



VCU

School of Medicine



Kinloch Nelson, M.D. Honors and Recognition Ceremony

May 7, 2026

*Hermes A. Kontos Medical Sciences
Building Auditorium*



Today's program

- *Pre-Clinical Awards*
- *Clinical Awards*
- *Scholarship Awards*
- *Peer-Selected Awards*
- *Alpha Omega Alpha Honor Society*
- *Gold Humanism Honor Society*
- *Office of Research Awards*

About the Kinloch Nelson, M.D. Honors and Recognition Ceremony

In 1969, Kinloch Nelson, M.D., the Dean of the School of Medicine, combined the programs of the American Medical Student Association (AMSA) and the Alpha Omega Alpha (AOA) Medical Honor Society with the presentation of honors to students for academic achievement. As part of the program, AMSA encouraged medical students to present the results of research conducted at the Medical College of Virginia (MCV) the day before the ceremony. Also, the AOA Medical Honor Society invited The Brown Sequard Lecturer to speak during the induction ceremony honoring the senior and junior students with high academic achievement.

Today, our program honors students for their academic excellence in courses or clerkships. It also highlights recipients of spring semester scholarships, Medical Student Government (MSG) awards, and other notable achievements and recognitions.

Scientific Foundations of Medicine Awards - Class of 2029

Molecular Basis of Health and Disease Award

Claire Bierly
Ainsley Grace Tozier

Principles of Physiology Award

Caileigh Dintino
Megan Castle

Principles of Autonomics and Pharmacology Award

Ainsley Grace Tozier
Shannon Sykes
Anyia Singh

Immunity and Infection - Aubrey H. Straus Award

Shraddha Patel

Foundations of Disease Award

Noah Hester

A.D. Williams Award

Ainsley Grace Tozier

James D. Popp Summer Research Fellowship Award

Adina Shrethsa
Eren Okandan

Victoria Searls Traylor Fellowship for Research and Innovation in Hematological Malignancies

Arpine Rostomyan

Applied Medical Sciences Awards - Class of 2028

Behavioral Sciences Award

Lindsay Arellano

Cardiovascular Award

Lindsay Arellano

Endocrine and Metabolism Award

Jason Nguyen

Gastrointestinal Award

Karina Seth

Marrow Award

Laura Madler

Movement Award

Lindsay Arellano

Neuroscience Award

Laura Madler

Pulmonary Award

Ellie McCabe

Renal Award

Carolyn Neves

Reproduction Award

Ellie McCabe

Patient, Physician and Society Award (cumulative of all 3 semesters)

Michelle Bernard	Isabella Deckey
Madeline Chiang	Rebecca Doan
Jasmine Choi	Kean Farhani
Andrew Chow	Carolyn Neves

Population Health and Evidence-Based Medicine Award (cumulative of all 3 semesters)

Alexander Cigularov

Practice of Clinical Medicine Award (cumulative of all 3 semesters)

Marissa Yee

Distinction in the Preclinical Curriculum

Samir Afzali	Kaci Jose
Dalia Allaw	Samuel Joseph
Anvita Anumolu	Yonatan Kaplan
Lindsay Arellano	Lakshmi Kesari
Michelle Bernard	John Kothmann
Brooke Bishop	Jamie Lee
Samuel Boyd	Lauren Leung
Kaitlyn Cheng	Hannah Lukow
Madeline Chiang	Laura Madler
Manasa Chillarige	Ellie McCabe
Robert Chin	Jessica Nelson
Jasmine Choi	Carolyn Neves
Megan Lindsey Cislo	Jewel Ng
Isabella Deckey	Austin Nguyen
Mahima Desai	Jason Nguyen
Brianna Dinn	Roshni Patel
Rebecca Doan	William Pistulka
Rebecca Eshtiaghpour	Lena Rafey
Rueshil Fadia	Kezia Reji Thomas
Mason Faykus	Karina Seth
Hailey Feinzig	Bradley Sheffield
Thomas Fountain-Walker	Claire Simpson
Alexander Giermek	Ishika Singh
Alexander Goldman	Grant Thesing
Camryn Hall	Joshua Thibeault
Jacob Hallesy	Kelly Tran
Marali Harikar	Gina Tuzzolo
Gabriella Hopper	Joshua Vo
Anna Huang	Gracelyn Ward
Muhammad Javed	Marissa Yee
Lina Jenane	Lauren Young

A.D. Williams Award

Megan Lindsey Cislo

M3 Awards - Class of 2026

Society for Academic Emergency Medicine (SAEM) Medical Student Excellence Award

Robert (Bobby) Scott

Family Medicine Excellence Award

Benjamin Krieger

Internal Medicine - William Branch Porter Award

Dana Dabson

Neurology Award

Augustus White

Obstetrics and Gynecology - Daniel Crooks Award

Allie Pierce

Obstetrics and Gynecology - Eric Schelin Award

Sarah Cole

Pediatrics - Elizabeth Joanne Harbison Memorial Award

Lindsay Irwin

Pediatrics - Lee Sutton Award

Jane Choi

Psychiatry Award

Samantha Matthesen

Surgery Award

Haleigh Hopper

Ambulatory Award

Augustus White

Honors in the M3 Year

OreOluwa Comfort Aluko

Aashish Batheja

Mary Ellen Gill

Megan Elizabeth Kolbe

Aiden Elizabeth Lefebvre

Margaret Flanders Lefebvre

Karishma Setia

Michael Kirk Shields

Sarah Tavenner Whitaker

Augustus White

A.D. Williams Award

Megan Elizabeth Kolbe

M4 Awards - Class of 2026

I2CRP Recognition for Excellence in the Completion of I2CRP Capstone Scholarly Project

Collin Bardwell and Cecelia Hembrough: *Closing the Anticipatory Guidance Gap: A Curriculum Intervention for Menstrual Education*

Jessica Dahringer and Fazeela Wadan: *Investigating Screen Time Habits in Children: A Parent-Centered Study*

Sanyam Patel: *Patient Perspectives on the use of Telehealth to Administer Specialized Oncological Care near South Hill, Virginia*

I2CRP Recognition for Overall Excellence Serving Medically Underserved Populations

Sarah Cook
Wasamah Shaikh
Victoria Strunk

Merck Manual Award for Academic Excellence

Megan Elizabeth Kolbe
Michael Kirk Shields
Dana Dabson
Aiden Elizabeth Lefebvre

Practice of Clinical Medicine M4 Co-Leader Award for the Class of 2028

Aiden Elizabeth Lefebvre

Practice of Clinical Medicine M4 Co-Leader Award for the Class of 2029

Allison Ladetto

Robert C. Bryan Prize in Pathology

Tiffany Ho

American Medical Women's Association 2025 Glasgow-Rubin Awards

OreOluwa Comfort Aluko
Zainab Aziz
Sarah Cole
Dana Dabson
Mary Ellen Gill
Megan Elizabeth Kolbe
Aiden Elizabeth Lefebvre
Chelsea Sara Levi
Samantha Matthesen
Stephanie Pan
Tejal Atul Patki
Samantha Yoon

Competency-Based Graduation

Nikhil Chandravel
Katie Cox
Ola Dinakin
Brooke Ford
Brandon Rinkavage

Ron Clark, M.D. Distinguished Service Award

Anne Skelton

Scholarship Awards

United States Public Health Service Award

Therese Weidenkopf

Dr. Sidney B. Barham Scholarship

Megan Elizabeth Kolbe

Dr. Rosemarie Teresa Greyson-Fleg and Dr. Jerome Louis Fleg Fund

Neha Shankar

Michael M. Kannan Pediatrician Teaching Award

Mariah Michelle Greco

Dr. Nancy B. King Memorial Fund

Juliette Sweeney

Dr. Henry Clay Smith Memorial Award

Brittany Robertson

Dr. Elbert P. Whited Scholarship

Krishna Tejo
Cassandra Ritter

William Winston, M.D. Scholarship

Alexis Swift

Elizabeth Joanne Harbison Memorial Award

Lindsay Irwin

Charles S. and Millicent P. Brown Family Foundation Physician-Scientist Endowment Fund

Claire DeValle

McGlothlin Scholar

Nikhil Chandravel

About the James and Frances McGlothlin Scholarship

A transformative gift by James and Frances McGlothlin — combined with the generosity they have inspired in others — has created an extraordinary resource for scholarship support at the VCU School of Medicine. McGlothlin Scholars are selected for this merit-based recognition due to their outstanding academic accomplishments and recognized leadership potential.

These scholarships enable the VCU School of Medicine to attract premier medical school candidates and train future physician leaders while significantly reducing or eliminating the burden of medical school debt.

Medical Student Government Awards

Inspiration Award

Jennifer Bratton

Staff Excellence Award

Dayna Scarberry

Staff Excellence Nominee

Katelyn Acree

Student Leadership Award

Grant Thesing

Student Leadership Award Nominees

Gina Tuzzolo

Audrey Goldsmith

Anne Skelton

Nour-Maria Bouzid

Hyunbin (Tom) Son

Angelique Peterson

Best Student Interest Group of the Year

Student Family Medical Association

Best Student Interest
Group of the Year Nominees

Ophthalmology Student Interest Group

Best New Student Interest Group of the Year

Adaptive Sports Interest Group

Outstanding Peer Assisted Learning
(PALs) Tutors

Yasmin Alamdeen Shahzada

Augustus White

Anna Xystros

Arnold P. Gold Foundation Gold Humanism

OreOluwa Comfort Aluko

Ryan Bruce Babineau

Lily Chang

Jialin “Charlie” Chen

Fox Clemmer

Megan Elizabeth Daniels

Jessica Dahringer

Hayden Michael Dux

Maya Ganeshan

Cecelia Hembrough

Lindsay Irwin

Megan Elizabeth Kolbe

Darius Lacy

Aaria Malhotra

Anvi Malik

Samantha Matthesen

Guiliano Luca Melki

Jacob Mikesell

Zachary Lee Morris

Luc Nelson Mortemousque

Angie Patricia Ocampo

Kiana Rahimi

Anne Skelton

Krishna Tejo

Adonay Teklay Teklezghi

Sarah Tavenner Whitaker

Nasim Zeighami

Leonard Tow Humanism in Medicine Award

Anne Skelton

Alpha Omega Alpha Honor Society

AOA President: Kiana Rahimi

AOA Vice President: Tejal Patki

OreOluwa Comfort Aluko

Alexis Armengol

Zainab Aziz

Aashish Batheja

Aaron Cheah

Saikeerthana Chodavarapu

Van Chung

Sarah Cole

Sharanya Deshmukh

Hayden Michael Dux

Maya Ganeshan

Maria Gergoudis

Mary Ellen Gill

Haleigh Hopper

Lindsay Irwin

Megan Elizabeth Kolbe

Benjamin Krieger

Ankit Kumar

Allison Ladetto

Aiden Elizabeth Lefebvre

Margaret Flanders Lefebvre

Chelsea Sara Levi

Samantha Matthesen

Vivian Ouyang

Stephanie Pan

Aaroh Kalpesh Patel

Kiana Rahimi

Karishma Setia

Michael Kirk Shields

Alexis Swift

Sarah Tavenner Whitaker

Augustus White

Farheen Zaman

Nasim Zeighami

Research Day Participants

Oral presentations

Rana Ansari

Rebecca Eshtiaghpour

Anna Huang

Tyler Hyun

Nicole Lulkin

Pratyush Narayan

Yashnoor Sandhu

Krithika Senthil

Sanya Surya

Siddharth Venigalla

Research Day Participants

Poster presentations

Sarah Abouassali	Kean Farhani
Amanda Adolfo	Mariana Fernandes Gragnani
Ruhika Aguru	Thomas Fountain-Walker
Annalise Ajmani	Rachel Fox
Omar Al-Dulaimi	Rachel Fry
Sruthi Alampally	Sara Garmchi
Dalia Allaw	Alexander Goldman
Aesha Amin	Pranavi Gopanapalli
Anvita Anumolu	Saumya Gupta
Lindsay Arellano	Jacob Hallesy
Sarah Baig	Jenna Hughes
Vignya Bankuru	Asma Ibrahim
Aashish Batheja	Shilpa Jasti
Nour-Maria Bouzid	Ammar Jawad
Charlotte Burch	Vandanaa Jayaprakash
Colleen Cecil	Lina Jenane
Madeline Chiang	Angelica Johnson
Manasa Chillarige	Mohini Johri
Edward Choi	Samuel Joseph
Andrew K Chow	Tobi Kamoru
Meredith Christian	Aditya Kotha
Alexander Cigularov	Akhila Kunuthuru
Lauren Dain	Megan Lee
Eleanor Dalsass	Lauren Leung
Dominique Daly	Sarah Levy
Lauren Daniel	Aashrith Madagiri
Mallika Datta	Noelle Maison
Isabella Deckey	Marisa Mihori
Keshav Desai	Isaac Miller
Mahima Desai	Julia Mitchell
Tanvir Dhaliwal	Talia Muhlmeister
Noha Elemary	Nuhamu Mulugeta
Sevval Ercan	Sejal Murthy

Research Day Participants

Poster presentations (continued)

Vaishnavi Nemani	Hyunbin Son
Susan Nguyen	Sonia Srikanth
Austin Nguyen	Jared Stewart
Mahija Nukala	Junpei Tarashi
Kevin O'Reilly	James Testerman
Hojung Rachel Park	Grant Nicholas Thesing
Satya Siri Paruchuri	Joshua Thibeault
Roshni Patel	Frank Thornton
Nihal Patel	Arleen Trieu
Eleanor Davis Pessner	Gina Tuzzolo
Eric Qian	Charanya Uppalapati
Sophia Quelhas Cury	Charita Valipireddy
Rishi Raghavan	Saksham Vashistha
Yumna Rahman	Joshua Vo
Sonal Rajpal	Andrew Vu
Rohan Rathi	S. Jennifer Wang
Liana Resnikoff	Fahad Waqar Chaudhry
Christina Romano	Thérèse Weidenkopf
Raghav Saravanan	Zachary Whong
Taneesha Sardana	Natalie Wiley
Parsa Sedaghat	Sydney Williams
Kavin Selvan	Samuel Wolfe
Karina Seth	Edward Wu
Samara Shabon	Marissa Yee
Neha Shah	Lauren Lanvy Young
Bradley Allen Sheffield	Mehruha Zaman
Chengxian Shi	Christian Xavier Zbihley
Ishika Singh	Nasim Zeighami
Abirami Sivakanthan	Keri Zhou
Anne Skelton	



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