St. George's University
SCHOOL OF MEDICINE
GRENADA, WEST INDIES

Northumbria University
NEWCASTLE

WHITE COAT CEREMONY

SATURDAY, AUGUST 22, 2026

DOMAIN, STUDENTS' UNION,
NORTHUMBRIA UNIVERSITY

PROGRAM

Master of Ceremonies . . . . . **Robert Finn, BSc, PhD, FHEA**
Assistant Dean, Basic Sciences,
St. George's University

Remarks . . . . . **Andy Long, FREng**
Vice Chancellor & Chief Executive,
Northumbria University

Remarks . . . . . **Mark Clunes, BSc, PhD, MPH, FRSB**
Provost and Senior Associate Dean, Basic Sciences,
St. George's University

Remarks . . . . . **Marios Loukas, MD, PhD, MPH, Dr. h.c.**
President and Dean, School of Medicine,
St. George's University

Remarks . . . . . **Robert Grant, MD, MSc, FACS**
Senior Associate Dean, Clinical Studies,
St. George's University

Introduction of Keynote Speaker . . . . . **Robert Finn, BSc, PhD, FHEA**
Assistant Dean, Basic Sciences,
St. George's University

Keynote Speaker . . . . . **Wallisa Roberts MD, MBA-MSHM, MRCEM**
Specialty Trainee Emergency Medicine,
Royal Surrey County Hospital

Presentation of White Coats . . . . . **Dr. Robert Grant, Dr. Timothy C Hillard**
Dr. Marios Loukas, Dr. Adnan Saad,
Dr. Ayobosipo Sotunde

Professional Commitment . . . . . **Shubhra Malhotra, MBBS, PGDip**
Assistant Dean, Student Affairs,
St. George's University

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

WALLISA ROBERTS MD, MBA-MSHM, MRCEM

Dr. Wallisa Roberts is a specialty trainee in emergency medicine at Royal Surrey County Hospital in the United Kingdom and an alumna of St. George's University School of Medicine.

In her current role, Dr. Roberts provides acute and emergency care while continuing to develop her clinical expertise in emergency medicine. Her professional interests include improving healthcare systems, advancing patient care, and supporting quality improvement initiatives within clinical practice.

Dr. Roberts previously served as a research fellow at St. George's University, where she contributed to the University's academic and research mission following her graduation. During her time at SGU, she combined research with a commitment to medical education and institutional development.

Throughout her career, Dr. Roberts has remained dedicated to service, lifelong learning, and continuous professional growth. Her experience spans both clinical medicine and academic environments, reflecting her commitment to improving healthcare delivery while mentoring and supporting future generations of healthcare professionals.

Dr. Roberts earned her Doctor of Medicine degree from St. George's University in 2015. Following graduation, she remained at the University as a research fellow while completing a Master of Business Administration in multisectoral health management. Outside of medicine, she enjoys traveling, Latin dancing, learning new languages, and reading.

MASTER OF CEREMONIES

ROBERT FINN, BSC, PHD, FHEA

Dr. Robert Finn is assistant dean of Basic Sciences (UK) and associate professor of biochemistry at St. George's University School of Medicine. In this role, he oversees program delivery and operations at the Northumbria University (NU) campus, working closely with SGU's senior administration in Grenada.

Before joining SGU, Dr. Finn conducted postdoctoral research at the University of Dundee, UK, where he worked at Ninewells Hospital on anti-cancer drug metabolism and the development of transgenic models of toxicology. His work, funded by the Medical Research Council and Cancer Research UK, laid the foundation for his ongoing research interests in molecular and cellular biochemistry.

Dr. Finn began his academic career at NU as a senior lecturer in biochemistry and served as an affiliated faculty member of SGU's Keith B. Taylor Global Scholars Program. In 2019, he joined SGU as associate professor and associate director of the preclinical sciences program at NU. He later became associate chair and associate content manager of the Department of Biochemistry and Medical Genetics, overseeing subject content and delivery in collaboration with colleagues in Grenada, before assuming his current role as assistant dean in 2024.

An active researcher and academic, Dr. Finn has published 21 peer-reviewed papers, three book chapters, and contributed to nine conference proceedings. He has served as a grant reviewer for Innovate UK, the Medical Research Council UK, and the South African National Science Foundation, and he is a member of the International Society for the Study of Xenobiotics (ISSX) and the International Association for Health Professions Education (AMEE).

Dr. Finn earned both his BSc and PhD in biochemistry from University College Cork, Ireland, and he is a fellow of the UK Higher Education Academy.

THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF DR. KEITH B. TAYLOR

Appointed the Vice Chancellor at St. George's University in 1989, Keith B. Taylor, DM, FRCP, had a vision of St. George's University becoming one of the world's most renowned centers of international medical education and research. During his nine years at the University, he turned that vision to a reality, forever changing the University's path and opening its students' eyes to a world without boundaries.

Dr. Taylor's vision of a shrinking world, of medical education with a public health framework, led to the creation of the Windward Island Research and Education Foundation (WINDREF) in 1994, which in turn brought the St. George's University name out into the world of scientists and researchers. Dr. Taylor, who came to SGU from Stanford University where he had served in academic medicine for 30 years, guided the University into a graduate program and was instrumental in instituting the School of Arts and Sciences in 1996, which broadened the academic opportunities for students in Grenada and the region.

Of his contributions, St. George's University Chancellor Charles R. Modica said: "Dr. Taylor prevailed upon us to continue excelling as a medical school and was instrumental in establishing the School of Arts and Sciences which has since provided the opportunity for hundreds of Grenadians to have access to quality tertiary education. He had a profound impact on St. George's University and on the nation of Grenada."

In recognition of his vision and dedication to the international growth of St. George's University, it honored his memory with the creation of the Keith B. Taylor Global Scholars Program and established Keith B. Taylor Hall on the then True Blue campus in 2007. In addition, the prestigious WINDREF Lecture, which has brought some of the world's most renowned researchers to speak at SGU, was renamed the Keith B. Taylor Memorial Lecture beginning in 2008.

Dr. Taylor's legacy lives on in the continued partnership between Northumbria University and St. George's University. Since its inception, the SGU/NU partnership has created a pathway to medicine for more than 1,700 international medical students.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT AND DEAN, SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

MARIOS LOUKAS, MD, PHD, MPH, DR. H.C.

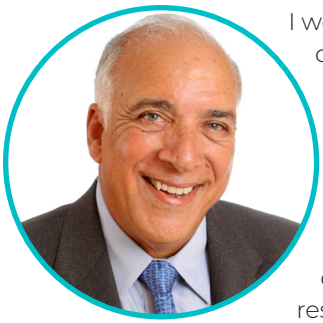
Today bears reflecting on a few of the principles of the oath you will affirm upon graduation from this institution. At the heart of that oath is a resolve to treat the sick to the best of your ability, to preserve patient privacy, and to safeguard life. It also calls to mind a responsibility to share your wisdom with others. Recognize that in entering the field of medicine you join a community, wherein the team is as pivotal to success as individual effort. To this end, you must strive for excellence in your pursuit of knowledge, for you can only give your best when you fulfill your potential.

As you don these white physician coats, you pledge an oath of professionalism and service. While these values are under attack, they are a necessary requirement in medical practice. Professionalism is a commitment to integrity, altruism, competence, and ethics in the service of others.

A physician must constantly balance the needs of his patients and society against the available resources and his own interests. We must endeavor to honor the sacred trust and privilege that society places in medical professionals, cognizant that the standard is an ideal that we must continuously aim to achieve.

MESSAGE FROM THE CHANCELLOR

CHARLES R. MODICA, JD, DCL (HONORARY)



I welcome all of you to St. George's University School of Medicine. You have chosen a great and noble career. This White Coat Ceremony symbolizes your entry into the medical profession, a milestone in your life that carries with it a profound obligation of service to others.

As you begin your studies for this challenging career, you must weigh opportunity against responsibility. St. George's University will equip you with all the right tools for the job, but how much you take away with you will depend on how you approach the experience and how much effort you invest in it. I wish you every success.

GOLD HUMANISM HONOR SOCIETY

Every academic year a group of students is inducted into St. George's University School of Medicine Chapter of the Gold Humanism Honor Society (GHHS). Inductees are nominated by their peers and selected on the basis of their humanistic qualities and community service. Our GHHS strives to promote humanism and high ethical standards in medicine and medical education. The White Coat Ceremony Committee extends congratulations to our most recent inductees:

INDUCTEES

Maneet Aujla
Neda Azizi
Maria-Simona Carnovale
Joseph Cerny
Sunita Chand
Tazvivinga Chikobvu
Marthina Correa
Rachel Dombrower
Mikhail Johnson
Mazin Khalil
Leah Liszak
Madison Lynch
Njeri Micheu
Nidhi Patel
Sathyajith Pinikeshi
Shivani Rao
Sarah Rehou
Joela Rowland
Simran Singh
Shanu Sivakumar
Madelin Smith
Roshni Tanna
Nelisa Thokha
Natalie Thomas
Maria Torres
Vadym Trokhymchuk
Lauren Wallace
Joseph Welsh

HONOR CODE

ST. GEORGE'S UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

As a member of the student body of St. George's University School of Medicine, an institution of medical education dedicated to a high standard of ethics and academic achievement, and recognizing that it is the duty of the University community to nurture responsible, competent, and safe physicians who exhibit professional maturity and sound moral character, I agree:

- To adhere to the University policy of maintaining a high standard of honor and academic integrity;
- To uphold these ideals by refraining from cheating, plagiarism, lying, and theft; and,
- To accept the responsibility of reporting such wrong doing upon witness.

It is understood that any breach of this Code necessitates disciplinary action, subject to the discretion of University officials. Once signed, acquiescence to this Code is in effect.

THE WHITE COAT CEREMONY

More than 25 years since its inception at the College of Physicians & Surgeons of Columbia University in 1993, the White Coat Ceremony has become an important ritual symbolizing a student's induction into the medical profession. St. George's University School of Medicine embraced the White Coat Ceremony in 1996.

Affirming this oath of commitment to the medical profession at the beginning of their studies inducts our MD students into the medical profession—and its highest ethical and professional standards—from the very beginning of their career.

The ceremony is significant not just to each incoming class, but for all who attend including: St. George's University faculty; its staff; students' families and friends; and the White Coat Ceremony keynote speakers who, twice a year, inspire first-term students with heartfelt words of wisdom and personal reflections. It is their spoken contributions that we treasure, and are honored to share with past, present, and future generations of St. George's University students.

PROFESSIONAL COMMITMENT

Today is the beginning of my medical education and training as physician. I acknowledge my responsibility to continue the pursuit of knowledge and understanding while recognizing the limits of my abilities and seeking assistance when necessary.

I am entering training for a noble profession in which my interest must always be subservient to those who may seek my assistance. I must be ever conscious of the value of my fellow healthcare professionals and treat them will respect at all times. My classmates at St. George's University are now my colleagues and I owe to them the same support and encouragement to achieve their goals as I hope to receive from them. I will work alongside my colleagues and professors with tolerance, compassion, honesty, and cultural humility. I will treat all members of the St George's University community and its visitors with equity, regardless of rank, as I will do with my future patients.

I acknowledge my obligation to adhere to the University Honor Code and to conduct myself with integrity and in an ethical manner at all times henceforth. Taking full responsibility for my choices and actions, I shall do all within my power to show in myself an example of all that is honorable and good throughout my medical career. It is a privilege to have been given the opportunity to become a physician. May I be ever conscious of that privilege and never abuse it.

– Written by the Student Ethics Task Force
and Alexander P. Ross, MS, FRCS

Revised by the Office of Multicultural Affairs
with input from SOM faculty and students

"Time, sympathy, and understanding must be lavishly dispensed, but the reward is to be found in that personal bond which forms the greatest satisfaction of the practice of medicine.

One of the essential qualities of the clinician is the interest in humanity, for the secret of care of the patient is caring for the patient."

Francis W. Peabody

From a lecture to Harvard medical students in 1925
Accessed from the American College of Physicians, 2007

"Tonight is a transition in life—an opening, a passage, and a precious opportunity to reassert what we share, what we deeply believe beyond subspecialty or gender or age—that the chains of pain and suffering can and will be broken, that the world can change one person, one situation, one diagnosis, one dignity-affirming moment, one life-affirming moment at a time."

Jonathan M. Mann, MD, MPH
St. George's University White Coat Ceremony
January 1998

Special thanks to The Arnold P. Gold Foundation for lapel pins and guidance.
gold-foundation.org