

# ORIENTATION 2023

## *Welcome Entering Class of 2023*

Hey there, Entering Class of 2023!

We are absolutely thrilled to welcome you to the University of Chicago and the incredible community of future healthcare leaders on campus. As your Pritzker Chiefs, we wanted to reach out and give you some tips on how to make the most out of your time at Pritzker.

First, Congratulations on deciding to join the Pritzker family! Getting to this point is no small feat, and we're proud of you. You're about to embark on a journey that will stretch you further than you can imagine and help you grow into the physician you've dreamed of becoming. But more than that, you'll get to build relationships with some of the most incredible people you'll ever meet, and trust us, these bonds will last a lifetime.

At Pritzker, you'll have access to amazing clinical and research opportunities that will help you become a skilled and compassionate physician. You'll get to work alongside world-renowned physicians and researchers, participate in cutting-edge clinical trials, and engage in community-based projects that address the health needs of underserved populations. You'll also have the chance to join numerous student organizations and extracurricular activities that will help you explore your interests and broaden your horizons.

We know that medical school can be tough, both academically and personally. That's why we want you to know that we're here for you every step of the way. In addition to being here to support students, the chiefs are tasked with coordinating social and mentorship events, and working with administration to address student concerns. Whether you need advice on a class or rotation, help navigating the healthcare system, or just want to chat with someone who gets it, the Pritzker Chiefs are here to support you. We've been there, done that, and we're more than happy to share our experiences with you.

So, welcome to Pritzker, and welcome to the start of an amazing adventure. We're so excited to meet you and to be a part of your journey.

All the best, Melinique, Leslie, and Cody  
[pritzkerchiefs@gmail.com](mailto:pritzkerchiefs@gmail.com)

## More about us!

**Leslie (she/they) (left):** Hello M1s! Welcome to the Pritzker family, and congrats on everything you've accomplished so far! I'm so excited to meet and get to know you all. A little about me: I'm thrilled to call Chicago home and grew up in the Bronzeville neighborhood, just a few minutes north of Hyde Park. I went to Brown University for undergrad and then took one gap year to do sleep research. I was first exposed to the magic of Pritzker through one of their pathway programs and have been enchanted ever since. I've truly enjoyed my time here and feel lucky to have found a community that supports me in becoming the physician I want to be. Over the past year, I completed an MPH as a part of Pritzker's dual-degree MD/MPH program, and now I'm excited to dive back into the Pritzker experience in earnest. In my spare time you can find me taking dance classes, spending time with friends by the lake, and attempting to train my pet hamster (if you're looking for a med school pet—I highly recommend!). I hope you all are getting hype about Pritzker-Palooza! **My (somewhat embarrassing) music fun fact is that I've been in Chance the Rapper's top 0.1% of Spotify listeners for the past 5 years.** Warmest welcome and see you soon!



**Cody (he/him) (middle):** Hey M1s! Excited to meet you all and welcome you to Pritzker. About me: I grew up in Okemos, Michigan and then went to Harvard for undergrad where I majored in Molecular and Cellular Biology. After college I went straight through to med school and decided to come to Pritzker after seeing the wonderful training opportunities, impressive faculty, and happy students here. During my M1 year, I joined the Growth, Development and Disabilities MD/PhD Training Program to tack on a PhD on mRNA modifications as well. As you'll soon find, our community is full of people who are not only brilliant and talented students, but also kind and supportive classmates. It's been a wonderful environment to learn in over my seven years here, and I am excited for you all to join this community and help it thrive and grow. In my free time you can find me exploring Chicago's restaurant and bar scene, sailing on the lake and hanging out in South Loop with my wife and my cat. See you all soon! **Fun fact: I've been to Lollapalooza four times; this summer will be my 5th!**

**Melinique (right)** is from Mississippi and did undergrad at WashU before working for 2 years as an EMT and scribe. When she's not in the hospital, you can find her exploring the city with her husband and their cute dog, trying to find the perfect latte, or just chilling on her couch binge-watching TV shows. She's looking forward to getting to know all of you better and supporting you through the ups and downs of med school!