

WHITE COAT COMMITTEE LETTER

Dear Pritzker School of Medicine Incoming Class of 2020,

What does a doctor look like?

Though there is no one right answer, we as a community will take great pride in bestowing on you the White Coat that has come to symbolize this profession. As this year's White Coat Committee Co-Chairs, the two of us look forward to celebrating that honor with you and formally welcoming you into the medical profession.

This transition into the profession is particularly poignant at this moment in time when physicians are more often seen in scrubs, N95 masks, and faceguards. The White Coat seems to symbolize much more. It carries with it the weight of responsibility to a world facing an unprecedented crisis. It means that when the safest thing to do is stay home, you will go to work. We commend you for embarking upon a journey in which you will wear that coat and fulfill those roles.

We also realize that the White Coat has had limits. Historically, it has inadequately conveyed the harsher realities of the medical field that are tied to the realities of our society. As structural inequities have once again challenged our ideals of equality for all, we are reminded that Pritzker's mission to educate diverse students for the betterment of humanity is one that requires constant reaffirmation. As you enter a field in which your dedication to equity, or even your very existence, bears the ability to shake structural injustices, perhaps the truest answer to "what does a doctor look like?" is simply, you.

So, with confidence in your talent and your dedication, we welcome you to the world of medicine, a world on which you will undoubtedly leave your mark. While the official white coat ceremony will be delayed until it is safe to celebrate with friends and family present on campus, we are in the process of planning an alternate orientation event to provide you a meaningful entry into the medical profession. We anticipate this event will be held in accordance with University of Chicago and Illinois state guidelines to maintain everyone's health and safety. While we cannot yet provide more details, we will stay in touch and are committed to making your medical school beginning significant. In the meantime, please enter your white coat size at <https://forms.gle/XjNq3ikzE8pDcUw1A> (sizing chart is in the form).

We are beyond excited to meet all of you and to get to know you this upcoming year. We take great hope in working alongside you, the next cohort of medical trainees, as we strive to provide empathy, justice, and healing.

Sincerely,
2020 White Coat Committee Co-Chairs
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