



Dear Incoming Students,

I am delighted that you will be joining us at the Pritzker School of Medicine. We very much look forward to welcoming you to our campus in Hyde Park this August. By now you are certainly experiencing many emotions, beginning with excitement about these next steps. The past year-plus has presented many challenges for all of us, and as we continue to confront them together it is natural you may be nervous about all that comes with the start of medical school. However, let me assure you there are extensive support systems in place at Pritzker to make your transition to medical school smooth and your time here productive, enjoyable, and memorable.

You are joining the Pritzker community at a very exciting time, one of transition and opportunity. As you may have already heard, Dr. Halina Brukner will be retiring as our Dean for Medical Education after almost 40 years at UChicago, including 36 years as a faculty member and primary care physician, and 16 years at the Pritzker School of Medicine, with the last three in her current role. We are tremendously grateful for Dr. Brukner's leadership the last few years and for her incalculable contributions to our institution over the course of her time here, the impact of which will be felt for years to come.

Amid this change in the dean's position, we remain more committed than ever to the core values that have driven the Pritzker School of Medicine since its inception. The strength of Pritzker's faculty, staff, and students has been at the center of our success as a medical school, and Dr. Brukner has continued to bolster an outstanding team of individuals that are prepared to take on additional responsibilities after her departure to ensure a seamless transition and that we maintain the highest standards of education for our students.

I am thrilled to share that Vineet Arora, MD, MAPP, will succeed Dr. Brukner as Pritzker's Dean for Medical Education effective July 1. Dr. Arora's focus on the learning environment for trainees and her longstanding commitment to equal opportunity in medicine make her eminently well-suited to meet our current moment. Dr. Arora joined the UChicago faculty in 2005 and is currently the Herbert T. Abelson Professor of Medicine, Assistant Dean for Scholarship and Discovery, Associate Chief Medical Officer for Clinical Learning Environment, and a Master of the Academy of Distinguished Medical Educators.

In addition to her pioneering work in medical education research, Dr. Arora holds a deep commitment to improving health equity. She has received NIH funding to study novel methods of using social media to expose minority youth to careers in medicine and also leads an NIH-funded study on improving mentor training for women and minority medical students at eight medical schools.

The other deans at Pritzker are just as committed to engaging in meaningful conversations with our faculty, collaborating on projects and initiatives with our staff, and listening to our student voices. These same faculty and staff will be here to guide you throughout your education, as will students in higher classes upholding Pritzker's rich tradition of peer mentorship and service.

I wish you the best of luck on your journey through medical education. Everyone at Pritzker is here to support you the entire way.

With warmest wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "K. Polonsky". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Kenneth S. Polonsky, MD  
Dean of the Division of the Biological Sciences  
and the Pritzker School of Medicine  
Vice President for Medical Affairs  
The University of Chicago