



THE UNIVERSITY OF
CHICAGO

Pritzker School of Medicine

Dear Class of 2027 (and beyond),

Welcome to the University of Chicago Pritzker School of Medicine!

I hope this message finds you enjoying the summer and as excited for your arrival at the PSOM as we are here in Hyde Park. As a student, resident, fellow, and faculty member, my time at Pritzker has been filled with wonder at the talents, energy, and accomplishments of the students around me. I have watched as my fellow classmates and former students have grown into leaders in clinical care, social justice, medical education, and biomedical research. I know that all of you continue the tradition of excellence that has surrounded me for the last 20+ years. It is an honor to serve as your Assistant Dean for Medical School Education.

My time in Chicago began in 1998 as a first-year at Pritzker, where I discovered my love for physiology and complex acute care that led to my training and career (all at UChicago!) as a pulmonologist and intensivist. I am not, however, a "U of C lifer": I grew up in Cincinnati in a large and close-knit family. After Duke for undergrad, I spent a year at NIH critical for two reasons: I learned I am not a bench scientist and I met Kate Thompson, now a Geriatrician at U of C, my wife, and the mother of my three kids: Olivia (20), Andrew (16), and Eliza (12). We are proud Hyde Parkers who take full advantage of all of Chicago's cultural (Art Institute, Field), entertainment (Lizzo, SZA, Brandi Carlile, T Swift, and Beyonce with our pandemic savings!), sports (Go Fire and Red Stars!), and culinary (everywhere, but do try QXY) richness. Perhaps this is TMI, but I can't recall a decision in either my personal or professional life that didn't involve careful reflection on the other. As we get to know each other, I will try not to pry but imagine that we will (and should) discuss things outside of your career that are important to you, too.

As Assistant Dean, I work with the rest of the curriculum team to plan, execute, review, and continuously refine the educational program. We have been incredibly busy building the new Phoenix Curriculum. Students, faculty, and staff have come together to build on the foundational strengths of Pritzker while crafting a new curriculum that optimizes faculty contact, professional development, career exploration, scholarship, and service to our community. These partnerships with faculty and students are important in any year, but will be essential as we launch this very exciting new curriculum. After several decades at Pritzker, I have confidence that our shared values, immense talent, and commitment to serving each other and, by extension, our patients will ensure success. I am tremendously excited to welcome you to our learning community and look forward to kicking off the next chapter for the Pritzker School of Medicine.

I anticipate that your experience here will be as wonderful as mine has been and continues to be. Over the years to come, I will strive to do my part to provide you with wonderful educational opportunities and support as you become leaders in the field of medicine.

Warm regards,

Jason Poston, M.D.
Assistant Dean for Medical School Education
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