



THE UNIVERSITY *of* NORTH TEXAS  
HEALTH SCIENCE CENTER *at* FORT WORTH

**Wednesday, May 22, 2024**

One O'clock in the Afternoon

Dickies Arena

Fort Worth, Texas

College of Nursing

UNT System College of Pharmacy

School of Health Professions

School of Public Health

School of Biomedical Sciences

Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine

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P R O G R A M

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PRELUDE

PROCESSIONAL

PRESENTATION OF COLORS

NATIONAL ANTHEM\*

WELCOME

RADM (Ret) Sylvia Trent-Adams, Ph.D., R.N.  
HSC President

MILITARY COMMISSIONING

Major General (Ret) Brian C. Newby, USAF

PRESENTATION OF THE HSC HEALTH AWARD

PRESENTATION OF THE PRESIDENT'S AWARD FOR SCHOLARLY EXCELLENCE

PRESENTATION OF THE CHANCELLOR'S AWARD FOR SCHOLARLY EXCELLENCE

PRESENTATION OF THE PRESIDENT'S ALUMNI AWARD FOR DISTINGUISHED SERVICE

PRESENTATION OF CANDIDATES FOR MASTER OF SCIENCE IN APPLIED OUTCOMES RESEARCH, MASTER  
OF SCIENCE IN DRUG DISCOVERY AND DEVELOPMENT, AND DOCTOR OF PHARMACY DEGREES

Annesha White, Pharm.D., M.S., Ph.D.

Interim Dean and Associate Professor of Pharmacotherapy

PRESENTATION OF CANDIDATES FOR MASTER OF SCIENCE IN LIFESTYLE HEALTH SCIENCES AND COACHING,  
MASTER OF PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT STUDIES  
AND DOCTOR OF PHYSICAL THERAPY DEGREES

J. Glenn Forister, Ph.D., PA-C

Dean, School of Health Professions

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MASTER OF PUBLIC HEALTH, MASTER OF SCIENCE  
AND DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY DEGREES

Shafik Dharamsi, Ph.D.

Dean and Professor, School of Public Health

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BACHELOR OF SCIENCE, MASTER OF SCIENCE AND DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY DEGREES

Dimitrios Karamichos, Ph.D., M.S.

Interim Dean, Executive Director of NTERI and Professor of Pharmaceutical Sciences

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DOCTOR OF OSTEOPATHIC MEDICINE DEGREE

Lisa R. Nash, D.O., MS-HPed

Senior Associate Dean, Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine, Office of Educational Programs & GME

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MASTER OF HEALTH ADMINISTRATION AND DOCTOR  
OF PHARMACY DEGREES

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PRESENTATION OF CANDIDATES FOR  
MASTER OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND  
DOCTOR OF OSTEOPATHIC MEDICINE DEGREES

Dr. Lisa R. Nash

PRESENTATION OF CANDIDATE FOR  
DOCTOR OF OSTEOPATHIC MEDICINE  
AND DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY DEGREES

Dr. Dimitrios Karamichos

CONFERRING OF DEGREES

Dr. Sylvia Trent-Adams

RECOGNITION OF CANDIDATES

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PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT OATH

Lauren Dobbs, M.M.S., PA-C

Associate Professor and Chair/Program Director, Physician Assistant Studies

PHYSICAL THERAPY OATH

Michael Furtado, P.T., D.P.T., Ed.D.

Chair and Associate Professor, Department of Physical Therapy

PUBLIC HEALTH PROFESSIONAL'S OATH

Rajesh R. Nandy, Ph.D.

Associate Professor of Biostatistics and Interim Co-Chair, Department of Population & Community Health

BIOMEDICAL SCIENTIST'S OATH

Marcel Satsky Kerr, Ph.D.

Associate Dean, Academic Affairs & Undergraduate Education

OSTEOPATHIC OATH

Dr. Lisa R. Nash

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CLOSING REMARKS

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President of Faculty Senate

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Michelle Ndiulor, Pharm.D., B.C.A.C.P.  
Assistant Professor, Pharmacotherapy  
UNT System College of Pharmacy

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Class of 2018

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Class of 2021

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DEPARTMENT OF PHYSICAL THERAPY

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Class of 2014

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Master of Health Administration Program Director and Assistant Professor

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PIANIST

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UNT School of Music

SOLOIST

Erica V. Simmons, D.M.A.  
UNT Alumna

HSC HEALTH AWARD FOR SCHOLARLY EXCELLENCE

The HSC Health Award for Scholarly Excellence is awarded to a graduate who distinctly represents scholastic achievement with an emphasis on clinical practice.

PRESIDENT'S AWARD FOR SCHOLARLY EXCELLENCE

The President's Award for Scholarly Excellence is presented to a graduate who distinctly represents scholarly excellence with an emphasis on academic achievement.

CHANCELLOR'S AWARD FOR SCHOLARLY EXCELLENCE

The Chancellor's Award for Scholarly Excellence recognizes an outstanding graduate from The University of North Texas Health Science Center at Fort Worth with an emphasis on scholarly research.

PRESIDENT'S ALUMNI AWARD FOR DISTINGUISHED SERVICE

The President's Alumni Award for Distinguished Service is given to an alum who demonstrates their commitment to the university's mission, creating solutions for a healthier community through outstanding personal and professional achievement. This award recognizes servant leaders and role models for change. Each year, an alum who challenges conventional approaches to social, clinical or personal issues in order to achieve excellence is recognized.

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## THE PRESIDENT'S ALUMNI AWARD FOR DISTINGUISHED SERVICE



### ROHIT P. OJHA, DrPH, FACE

Dr. Rohit P. Ojha, DrPH, FACE, serves as the director of the Center for Epidemiology & Healthcare Delivery Research at JPS Health Network in Fort Worth. He also is an associate professor in the Department of Medical Education at the TCU Burnett School of Medicine. Ojha has served as an adjunct associate professor in The University of North Texas Health Science Center at Fort Worth's Department of Biostatistics & Epidemiology in the School of Public Health.

Ojha is an alumnus of HSC's School of Public Health, graduating in 2010. Throughout his career, he has helped advance the improvement of patient outcomes in the treatment and prevention of cancer, diabetes, infectious diseases like HIV and Hepatitis C, and maternal and child health.

In 2010, JPS recruited Ojha to establish a new Center for Outcomes Research and serve as its director. He and his team studied the clinical, lifestyle and behavioral factors that can impact the health outcomes of underserved populations. Prior to joining JPS, Ojha worked as a research faculty member in the Department of Epidemiology & Cancer Control at St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital in Memphis.

Ojha has published numerous research studies, is a Fellow of the American College of Epidemiology, serves on the editorial board for Preventative Medicine and is a member of America's Essential Hospitals Innovation Committee. He has been cited in more than 80 peer-reviewed publications on topics ranging from food insecurity in the U.S., statin prescriptions for people living with HIV and opioid use disorder, and evidence-based cancer treatment to dietary supplement use among adult survivors of childhood cancer, mortality disparities for socioeconomically disadvantaged cancer patients and other critical health-related concerns.

UNT SYSTEM COLLEGE  
OF PHARMACY



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PATRICK PITHUA

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SCIENCE IN DRUG DISCOVERY  
AND DEVELOPMENT DEGREE

ANNA ARREDONDO

HOI LEE

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KAELI JOHNSON

“INFORMATIONAL SOURCES ABOUT BREASTFEEDING  
ASSOCIATED WITH BREASTFEEDING INITIATION: INSIGHTS  
INTO RACIAL DISPARITIES”

MAJOR PROFESSOR: STACEY GRINER, PH.D.

EDNA PATRICIA MENDOZA

“MULT-HAZARD ASSESSMENT OF KYRGYZ REPUBLIC'S OSH  
REGION USING MAXIMUM ENTROPY”

MAJOR PROFESSOR: ZHENGYANG ZHOU, PH.D.

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DEGREE**

NATHANIEL WEBB \*

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TRANSGENDER POPULATIONS: POLICING, SEX WORK,  
AND HIV”

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IDANIA GALVAN  
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ALEXIS PEREIRA

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VIVIAN PHAM

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WARWICK, RHODE ISLAND

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MEMORIAL HERMANN HOSPITAL  
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"SPATIAL TRANSCRIPTOMICS ANALYSES OF SEX  
 DIFFERENCES IN HYPOTHALAMIC GENE EXPRESSION IN  
 HEALTH AND DISEASE"  
 MAJOR PROFESSOR: TOM CUNNINGHAM, PH.D.

## THE PHARMACIST OATH

I PROMISE TO DEVOTE MYSELF to a lifetime of service to others through the profession of pharmacy. In fulfilling this vow:

I will consider the welfare of humanity and relief of suffering my primary concerns.

I will promote inclusion, embrace diversity and advocate for justice to advance health equity.

I will apply my knowledge, experience and skills to the best of my ability to assure optimal outcomes for all patients.

I will respect and protect all personal and health information entrusted to me.

I will accept the responsibility to improve my professional knowledge, expertise and self-awareness.

I will hold myself and my colleagues to the highest principles of our profession's moral, ethical and legal conduct.

I will embrace and advocate changes that improve patient care.

I will utilize my knowledge, skills, experiences and values to prepare the next generation of pharmacists.

I take these vows voluntarily with the full realization of the responsibility with which I am entrusted by the public.

## THE PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT OATH

I PLEDGE to perform the following duties with honesty, integrity and dedication, remembering always that my primary responsibility is to the health, safety, welfare and dignity of all human beings:

I recognize and promote the value of diversity, and I will treat equally all persons who seek my care.

I will uphold the tenets of patient autonomy, beneficence, non-maleficence, justice and the principle of informed consent.

I will hold in confidence the information shared with me in the course of practicing medicine, except where I am authorized to impart such knowledge.

I will be diligent in understanding both my personal capabilities and my limitations, striving always to improve my practice of medicine.

I will actively seek to expand my intellectual knowledge and skills, keeping abreast of advances in medical art and science.

I will work with other members of the health care team to assure compassionate and effective care of patients.

I will uphold and enhance community values and use the knowledge and experience acquired as a PA to contribute to an improved community.

I will respect my professional relationship with physicians and other members of the health care team.

I recognize my duty to perpetuate knowledge within the profession. These duties are pledged with sincerity and on my honor.

## THE PHYSICAL THERAPY OATH

AS I ENTER THE PROFESSION to practice as a physical therapist, I solemnly and willingly pledge the following upon my honor:

I will accept full responsibility for the roles, obligations and actions of the physical therapist.

I will place the interests and needs of patients above my own.

I will demonstrate respect, compassion and empathy for all individuals by advocating on their behalf.

I will consistently use current knowledge by embracing advancement, by challenging mediocrity, and by promoting high standards for practice, education and research.

I will engage in excellence of care by collaborating and communicating effectively with colleagues, with other professionals and, most importantly, with the patient.

I will steadfastly adhere to high ethical principles, professional standards, and all rules and regulations that govern the physical therapy profession.

I will provide physical therapy services with humility to benefit patients, serve the profession, and positively influence society.

Thus, I accept the responsibilities that accompany the practice of physical therapy by freely binding myself to this oath.

## THE PUBLIC HEALTH PROFESSIONALS' OATH

As a public health professional, I hold sacred my duty to protect and promote the health of the public. I believe that working for the public's health is more than a job, it is a calling to public service. Success in this calling requires integrity, clarity of purpose and, above all, the trust of the public. Whenever threats to my profession arise, I will counter them with bold actions and clear statements of my professional ethical responsibilities.

As a public health professional, guided by these principles, I declare the following:

I will work to ensure that all people have the chance to live full and productive lives, free from avoidable disease, injury and disability, and are supported in their pursuit of physical, mental and social well-being.

I will hold myself to the highest ethics, standards, values and responsibilities as I move forward the science and practice of public health.

I will work in partnership with communities and uphold the rights, values, beliefs and cultures of those individuals and populations with whom I work.

I will rely on evidence to support my decisions and actions, and translate that evidence into policies and programs that improve health for all.

I will add to the body of research and knowledge, and share my discoveries freely.

I will continuously seek new information and be open to ideas that can better protect and promote the health of populations.

I will advance health literacy for all, and seek equity and justice for marginalized populations.

With this oath, I commit to the ideals and mission of public health.

## THE BIOMEDICAL SCIENTIST'S OATH

As I embark on my career as a scientist, I willingly pledge that:

I will practice and support a scientific process that is based on logic, intellectual rigor, personal integrity and an uncompromising respect for truth;

I will perform my professional activities and interactions with scientific integrity and respect for the field and my peers;

I will acknowledge my role as an ambassador of science to the public, and strive to be honest, respectful and unbiased with engaging the public;

I will value my work and its contribution to the scientific community;

I will never let the potential for personal recognition or advancement cause me to act in a way that violates the public trust in science or in me as a scientist;

I will foster a community that is inclusive of all and recognize that diversity cultivates innovation, creativity and progress;

I will acknowledge and honor the contributions of scientists who have preceded me and become a worthy role model deserving of respect by those who follow me;

And I will always be cognizant that my work is for the advancement of knowledge and the benefit of all humanity.

By pronouncing this Oath, I declare my commitment to these professional standards and goals.

## THE OSTEOPATHIC OATH

I DO HEREBY AFFIRM my loyalty to the profession I am about to enter.

I will be mindful of my great responsibility to preserve the health and the life of my patients, to retain their confidence and respect both as a physician and a friend who will guard their secrets with scrupulous honor and fidelity, to perform faithfully my professional duties, to employ only those recognized methods of treatment consistent with good judgment and with my skill and ability, keeping in mind always nature's law and the body's inherent capacity for recovery.

I will be ever vigilant in aiding the general welfare of the community, sustaining its laws and institutions, not engaging in those practices which will in any way bring shame or discredit upon myself or my profession. I will give no drugs for deadly purposes to any person, though it be asked of me.

I will endeavor to work in accord with my colleagues in a spirit of progressive cooperation and never by word or by act cast imputations upon them or on their rightful practices.

I will look with respect and esteem upon all those who have taught me my art. To my college I will be loyal and strive always for its best interests and for the interests of the students who will come after me. I will be ever alert to further the application of basic biologic truth to the healing arts and to develop the principles of osteopathic medicine as taught by my profession.

In the presence of this gathering, I bind myself to this oath.

## ACADEMIC REGALIA

THE PAGEANTRY AND DRESS of the academic procession are inherited from the medieval universities of the 11th and 12th centuries. Academic life as we know it began in the Middle Ages, first in the church and later in the teaching guilds, where dress was the outward sign of privilege and responsibility.

Principal features of academic dress are the gown, cap and hood. In 1895, American universities agreed upon a definite system of academic dress, which was revised in 1932.

While it originally may have been worn as protection against the cold of unheated buildings, the flowing gown today is a symbol of the democracy of scholarship. It is black for all dress, with pointed sleeves for the master's degree. For the doctoral degree, the gown is also faced down the front with velvet, and its sleeves are trimmed with three bars of velvet in the color representative of the faculty or discipline to which the degree pertains.

The academic cap is a sign of freedom of scholarship, and the responsibility and dignity with which scholarship endows the wearer. The color of the tassel denotes the degree level.

The hood is trimmed with one or more chevrons of a secondary color on the ground of the primary color of the college. The color of the facing denotes the discipline represented by the degree. The color lining designates the college or university from which the dress was granted. Hoods are lined in graphite and teal, the colors of The University of North Texas Health Science Center at Fort Worth. Graduates receiving Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine degrees and Master of Physician Assistant Studies degrees have gowns and hoods trimmed in green. Graduates receiving Doctor of Philosophy degrees have gowns and hoods trimmed in blue, and Doctor of Physical Therapy graduates have gowns and hoods trimmed in teal. Graduates receiving Master of Science degrees have hoods trimmed in gold. Graduates receiving Doctor of Public Health and Master of Public Health degrees have hoods trimmed in salmon with Master of Health Administration graduates wearing hoods trimmed in white. Graduates receiving a Doctor of Pharmacy degree have gowns and hoods trimmed in olive.

Medallions worn by some faculty are for the academic commendation for excellence. They are given to those who have received the highest possible ranking on their post-tenure review. President's Faculty Award recipient medallions honor their contributions to education, research or clinical care. Gold cords designate Academic Honors in the top 10% of graduates in the Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine, School of Public Health and UNT System College of Pharmacy, and the top 20% of graduates in Physician Assistant Studies and the Department of Physical Therapy. For undergraduate students, gold cords designate University Honors. Students whose overall grade point average is 3.500 to 3.699 graduate with the cum laude distinction. Students with GPAs between 3.700 and 3.899 graduate with the magna cum laude distinction, and students who graduate with GPAs between 3.900 and 4.00 graduate with the summa cum laude distinction.

The graduates nominated from each academic program for the Dean's Scholarly Excellence Awards will wear a traditional stole indicating the honor. The blue and white silk cords worn by some faculty and students signify membership in Sigma Xi, the scientific research society. Public Health graduates and faculty who have been accepted into the Delta Omega Honorary Society wear the traditional stole of black and salmon. Red and blue cords are worn by Public Health graduates who have been accepted into the Upsilon Phi Delta Honor Society. Physician Assistant Studies graduates and faculty who have been accepted into the Pi Alpha Honor Society wear the traditional honor cords of teal and silver. Gold and green cords are worn by Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine faculty and graduates who have been accepted into the Gold Humanism Honor Society. The brown and white cords are worn by TCOM graduates who participated in the Rural Osteopathic Medical Education Scholars program. The navy and white cords are worn by dual-degree graduates.

The University of North Texas Health Science Center at Fort Worth graduates who are veterans of the United States military are recognized by wearing navy blue stoles adorned with stars and the words "Valor and Respect, United States Veteran." The red, white and blue cords are worn by graduates who are active duty or will become active duty upon graduation.

## THE MACE

ONCE A FAMILIAR WEAPON in medieval combat, the mace evolved over time into a symbol of rulership and then became associated with the pride of a nation and its origins.

Later, the mace was adopted by universities as a symbol of the power of the academic quest for truth and wisdom. It was, and still is, carried at academic processions not only to bring authority to ceremonial occasions, but also

to symbolize the unity and aspirations of the collegial community. The mace is a mahogany staff bearing the seal of The University of North Texas Health Science Center at Fort Worth on one side and the seal of the University of North Texas on the other. A laurel wreath encircles the two seals, symbolically tying them together. The staff signifies the continuous filling and outpouring of knowledge within the academic institution.

## THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH TEXAS HEALTH SCIENCE CENTER AT FORT WORTH

THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH TEXAS HEALTH SCIENCE CENTER AT FORT WORTH, located in the heart of the Cultural District, creates solutions for a healthier community through education, research and patient care. Established in 1970 with the founding of the Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine, the name of the institution was changed to The University of North Texas Health Science Center with the addition of the School of Biomedical Sciences in 1993. In 1999, HSC became part of the University of North Texas System.

Today the six-school campus comprises the College of Nursing, UNT System College of Pharmacy, School of Health Professions, School of Public Health, School of Biomedical Sciences and Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine. Research areas of strength include health disparities, health outcomes, human identification, eye diseases, heart diseases, aging and degenerative brain disorders. Furthermore, HSC is committed to addressing the underlying societal factors that contribute to disparities in health outcomes.



*Congratulations, graduates!*

*Welcome to the HSC Alumni Association.*

[unthsc.edu/alumni](http://unthsc.edu/alumni)