

Congratulations

CLASS OF 2020

School of Osteopathic Medicine

Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences

Dear Faculty, Staff, Residents, and Students,

Please join me in congratulating the Class of 2020 from Rowan University School of Osteopathic Medicine and the Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences on their Commencement Day!

We have so much to be thankful for today. I am very proud of our graduates, who today will receive their D.O, Ph.D., and Master's degrees. Our graduates have excelled despite facing great adversity during this unprecedented time. I especially want to thank our faculty and staff, as today would not be possible without your continued dedication and support of research, medical education, and our students.

COVID-19 changed everything.

Since mid-March, the global pandemic impacted everyone in this region, including our 2020 graduates. They had to forego their final clinical rotations, and it also affected the way in which RowanSOM has traditionally celebrated noteworthy occasions such as Match Day and Commencement.

Later today, we will celebrate our graduates in a virtual commencement ceremony- a first for our medical school and graduate school. I hope that everyone from the Stratford campus community will have the opportunity to tune in to view the virtual RowanSOM and GSBS commencement ceremony **today at 4 pm.**

You can access the ceremony via the [Rowan University YouTube](#) or via [Facebook](#). More information about today's ceremony and other features can be found on the RowanSOM Commencement Celebration website: <https://go.rowan.edu/RowanSOM2020>.

Here are just a few notable achievements of the Class of 2020:

- The RowanSOM Class of 2020 includes 179 graduates - our largest class ever!
- There are 49 RowanGSBS graduates, including 4 Ph.D. candidates.
- Six GSBS alumni will receive their D.O. degree from SOM today.
- RowanSOM's Class of 2020 was the first cohort from the school to participate in the ACGME single match program. Our students performed remarkably well, with a match rate of 99%, with many securing slots in competitive programs and specialties across the nation.
- The SOM Class of 2020 participated in early graduation, some as early as April 30th. They are prepared to begin their residencies early, and some will work on the front lines of the COVID-19 relief effort.
- Students in the SOM Class of 2020 demonstrated extraordinary leadership and were the creators of a number of successful programs at the medical school, including the L.E.A.D. mentoring program, the R.A.I.S.E. enrichment program, and most notably, for restarting the [Rowan Community Health Center](#) at the Commitment Community Church in Lindenwold.
- Most recently, student leaders from the Class of 2020 created the New Jersey COVID-19 Medical Student Coalition to help in the pandemic relief effort, including producing and distributing PPE. The group has grown to include more than 100 volunteers, including medical and dental students from throughout New Jersey. They have made significant contributions to provide resources and services for hospitals and healthcare workers throughout the state. The work of the NJ Medical Student Coalition was recently featured in an [NJ.com article](#).

On behalf of the administration, faculty and staff, I congratulate our newest physicians and researchers from RowanSOM's and GSBS's Class of 2020. Their diligence and resilience during their time here as students will prove beneficial throughout their careers and will leave a lasting mark on their communities and our nation. No doubt they will improve the human condition through excellence in patient care and discovery.

The Class of 2020 will always be an integral part of the RowanSOM and GSBS family, and we will continue to support them in their journey forward.

My best regards,



Thomas A. Cavalieri, DO, MACOI, FACP
Dean