

Announcing the Julian H. Lewis Society

Dear Pritzker Community,

Earlier this academic year, students expressed interest in changing the name of the Joseph Bolivar DeLee Society to an alternate namesake that simultaneously reflects a wider sense of compositional diversity and deeper expression of core values of the Pritzker School of Medicine. A student subcommittee was formed and, with advice from the student body, criteria for society namesakes and a standard naming process was developed. This past winter, the student body proposed several nominees for consideration.



We are proud to endorse the renaming of the DeLee Society to honor **Dr. Julian H. Lewis**. Dr. Lewis is truly a pioneer in medicine and a role model for all. He has strong ties to the University of Chicago, having received his PhD from our institution, and also having served here as a faculty member. He was the first African American MD/PhD, the first African American faculty member at the University of Chicago, and a renowned immunologist and anthropologist whose work on blood typing and race had a profound effect on the understanding of race and racism.

The link to a 2015 symposium in his honor provides an excellent summary of his "firsts" and his impact: https://alphaomegalpha.org/julian_lewis.html#gsc.tab=0

The **Julian H. Lewis Society** is now officially recognized as one of our four advising societies!

We would like to thank the Rename DeLee Student Subcommittee and Dean's Council leadership for their outstanding work in bringing this initiative to the school in a most professional, inclusive, and thoughtful manner. Additionally, we would like to thank the entire student body for their participation in the process and for their commitment to the values that our mission statement articulates so beautifully: *"At the University of Chicago, in an atmosphere of interdisciplinary scholarship and discovery, the Pritzker School of Medicine is dedicated to inspiring diverse students of exceptional promise to become leaders and innovators in science and medicine for the betterment of humanity."*

Sincerely,

Halina Brukner, MD
Professor of Medicine
Dean for Medical Education

Jim Woodruff, MD
Professor of Medicine
Dean of Students