



California University of Science and Medicine

**FIFTH ANNUAL
COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY**

**DOCTOR OF MEDICINE
CLASS OF 2026**

Monday, May 18, 2026



LETTER FROM THE DEAN

MD Class of 2026

Congratulations! Today marks the culmination of years—perhaps a lifetime—of hope, ambition, and extraordinary effort. The work that brought you to this moment did not begin when you arrived at the California University of Science and Medicine. It began long before: in your undergraduate studies, in high school classrooms, and for some of you, even in the earliest moments when you first imagined becoming a physician. Your perseverance, supported by the people who believed in you, has carried you to this milestone.

You came to CUSM with purpose, discipline, and a deep commitment to service. Even on the most challenging days, your dedication to your calling never wavered. Your intellectual curiosity remained vibrant, and your resilience—your ability to rise, adapt, and continue forward—has been unmistakable. You have shown again and again that you are driven not only by ambition, but by a desire to create a world where health and healthcare are accessible to all.

As you step into the next phase of your training, you will draw on that same grit, determination, and resilience. I have no doubt that each of you will thrive in your chosen discipline. I have no doubt that your commitment to your communities will remain strong. And I am confident that your focus will always be on those entrusted to your care.

On behalf of the entire CUSM community, thank you for the passion, energy, and excellence you have brought to our institution. It has been our honor to equip you with the knowledge and tools you need for the journey ahead. It is our privilege to call you graduates and alumni of the California University of Science and Medicine.

Congratulations to you—and to all who supported you along the way. We celebrate your achievement, your perseverance, and the future you are about to shape. We are immensely proud to have been part of your journey.

Paul Lyons, MD

President, California University of Science and Medicine
Dean, CUSM School of Medicine

CUSM DOCTOR OF MEDICINE CLASS OF 2026

ORDER OF COMMENCEMENT

MONDAY, MAY 18, 2026/ TEN O'CLOCK AM

PROCESSIONAL

NATIONAL ANTHEM

WELCOME REMARKS

Zohray Talib, MD | *Executive Vice Dean of Education*

DEAN'S MESSAGE TO THE GRADUATES

Paul Lyons, MD | *Dean and President, CUSM*

STUDENT ADDRESS

Jonathan Cummings | *MD Class of 2026, CUSM*

CHAIRMAN'S ADDRESS

Prem Reddy, MD, FACC, FCCP

Founder and Chair of the Board, CUSM

MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT AND CHAIR, PRIME HEALTHCARE FOUNDATION

Kavitha Bhatia, MD, MMM, FAAP, FACHE

Founding Vice Chair of the Board of Trustees, CUSM

COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS

Kristen Lee, EdD, LICSW

Lead Faculty for Behavioral Science at Northeastern University

HIPPOCRATIC OATH

Zohray Talib, MD | *Executive Vice Dean of Education*

CONFERRING OF DEGREES

Paul Lyons, MD | *Dean and President, CUSM*

CLOSING REMARKS

Zohray Talib, MD | *Executive Vice Dean of Education*

RECESSIONAL

Following the ceremony, please join us for a reception featuring light refreshments and music provided by CUSM's student band.

CHAIRMAN'S ADDRESS



Prem Reddy, MD, FACC, FCCP
Founder and Chairman of the Board,
California University of Science and Medicine
Founder, Chairman, President and CEO,
Prime Healthcare

Prem Reddy, MD serves as Founder and Chairman of the Board of California University of Science and Medicine, where he has played a foundational role in establishing the university and advancing its mission to expand medical education and improve access to care in underserved communities.

Dr. Reddy is a physician, entrepreneur and philanthropist who has dedicated his career to serving communities across the United States and globally by preserving hospitals and supporting causes related to healthcare, education and community well-being. He is double board-certified in Internal Medicine and Cardiology and has been named one of Modern Healthcare's "Most Influential People in Healthcare" multiple times.

He founded Prime Healthcare in 2001 and has grown it into one of the nation's leading health systems, with 55 hospitals and more than 360 outpatient locations across 15 states. Under his leadership, the organization has been recognized multiple times among the nation's "10 Top Health Systems." Since 2005, Prime Healthcare has invested nearly \$3 billion in capital improvements and equipment and has provided more than \$16 billion in charity and uncompensated care since 2010, supporting patients in more than 600 communities nationwide.

Dr. Reddy and his family also founded the Dr. Prem Reddy Family Foundation, which supports scholarships, healthcare education and community clinics locally and globally. In addition, he established the Prime Healthcare Foundation, a 501(c)(3) public charity that committed \$80 million to help found the California University of Science and Medicine, which graduated its inaugural class of MD students in May 2022.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES MESSAGE TO GRADUATES



**Kavitha Bhatia, MD, MMM, FAAP,
FACHE**

**Founding Vice Chair of the Board of Trustees,
California University of Science and Medicine
President and Chair, Prime Healthcare
Foundation**

**Chief Medical Officer of Strategy, Prime
Healthcare**

Kavitha Bhatia, MD, FACHE serves as Founding Vice Chair of the Board of Trustees of the California University of Science and Medicine and as an Associate Professor of Medical Education. She has played a key role in advancing the university's mission to improve the health of communities and inspire service in underserved areas.

Dr. Bhatia is also President and Chair of the Prime Healthcare Foundation and Chief Medical Officer of Strategy at Prime Healthcare, where she leads strategic initiatives that support growth, clinical excellence and health equity across the organization.

A pediatrician and Fellow of the American College of Healthcare Executives, Dr. Bhatia serves on the Board of Directors of the California Hospital Association and on the Governing Board of the Federation of American Hospitals. She earned her medical degree with high honors from UCLA, a Master of Medical Management from USC, and completed executive education in healthcare strategy at Harvard Business School.

Dr. Bhatia is also a dedicated philanthropist, with service ranging from caring for patients in Calcutta to mentoring inner-city youth. For her humanitarian work with the Missionaries of Charity, she was awarded the Miraculous Medallion by Mother Teresa. She has been recognized nationally for her leadership and commitment to advancing compassionate care and health equity.

COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS



Kristen Lee, Ed.D., LICSW

**Lead Faculty for Behavioral Science and
Faculty-in-Residence
Northeastern University**

Dr. Kristen Lee, Ed.D., LICSW, is a renowned behavioral science educator, best-selling author, and clinical social worker from Providence, Rhode Island who has reached millions with strengths-based resources that foster connection and advance science and solidarity.

As lead faculty for Behavioral Science at Northeastern University, her research and teaching interests include individual and organizational well-being and resilience, particularly for marginalized and underserved populations.

Dr. Kris is a Licensed Independent Clinical Social Worker known for her advocacy in promoting increased mental health integration in social policies and institutions to facilitate access and improved health outcomes in the U.S. and across the globe.

She has served as a U.S. federal grant reviewer for the Departments of Minority Affairs, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Administration, and Health and Human Services. She is a member of the National Association of Social Workers and the American Psychological Association.

In addition to her professional expertise, Dr. Lee speaks as an individual with a lived experience with anxiety and depression. Dr. Lee encourages medical students to embrace the whole person while providing compassionate care. She demonstrates that resilience and mental wellness are essential tools in medicine, especially when caring for the most vulnerable. She operates a clinical practice devoted to social impact and health professionals.



CUSM BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Prem Reddy, MD, FACC, FCCP
Founder, Chair of the Board

Kavitha Reddy Bhatia, MD, MMM, FAAP, FACHE
Founding Vice Chair of the Board

Patricia Easton, PhD
Member

Andrew Goldfrach, FACHE
Member

Prasad A. Jeerreddi, MD
Member

Jarrod McNaughton
Member

Dawn Rowe
Member

Janice Rutherford
Member

Pedram Salimpour, MD
Member

2026 DOCTOR OF MEDICINE DEGREE RECIPIENTS

Danny Abdalnour

Saba Ahmed

Sana Ahsan

John Alvarez

Salman Ansari

Shervin Arjomand

Shannon Bagot

Nicholas Banks

Clarisa Mari Bloemhof

Kimia Boldaji

Peter Bota

Megan Bradley Kimble

Trevor Case

Stephen Chai

Julia Chang

En Chang

Andreana Chen

Jeff Chen

Regina Chi

Amy Choi

Se Jong Choi

Emily Coburn

Jonathan Cummings

Casey Curow

Ashley Curtis

Miles Cutuli

Jason Dagoon

Gabriel Davoodpour

David Drum

Nathaniel Eddy

Nicholas Eremita

Ronit Farahmandian

Rheem Fawaz

Cameron Feit

Stuart Ferrell

Alexander Flores

Sophia Foroushani

Beshoy Gabriel

Abigail Marie Gopez

Hijab Gulwani

Lien Ha

Rachel Han

Ingrid Heimer

Torrey Hill

Milan Hirpara

Megan Hirsch

Lauren Holland

Sehar Hussain

Brenda Ji

Jonathan Kermanshahchi

Hira Khan

Jasmine Kim

Erica Kim

Sarah Kim

Allison Kimbell

Anvita Konreddy

Ronik Kothari

Mikayla Kricfalusi

Jonathan Kuo

Lance Lamore

Jonathan Lampert

Sarra Larif

Ria Angelica Laxa

Edward Lee

2026 Doctor of Medicine Degree Recipients

Eun Sol Lee
Robin Levy
Jennifer Lewis
Cindy Liang
Andrew Liao
Roman Liccini
Sofia Lochner
Mariella Lodi
Connor Lowey
Brianna Ma
Maya Maalouf
Bryan Maghen
Anthony Patr Mamaril
Lana Mamoun
Derek Mark
Ella Martinetto
Gabriel Martinez
Shayan Massoumi
Pasha Mazboudi
Amanda McWilliams
Paul Vincent Medina
William Miyamoto
Adam Moosa
Natalie Moshayedi
Alison Munoz
Marfred Munoz Umanes
Chelsea Munster
Anna Nguyen
Vinh Nguyen
Quang Nguyen

Yuu Ohno
Amy Pai
Meera Patel
Kisan Patel
Michael Phillipi
Jennifer Piganelli
Kathryn Pillai
Catania Ramos
Veronica Rasmusen
Rushil Rawal
Amanda Ripley
Zehra Rizvi
Colton Rosendahl
Armando Ruiz
Yamila Salazar
Reem Sarsour
Mohan Saxena
Jonathan Shaw
Caitlin Shin
Anmol Shrestha
Brian Siegel
Karina Smolyar
Jessica Speckart
Birpartap Thind
Theodore Tran
Amily Tuot
Philipp Verpukhovskiy
Chloe Wells
Elizabeth White

PLEASE NOTE: The appearance or absence of any name in this program is not an official record of completion or denial of degree requirements. This program is issued as a ceremonial publication. We apologize for any errors or omissions.

CUSM STUDENT AWARDS

Each year, California University of Science and Medicine honors students who exhibit outstanding achievements in academics, research, leadership, and community service.

CUSM Excellence in Equity, Diversity & Inclusion

Recipients: **Anmol Shrestha • Ria Angelica Laxa • Amy Choi • Alison Munoz**

In recognition of individuals who displays excellence in advancing equity, inclusion, and diversity through advocacy, activism, programming, and demonstrated modeling of these principles through their efforts at the university.

CUSM Excellence in Professionalism Award

Recipient: **Clarisa Marie Bloemhof**

In celebration of a student within the CUSM community who consistently demonstrates excellence in professionalism and collaboration as they interact with peers, staff, faculty, patients and colleagues in the clinical, education, community and research environments.

CUSM Social Mission Award

Recipient: **Ria Angelica Laxa**

In celebration of medical students who have shown exceptional dedication to community engagement and community partnership development, making meaningful contributions to the Inland Empire community through modeling the social mission of the university to address the health priorities of the region expanding beyond service to longer-term impact.

CUSM Humanism in Medicine Award

Recipient: **Sofia Lochner**

To acknowledge medical students who exemplify the values of compassion, empathy, and humanitarian service in their medical journey. Their dedication to patient care reflects the university's commitment to fostering compassionate and caring healthcare professionals.

Clerkship Award

Recipients: **EMED: Mikayla Kricfalsui • PSYC: Jessica Speckart
SURG: Jonathan Kermanshahchi • OBGY: Torrey Hill • FMED: William Miyamoto
NEUR: Pasha Mazboudi • PEDS: Saba Ahmed • IMED: Lauren Holland**

In recognition of students who displayed outstanding skills in patient care, medical knowledge, professionalism, and teamwork during their third-year core clerkship rotation.

CUSM Excellence in Peer Education Award

Recipient: **Mikayla Kricfalusi**

In recognition of a student who has demonstrated exceptional dedication to peer academic support, serving as a knowledgeable, approachable, and inspiring resource- fostering a collaborative learning environment for fellow students to achieve academic success.

CUSM Admissions Ambassador Award

Recipients: **Clarisa Marie Bloemhof**

In recognition of students with outstanding commitment to excellence and volunteer service in the admissions process of our future medical students.

CUSM Excellence in Research Award

Recipients: **Lana Mamoun • Michael Phillipi • Mikayla Kricfalusi**

In recognition of students who demonstrate high standards in the quality and integrity of scholarship and who's research advances the CUSM mission.

Excellence in Medical Education

Recipients: **Birpartarp Thind**

In recognition of medical students who have demonstrated exceptional dedication to advancing medical education through curriculum development, peer teaching, educational leadership, or scholarly activity in medical education. Their contributions reflect a deep commitment to enhancing the learning and future healthcare professionals.

THE PHYSICIAN'S PLEDGE

AS A MEMBER OF THE MEDICAL PROFESSION:

I SOLEMNLY PLEDGE to dedicate my life to the service of humanity;

THE HEALTH AND WELL-BEING OF MY PATIENT will be my first consideration;

I WILL RESPECT the autonomy and dignity of my patient;

I WILL MAINTAIN the utmost respect for human life;

I WILL NOT PERMIT considerations of age, disease or disability, creed, ethnic origin, gender, nationality, political affiliation, race, sexual orientation, social standing or any other factor to intervene between my duty and my patient;

I WILL RESPECT the secrets that are confided in me, even after the patient has died;

I WILL PRACTISE my profession with conscience and dignity and in accordance with good medical practice;

I WILL FOSTER the honour and noble traditions of the medical profession;

I WILL GIVE to my teachers, colleagues, and students the respect and gratitude that is their due;

I WILL SHARE my medical knowledge for the benefit of the patient and the advancement of healthcare;

I WILL ATTEND TO my own health, well-being, and abilities in order to provide care of the highest standard;

I WILL NOT USE my medical knowledge to violate human rights and civil liberties, even under threat;

I MAKE THESE PROMISES solemnly, freely, and upon my honour.

Revised Declaration of Geneva adopted by the World Medical Association (WMA) General Assembly on October 14, 2017



California University of
Science and Medicine
School of Medicine

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