

May 26, 2021

Hello Entering Class of 2021!

My name is Dr. James Woodruff. I am a practicing general medicine physician who teaches both medical students and residents here at the medical center. I am also your Dean of Students. I am very excited to meet you all during your orientation as we welcome you into our learning community and the medical profession.

As Dean of Students, my primary aim is to be available to you for any and all concerns and questions. Such issues may range from feeling stressed about an upcoming exam to needing some help troubleshooting around a family emergency. On the other hand, these issues may simply be about where your lockers are or how to get access to healthcare. Rest assured that I and the Student Affairs team are ready and able to help!

Additionally, I aim to support and advise you regarding your aspirations as physicians and young professionals. While the Pritzker curriculum will provide you with the knowledge and skills to succeed, my job is to ensure that you receive the best possible advising to support your specialty choice, residency application and overall success as young professionals. This will be accomplished through our society advising system, numerous workshops, and one-on-one meetings with myself and others.

As part of the school's effort to provide you with the skills and support you will need on your path to becoming successful doctors, we have developed, and continue to refine, a four year wellness curriculum. The term "wellness" is used to incorporate the spectrum of lifestyle behaviors, and emotional and physical states that allow any individual to be fully content and at ease. Our hope is that this curriculum will add to the range of tools in your toolkit and will further enable you to be healthy, happy, and well rounded physicians in training.

Finally, I want to tell you a bit about myself. I was raised on the East Coast and completed medical school at Columbia University's College of Physicians and Surgeons. I moved to the Midwest three decades ago to start my residency training in internal medicine here at the University of Chicago. Since that time, the University of Chicago has become my home. I served as Director for the University of Chicago's Internal Medicine Residency Program for eight years and Vice Chair of Education for the Department of Medicine for six years. I moved to the Pritzker School of Medicine in the summer of 2011. I live in Hyde Park/Kenwood with my wife, three kids and a dog.

I hope you each have a fun and restful end to your summer. Congratulations on the start of a wonderful process. I look forward to getting to know each of you.

Best wishes and welcome!

James Woodruff, MD
Dean of Students
Pritzker School of Medicine
Professor of Medicine