

ORIENTATION CO-CHAIRS

Megan Ren

Welcome to Pritzker, Incoming Class of 2021! We are so eager to meet each and every one of you. One of the first shining faces to welcome you on to campus will be that of our very own Megan Ren (she/her/hers).

Megan was a cosmopolitan child, living in the likes of Tokyo, Beijing, and Ottawa before moving to the United States (do yourself a favor and look up Canadian “loonies” and “toonies”). She then settled in the California Bay Area, where she grew up in the shadow realm of tech bros and start-ups. But don't be fooled, she has no idea how to code—a Silicon Valley hipster if you will.

She then set off to UCLA for undergrad, though she'll always be a Bay girl at heart. There, she majored in Molecular, Cell, and Developmental Biology with a minor in Global Health. In college, she did some leadership, clinical volunteering, research... y'all know the drill here. This innovator even collected leftover food swipes to convert into meal vouchers for those experiencing food insecurity. While studying abroad in Peru, she discovered her love language: ceviche, picarones, and anything with maracuya.

After LA, Megan set her sights on politics and the presidency in Washington DC. Jk. She became a scientist at the NCI, working on some breast and cervical cancer research. But more importantly, she lived her best life and happy houred her way through the city.

In 2020, Megan finally found her way to Chicago. At Pritzker, she volunteers with Bridgeport Free Clinic and is a leader of Sustainable Pritzker. Her proudest accomplishment is probably starting a subsidized composting program for med students, so definitely talk to her about it if you're interested. This superstar is also involved in the Pediatrics Interest Group, REMEDY, and the Graduate Program in Health Administration and Policy.

In her free time, Megan engages in all the activities: baking, running, reading, and maybe more happy houring if the sun is shining and the next exam is > 1 day away (we call that #wellness). In the future, she hopes to be a happy dog mom championing health equity and sustainability while pursuing a career in Ob/Gyn or Peds.

— Meera & Omar



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Omar Vayani

Hello incoming Pritzker MS1s! We are so excited to welcome you all to campus soon. And the most excited person (even though you probably can't tell from his face) is none other than Omar Vayani (he/him/his). We'd like to take a second to tell you a little bit about him.

Ethnically he may be Pakistani, but he is actually 100% a Texas Longhorn (whatever that may mean). Born on the beaches of Miami, he's the eldest of three, but definitely the youngest at heart. As a lil tike, he moved across the country to the Lone Star State, where he became the proud Texan (cowboy?) he is today. Whether it's through his amusing observations or silly banter, Omar will find a way to make you laugh hysterically and brighten your day.

While attending college at the University of Texas at Austin (Hook 'em Horns amirite?), Omar majored in Biochemistry and minored in Business like the Coggie that he is. Just kidding. Or are we? He volunteered with refugee populations, which included working directly with families and planning a fundraising dinner as well as other initiatives. Omar was also involved in advocating for improved access to health resources at UT as the President of the Student Health Advisory Committee. He did ALL this while pipetting his life away in the research labs—could he BE more impressive?



In one short year at Pritzker, Omar has become integral to many groups on campus. He's a leader of the Muslim Medical Student Association and the President of one of our many free clinics, the New Life Volunteering Society (NLVS). He is also a leader of both the Radiology and Oncology Interest Groups and may one day become your friendly neighborhood oncologist. When he's not off exploring career interests, he is making everyone #well as a member of the Wellness Committee and hanging out with his homies in the South Asian Medical Student Association.

Nowadays, you can either catch Omar in Hyde Park sitting in Cafe 53 (probably watching a Food Insider video) or lounging at the Point in his beloved hammock with a baseball cap worn backwards, of course. At 6'2", he's pretty easy to spot. But don't be fooled by the height and caps: this man is all wholesome vibes and deep down all he really wants is to be a cat dad. Omar cherishes the simple things in life—food, friends, and fun.

— Meera & Megan

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Meera Sakthivel

What's up incoming class of 2021. We are frantically stacking up the schedule with events so that every ounce of your time during orientation is filled with fun. At the center of all those events you're sure to find Meera Sakthivel (she/her/hers), jack of all trades, making sure everyone is taken care of and striking up conversation with anyone and everyone.

Born in Edison, New Jersey, Meera was the younger of two sisters and a self-proclaimed annoying (though cute) child. She lived in India during second grade and wanted to be a paleontologist throughout most of her childhood. Not sure how that ultimately led her to med school, but she volunteered with senior citizens in college and is, in fact, the leader of the Geriatric Interest Group at Pritzker. Old people, old (prehistoric) animals—it falls in line.

As an adult, Meera went to the University of Pittsburgh for college and is really into the city of Pittsburgh. She majored in sociology and biology and did some sociology research on culturally-specific mental health. She had an #abroad experience in Bolivia and was a tutor in organic chemistry because... we're not sure why and neither is she. Fortunately, Meera knows better now, and after going straight through to med school she quickly became a member of the Pritzker Wellness Committee. As a wellness committee rep and SHARE (sexual health and relationship education) leader, Meera is happy to educate people on mental health and sexual health because both are very cool and very important.

A cool cat herself, you can catch Meera frequenting the Hyde Park parks, petting dogs, doing puzzles, and doodling into the late hours of the night. Rumor has it her art Instagram is poppin'.

Career-wise, Meera is very interested in that primary care ish and probably going into family medicine. Will she do a fellowship in family planning? Obstetrics, Geriatrics? Dinosaurs? TBD, but it would be fun for her to retire early and have a second career working in a museum or something. Get ready, incoming class of 2021: Meera is here to guide you with a big smile and under-salted though lovingly-made food.

— Megan & Omar

