



STONY  
BROOK



Newsroom

**LI Natives, International Students Make up Diverse Group of Incoming Med Students**  
**School of Medicine Welcomes 136 students, Largest Class in History at White Coat Ceremony**



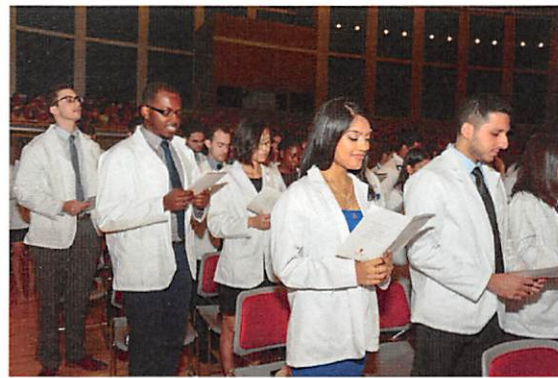
**Dr. Kenneth Kaushansky, Senior VP for the Health Sciences and Dean of the School of Medicine, and Dr. Latha Chandran, Vice Dean, Academic and Faculty Affairs, in center, with incoming medical students, from left: Christine Pando, Monica Giraldo, Jheison Giraldo, Courtney McPhee and Jacquelyn Nakamura.**

**Stony Brook, NY, August 21, 2017**– Future physicians took the Hippocratic Oath and donned physician-in-training white coats for the first time at Stony Brook University’s traditional White Coat Ceremony, the 20<sup>th</sup> annual event held on August 13 at the Student Activities Center. The incoming class of 136 students is the largest in the school’s history. The Class of 2021 is a diverse group with varied backgrounds ranging from Long Island natives to international students.

While more than one-third of the students are from Long Island, many come from all areas of New York State and from regions around the country and world. They represent 71 undergraduate schools, have a collective undergraduate grade point average of 3.75, and an average national MCAT score in the 88<sup>th</sup> percentile. Only eight percent of the total 2017 applicants were accepted to Stony Brook.

For more statistical information about the Class, see the attached infographic.

“This is an inspiring day for all of you, as you enter a profession that is a privilege, makes a tremendous impact in the lives of your patients and their families, requires life-long learning, and is a team sport,” said Kenneth Kaushansky, MD, MACP, Senior Vice President for the Health Sciences and Dean of the School of Medicine, as he welcomed the incoming class. “As you wear your white coats remember that from this day forward the coat is a symbol of professionalism, scientific excellence, and compassionate care.”



**The new first year medical students recited the Hippocratic Oath for the first time at the 2017 White Coat Ceremony.**

Among the new students are Long Island natives Christine Pando from Garden City, originally a music educator before she found a new path in medicine; and Jacquelyn Nakamura, from Huntington, a political science major at Yale who completed her medical prerequisite studies from New York



**Dr. Latha Chandran assists a member of the Class of 2021 as he tries on his first white coat as a medical student.**

University. The Class also includes a married couple – the first time a married couple was accepted to the school in the same year. Jheison Giraldo and Monica Giraldo were both born in Columbia but met at Stony Brook as undergraduate students who majored in Biochemistry. Another student, Courtney McPhee, majored in Pharmacology and Toxicology at SUNY Buffalo and then lived in Uganda as a Peace Corps volunteer for two years. She has a sibling in her fourth year at Stony Brook University School of Medicine. Jack Fuhrer, MD, Associate Dean for Admissions, and Latha Chandran, MD, MPH, Vice Dean, Academic and Faculty Affairs, presented each student with a physician-in-training white coat. Dean Kaushansky administered the Hippocratic Oath at the end of the official ceremony for the students. Jorge Puente, MD, Class of 1982, was presented with the 2017 Distinguished Alumni Award and honored for his career as a both a public health physician and advocate and a successful pharmaceutical executive.

## About Stony Brook University School of Medicine

Established in 1971, the **Stony Brook University School of Medicine** includes 25 academic departments. The three missions of the School are to advance the understanding of the origins of human health and disease; train the next generation of committed, curious and highly capable physicians; and deliver world-class compassionate healthcare. As a member of the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC) and a Liaison Committee on Medical Education (LCME) accredited medical school, Stony Brook is one of the foremost institutes of higher medical education in the country. Each year the School trains nearly 500 medical students and more than 480 medical residents and fellows. Faculty research includes National Institutes of Health-sponsored programs in neurological diseases, cancer, cardiovascular disorders, biomedical imaging, regenerative medicine, infectious diseases, and many other topics. Physicians on the School of Medicine faculty deliver world-class medical care through more than 30,000 inpatient, 80,000 emergency room, and approximately 350,000 outpatient visits annually at Stony Brook University Hospital and affiliated clinical programs, making its clinical services one of the largest and highest quality on Long Island, New York.

To learn more, visit [www.medicine.stonybrookmedicine.edu](http://www.medicine.stonybrookmedicine.edu).