







 July 7, 2021


Dear Incoming MS1 

Even though we have not met, you already hold a special place in my heart for you will always be my first class of MS1 as I just assumed the role of your Dean for Medical  Education a few days ago. As we are new in our roles together, and in  some ways, I will be going through your medical school with you from your White Coat Ceremony to your  graduation. While I am new in my role, I am fortunate to have been part of the Pritzker Dean's office since 2004, serving in many roles including as a Career Advisor and Assistant Dean for Scholarship and Discovery. Over the past several weeks, I have enjoyed learning more about our incredible student body and their immense contributions to our community here at the University of Chicago Pritzker School of Medicine. I can truly say that I have been impressed and you will be too.  You are joining an amazing community of leaders and I look forward to providing support as well as help  guide your journey here at Pritzker with our very capable and talented team of faculty and staff.

As we emerge from the pandemic, I look forward to seeing you in person as we celebrate the long hard road we have all been on. I want to acknowledge that this has been such a hard time for so many, whether it be due to the woes and isolation of the pandemic, the challenges with virtual school, the plight of loved ones, the mental anguish over the ways in which our country is deeply divided, the structural racism, hate crimes, and police violence in our communities, ongoing humanitarian crises and violence abroad in ancestral homelands, all at the same time of handling the real stress of managing your application process and journey to medical school in the context of a pandemic. As you enter the Pritzker School of Medicine, it is only natural to feel elated as you reflect on your achievement, but it's okay to be somewhat nervous and at times even overwhelmed. (Trust me, I know how you may feel!)

I am looking forward to your arrival and the excitement of the coming year as we work towards restarting time-honored traditions like welcoming all of you at Orientation and the historic White Coat Ceremony, a tradition that began at the Pritzker School of Medicine. I am also excited about creating new venues and platforms to advance medical education in this new era, such as creating more experiences for you to impact the health system as well as soliciting broad feedback from many stakeholders, including you, on how to best prepare you to deliver on our promise of high quality, safe, equitable, efficient and patient-centered care for all the lives you will touch over your career.

While I am still meeting with various units and people, I wanted to take this opportunity to let you know that I welcome your input and look forward to getting to know you better as the year progresses. If you have a question as we embark on this journey together, do not hesitate to reach out. I look forward to learning from you how to be a better leader and sponsor for your learning here at Pritzker.

Hope you have a lovely, safe and restful weekend. 

Best,



Vineet Arora, MD, MAPP
Herbert T. Abelson Professor of Medicine
Dean for Medical Education
The University of Chicago Pritzker School of Medicine