the field of clinical skills.

Clinical Pharmacology Excellence Award: **Patricia R. Connor**

Presented to a graduating senior student for demonstrating outstanding

► 05/24 - 05/31 (4)

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USA College of Medicine honors class of 2020

Surgery faculty member recognized for excellence i...

► 05/10 - 05/17 (5)

► 05/03 - 05/10 (3)

► 04/26 - 05/03 (3)

► 04/19 - 04/26 (2)

► 04/12 - 04/19 (5)

► 04/05 - 04/12 (4)

► 03/29 - 04/05 (3)

► 03/22 - 03/29 (3)

► 03/15 - 03/22 (3)

► 03/08 - 03/15 (2)

► 03/01 - 03/08 (6)

► 02/23 - 03/01 (6)

► 02/16 - 02/23 (4)

► 02/09 - 02/16 (3)

► 02/02 - 02/09 (5)

► 01/26 - 02/02 (4)

► 01/19 - 01/26 (5)

► 01/12 - 01/19 (6)

► 01/05 - 01/12 (4)

► 2019 (245)

► 2018 (236)

► 2017 (231)

► 2016 (206)

► 2015 (205)

► 2014 (241)

► 2013 (232)

► 2012 (245)

► 2011 (262)

► 2010 (247)

► 2009 (88)

knowledge in basic and clinical pharmacology.

Hollis J. Wiseman Award for Excellence in Pediatrics: **Maria Siow**

Presented to the student who best exemplified Dr. Wiseman's outstanding scholarship, compassion for patients and families, involvement in the profession and community, enthusiasm for exploration and steadfast love of family, friends and colleagues.

Samuel Eichold Award: **Natalie Jean Hargrave**

Presented to the graduating medical student who through scholarship, patient care, interaction with faculty and housestaff, and motivation, has demonstrated outstanding achievement in internal medicine.

Dr. Michael M. Linder Endowed Award: **Elisabeth May Potts**

Awarded to a senior student who has accepted a residency in family medicine and exemplifies a commitment to family medicine, as practiced by Dr. Michael Linder, through astute clinical acumen based on the knowledge of the human body and evidence-based medicine. This student possesses a passion for teaching this knowledge and the art of family medicine to others, and demonstrates courage to do what is best for the whole patient and their family.

Ralph Denny Wright and Anne G. Wright Memorial Scholarship: **Elisabeth May Potts**

Awarded to the senior student focusing on internal medicine/family practice, who strives to become a compassionate physician and skilled diagnostician as exemplified by Dr. Wright.

John W. Donald Memorial Award in Surgery: **Matthew A. Kassels**

Awarded to the senior student who best demonstrated clinical and academic excellence in the surgery clerkship.

H. C. Mullins, M.D. Award: **Elisabeth May Potts**

Awarded by the faculty of the Department of Family Medicine to the graduating senior who demonstrated excellence in the ability to apply principles, practice, and philosophy of family medicine in caring for patients and their families. This award is given in honor of Dr. H. C. Mullins, professor emeritus and founding chair of the department.

Obstetrics and Gynecology Award: **Hayden Hamby Kassels**

Presented to the graduating medical student who, through scholarship, patient care, interaction with faculty and housestaff, and motivation, has demonstrated excellence in obstetrics and gynecology.

Excellence in Emergency Medicine Award: **Travis Bedsole Goodloe III**

This award is presented by the Department of Emergency Medicine to recognize the graduating senior student who demonstrated outstanding performance and academic excellence in emergency medicine.

Society for Academic Emergency Medicine (SAEM) Award: **Benjamin Wade Gibson**

Presented on behalf of SAEM to the graduating medical student who has demonstrated excellence and academic proficiency in emergency medicine.

Excellence in Psychiatry Award: **Taylor Bartlett Ousley**

Presented to the graduating medical student who through scholarship, patient care, motivation, and interaction with faculty and housestaff, has demonstrated excellence in psychiatry.

AAN Medical Student Prize for Excellence in Neurology Award: **Destini Aliyah Smith**

Awarded to the medical student who exemplifies outstanding scientific achievement and clinical acumen in neurology or neuroscience, and outstanding personal qualities of integrity, compassion, and leadership.

**Faculty Awards**

Best Pre-Clerkship Module: **Respiratory**

Best Pre-Clerkship Educators: **Brian Fouty, M.D., Troy Stevens, Ph.D.**

Best M3 Clerkship: **Internal Medicine**

Best Clerkship Educator: **Linda Ding, M.D.**

**COM Dean's Scholarship**

Erin Bouska  
Hunter Childers  
Davis Diamond  
Tyler Kaelin  
Michael Marfice  
Benjamin McCormick  
Robert Ousley  
Taylor Ousley  
Supraja Sridhar  
Kelsey Templeton  
Kelsea Wright

**COM Enrichment Award**

Breanna Heard-Pinho  
DeJarra Johnson  
Malik McMullin  
Destini Smith  
Jeremy Towns

**Charlotte H. and Samuel Eichold Scholarship**

Joseph Cortopassi  
Aaron Dinerman  
Robert Ousley  
Anna Stevens  
Will Martin

**Medical Alumni Scholar Award**

Justin Beasley  
William Nicolson  
Whitney Smith  
M. Patrick Steadman

**Crampton Trust**

Elisabeth Potts  
Jordan Smith  
Christopher Tidwell

**Dr. Thomas J. Wool Endowed Scholarship**

Lucas Ramsey

**Thaddeus H. Waterman Scholarship**

M. Patrick Steadman  
Daniel Zieman

**Ralph B. Chandler Scholarship**

Travis Goodloe III

**William S. McKnight Scholarship**

William Nicolson  
Lucas Ramsey

**USA Medical Faculty Guild Mendenhall Scholarship**

Joseph Cortopassi

**Regan Robinson-Young Memorial Scholarship**

Aaron Dinerman  
Malik McMullin

**Daniel F. Sullivan Memorial Scholarship in Pediatrics**

Seth Lamb

**Donna B. Ledet Memorial Scholarship**

M. Patrick Steadman

**L. W. Cave Family Endowed Scholarship**

Hannah Ficarino  
William Nicolson

**Mark K. McDonald Memorial Fund**  
Davis Diamond

**Mr. & Mrs. Mendel P. Goldstein Memorial Scholarship**  
Heath Donahue

**Cope Memorial Scholarship**  
Travis Goodloe III

**Stephanie A. Marsh Medical Scholarship**  
Travis Goodloe III

**Robert E. Russell Memorial Scholarship**  
Aaron Dinerman

**Virginia Webb Endowment**  
John Friend IV

**Christian Grinaker Memorial Scholarship**  
Bonnie Holley

**AΩA Scholarship**  
Davis Diamond

**Semple Family Endowed Scholarship**  
Maria Siow

**Taylor-Davis Scholarship**  
Dylan Adams

**Drs. Ron & Vicky Franks Scholarship Endowment**  
Maria Siow

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**Tuesday, May 19, 2020**

## Surgery faculty member recognized for excellence in medical education



Karen Braswell, supervisor for clinical education at the USA College of Medicine, presents the Best Clinical Educator Award to Linda Ding, M.D., assistant professor of surgery.

Linda Ding, M.D., F.A.C.S., assistant professor of surgery at the University of South Alabama College of Medicine, was recently named Best Clinical Educator by the class of 2020. The award, chosen by the graduating students, caps off a year of honors for Ding.

In addition to being named Best Clinical Educator, Ding was awarded the Red Sash Award and elected to the Alpha Omega Alpha Honor Medical Society by the graduating medical students. She was also named to the University of South Alabama Chapter of the Arnold P. Gold Humanism in Medicine Honor Society by the class of 2021. Ding is the first faculty member to receive all of these accolades within the same academic year.

"I am extremely grateful to be recognized by the medical students," said Ding, who is also a general surgeon at USA Health. "As an educator, it's my job to make the surgical experience accessible and engaging for all students. The best way to do this is to put the essential surgical knowledge in the context of their chosen future specialty, whether that's surgery or not. To see the excitement and the 'lightbulb turn on' in a student's mind is priceless."

Ding joined USA Health in 2016. She is a fellow of the American College of Surgeons, the Association for Surgical Education, and the Eastern Association for the Society of Trauma.

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