



**COLLEGE OF DENTAL
MEDICINE-ILLINOIS**

2026 COMMENCEMENT



College of Dental Medicine–Illinois
2026 Commencement

Midwestern University • Downers Grove Campus

Friday, the Twenty-Ninth of May,
Two Thousand and Twenty-Six



ORDER OF CEREMONY

Processional: *Pomp and Circumstance*
THE AUDIENCE WILL PLEASE STAND

Introduction: Megan Dallianis, Ed.D.
Dean of Student Services, Downers Grove Campus

National Anthem: *The Star-Spangled Banner* by F.S. Key
Carl Wacker, *College of Dental Medicine-Illinois, Class of 2026*

Opening Reflection: Kaveh Adel, D.D.S.
Associate Dean Preclinical Education

President's Address: Joshua C. Baker, O.D., M.S.
President and Chief Executive Officer

Dean's Welcome: Harold J. Haering, Jr., D.M.D.
Dean, College of Dental Medicine-Illinois

Oath of a Dentist: Bruno C. Jham, D.D.S., M.S., Ph.D.
Associate Dean for Academic Affairs

Presentation of Graduates: Dr. Haering

Conferral of Degrees: Dr. Baker

**Presentation of Midwestern University Coin
Honoring our Military Graduate**

Student Remarks: Sydnie Taylor,
Class of 2026 Representative

Closing Remarks: Dr. Haering

Closing Reflection: Stephen Palatinus, D.D.S., M.P.H.
Associate Dean Clinical Education

Recessional

Announcer:

Theresa Lao, D.D.S.

Student Marshals:

August Durso, D.D.S.

Vasilios S. Panos, D.D.S.

Ingrid Schroetter, D.D.S.

Timothy Toepke, D.D.S.

Jeffrey Wascher, D.D.S.

Faculty Marshals:

Peter Chang, D.D.S.

Michael Jacobs, D.D.S.

Mace Bearers:

Inderjit Bawa, D.D.S.

Paul Fischl, D.D.S.



DOCTOR OF DENTAL MEDICINE CLASS OF 2026

Ibtisam Abdallah

Orland Park, IL

Javan Bandy

Joliet, IL

Vandan Chavda

Cedar Park, TX

Adebola Rotimi Abogunrin

Phoenix, AZ

Jonathan Bedi

Bartlett, IL

Ashley Megan Colby

Boca Raton, FL

Themaar Abuhasna

Chicago, IL

Roofia Beg

Mequon, WI

Alexander Gabriel Corey

Des Plaines, IL

Loay Suhil Abuzahra

Murfreesboro, TN

Diba Behzadpoor

Ottawa, CAN

Samantha Cunha

St Clair Shores, MI

Salva Afzal

Plainfield, IL

Alyssa Jade Berry

Grants Pass, OR

Amanda Carolina Dahl

Miami, FL

Manar Gamal Ahmed

Tinley Park, IL

Hassan Beydoun

Dearborn Heights, MI

Kyle Pattison DeJong

Hudsonville, MI

Usman Ahmed

West Palm Beach, FL

Nina Beyfuss

Indianapolis, IN

Solomiya Furdas DeKelaita

Glenview, IL

Zayd Ahmed

Canton, MI

Loraine Blanco

Cape Coral, FL

Emanuel Dib Dominguez-Henderson

Miami, FL

Nigel A. Akoma

Macomb, MI

Brianna Marie Brown

Monroe, MI

Brendan Duffy

Kalamazoo, MI

Rasmiah W. Amer

Columbus, OH

Jennifer Ngoc Bui

Garden Grove, CA

Nathan Le Duong

Westminster, CA

Qasem Faisal Aqrabawi

Orland Park, IL

Lilianna Flores Bushur

Burbank, CA

Deema Elqadi

Waxhaw, NC

Mirna Mika Arafat

Sterling Heights, MI

Iria Cacheiro

Vero Beach, FL

Mahsa Elyasi

Charlotte, NC

Rosario Arias Garza

Torreón, MEX

Cristina Campero

Naples, FL

Kale Shane Enget

Stanley, ND

Jad Atassi

Burr Ridge, IL

Emma Caraus

Chicago, IL

Loubna Faroun

Reston, VA

Mary Aywaz

Scarsdale, NY

Maggie Chan

Chicago, IL

Aaron Faulk

Broken Arrow, OK

Bobbi Fiorello
Manalapan, NJ

Robert M. Iacobelli
Rochester Hills, MI

Kelsey Lynn Lloyd Smith
Prosper, TX

Francesca Marie Florendo
Buffalo Grove, IL

Marina Ayman Ibrahim
Woodridge, IL

Vivian Christie Long
Arcadia, CA

Olawale Mayowa Fowobaje
Loma Linda, CA

Ihmud Mishref Ihmud
Chicago, IL

Sydney Lucija Lopez Perkovic
Prince George, CAN

Avian Francis
Sterling Heights, MI

Noor Jibrin
Willowbrook, IL

Steven Lopez
Windsor, Ontario, CAN

Vincent Dall'Arancio Fricton
Edina, MN

Alana Kalmar
Toronto, CAN

Demitra Loucopoulos
Troy, MI

Brian Fuks
Brooklyn, NY

Rolla Naim Kattoum
Carpentersville, IL

Wendys De La Caridad Maddox
Cape Coral, FL

Kimberly Garcia
Wheaton, IL

Dayton Wesley Kerns
Harrisburg, PA

Mina Marie Makvandi
Dallas, TX

Natasha Alexandra Garcia
Miami, FL

Bilal Khan
Gurnee, IL

Vlora Malaj
Elgin, IL

Claudia Gomez Chavez
Miami, FL

Harram Khawaja
Chicago, IL

Michelle Marie Martinez
Miami, FL

Glenn Wolfgang Haidinger
Jacksonville, FL

Shirin Khorsandian
Sherman Oaks, CA

Elizabeth Hahn McDonald
Wausau, WI

Deena Nabel Hamdan
Canton, MI

David Knowles
Humboldt, TN

Carly Danielle McRae
Sparta, NJ

Noah Hart
Des Moines, IA

Jacquelyn Kozlowski
Novi, MI

Imran Hamayun Mian
Long Grove, IL

Liliana Hernandez Cleto
West Miami, FL

Andrew Nguyen Lam
Morton Grove, IL

Sarah Elizabeth Middleton
Fayetteville, NC

Calyn Hoang
Camarillo, CA

Eunice Lee
Prospect Heights, IL

Leili Molzan
North Ft. Myers, FL

Caleb Ray Hoffman
Greenwood, VA

Jessica Rose Levine
East Islip, NY

Victoria Mor
Millburn, NJ

Melissa Renee Hsu
Danville, CA

Argie Limberis
Virginia Beach, VA

Daniel Ara Nazarian
Shelby Twp, MI

Alexa Anahi Orozco
Franklin Park, IL

Lia Rosa Sanchez Torres
Miami, FL

Landon Teramoto
Waipahu, HI

Zaina Othman
Tampa, FL

Erica Lynette Sanford
Kendallville, IN

Nora Terkawi
Orlando, FL

Tariq Yousef Ouri
Orland Park, IL

Emily Kathleen Sayre
Collegeville, PA

Jona Leoni Tjeerdema
Roselle, IL

Pathik Ketan Patel
Lemont, IL

Azha Scott-LeBlanc
Houma, LA

Ewa Weronika Tomecki
Chicago Ridge, IL

Ella Marie Pelak
Crystal Lake, IL

Sumayyah Shafiuddin
Berkeley, IL

Kevin Tran
Jacksonville, FL

Raul Antonio Perez Lopez
Miami, FL

Alireza Shokri
Irvine, CA

Danica Sinia Calingo Tuason*
San Diego, CA

Brian Edward Peters
Lombard, IL

Jasdev Singh
Plainfield, IL

Carl Allen Wacker
Oxford, MI

Miah Elizabeth Phillips
Tuscola, IL

Holly Slichter
Lakewood, CA

Emmarie R. Watts
Oxford, OH

Aaron Michael Prince
Mesa, AZ

Brittany Michelle Smith
Hattiesburg, MS

Hayden Robert Welter
Eustis, FL

Farah Qaqa
Amman, JOR

Rija Iqbal Soofi
Frisco, TX

Eric Wing
Chicago, IL

Andrew C. Rigby
Kaysville, UT

Kolbein Stevens
St. Charles, IL

Parimah Yarahmadi
Lombard, IL

Razan Saad
Tampa, FL

Joseph Stoffel
Huntington, IN

Nicholas Richard Yunker
Twin Lakes, WI

Ronza Saad
Tampa, FL

Jose Luis Tapia
Lake And The Hills, IL

Valeriya Yuryk
Chicago, IL

Gabriel Ronald Saavedra
Springfield, VA

Sydnie Taylor*
Baltimore City, MD

Shivanginiba Kishorsinh Zala
Batavia, IL

Sophia Sahami
Houston, TX

Emma Yadira Tello
Cudahy, CA

Faris Mujahed Ziyad
Yalo, Palestine

Farah Ragy Samy
Ontario, CA

Saritha Teralandur
Skokie, IL

**Also receiving the Master of Public Health degree*

OATH OF A DENTIST

As I continue my career in dental medicine,
I pledge to abide by the following precepts:

I understand and accept that my primary responsibility is to my patients and I shall dedicate myself to render, to the best of my ability, the highest standard of oral healthcare.

All who seek my assistance should feel safe and be confident in the knowledge that their total health and well-being are my first considerations.

I will embrace scientific knowledge, as I continue to expand my experience and skills in dentistry.

I will engage only in those procedures for which I am prepared, in order to maintain the trust expected of a healthcare professional and I will never take advantage of the patient-provider relationship.

I will respect the patient's right to privacy and I will embrace the diversity of my patients and my colleagues and treat all people with respect, for the betterment of my community and for the benefit of all society.

I will recognize my weaknesses and strengths and strive to develop those qualities that are expected of me by my patients, my colleagues, my family and myself.

I will continue this learning through all the days of my life.

All this, I pledge with pride in my commitment to the profession and the public which it serves.



COLLEGE OF DENTAL MEDICINE—ILLINOIS FACULTY

Kaveh Adel, D.D.S.
Melisa F. Alabsy, D.D.S., M.H.A.
Asra Ali, D.D.S., M.S.
Dawn Arnashus, D.D.S.
Inderjit Bawa, D.D.S.
Gaby Baltierres, D.D.S., AFAAID
Jeyanthi Bhaheetharan, D.D.S., M.P.H.
Kim Busch, D.D.S.
BriAnna Bedi, D.M.D.
Paulina Brzozowski-Sawicki, D.D.S.
Peter S. J. Chang, D.D.S.
Kyung Choi, D.M.D.
Kelli J. Christensen, D.D.S.
Michael J. Chutich, D.D.S., M.S.
Behnam Darvishan, D.M.D.
August Durso, Jr., D.D.S.
Ahmed El-Maghraby, D.M.D.
Jingyuan Fan, D.D.S., Ph.D.
Paul Fischl, D.D.S.
Nastaran Foughani, D.M.D.
Feng Gao, D.M.D., M.S.D.
Ronald George, D.D.S.
Harold J. Haering, Jr., D.M.D.
Sheila Hall, D.D.S.
Charlie Hobbs, D.M.D.
Michael Jacobs, D.D.S.
Bruno C. Jham, D.D.S., M.S., Ph.D.
Robert B. John, D.D.S.
Eric R. Johnson, D.D.S.
Mimi Johnson, D.D.S.
Kenneth J. Kadziela, D.D.S., M.S.
Preetha P. Kanjirath, B.D.S., M.D.S., M.S.
David Kravtsov, D.D.S.
Theresa Lao, D.D.S.
Anne La Valle, D.D.S.
James C. Lin, D.M.D.
John Maffeo, D.D.S.
Reji T. Mathew, B.D.S., M.D.S.
Celia Mimms, D.D.S.
Sidharth Mohan, B.D.S., M.S.
Martin Navarrete, D.M.D.
Michael Ori, D.D.S.
Stephen Palatinus, D.D.S., M.P.H.
Vasilios Panos, D.D.S.
Diana Patarroyo, D.D.S.
Prashant Patel, B.S., B.D.S., D.D.S.
Kevin Patterson, D.D.S.
Sunil Philip, D.M.D.
Garey Potamianos, D.D.S.
Mario D. Ramos, D.D.S., M.S.
Jahnvi Rao, D.D.S., M.S.
Gary H. Rempert, D.D.S.
Marcela Rocha de Oliveira Carrilho, D.D.S., Ph.D.
Mykola Rudyk, D.D.S., M.P.A.
Linda Sangalli, D.D.S., M.S., Ph.D.
Thomas Sarna, D.D.S.
Philip L. Schefke, D.D.S.
Ingrid Schroetter, D.D.S.
Ghassan Souri, D.D.S.
Drauseo Speratti, D.M.D.
Timothy Toepke, D.D.S.
Anisha Vora, D.D.S.
Jeffrey Wascher, D.D.S.
Larry N. Williams, D.D.S.

ACADEMIC REGALIA AND PROCESSIONAL

Gown

The gown is the cornerstone of the academic costume that has its origins in 12th and 13th century Europe, a period when universities were being formed. Today, Midwestern University follows guidelines established by the American Council on Education. All graduates wear black gowns, with the front panels of the doctoral gown trimmed in black velvet. Each sleeve of the doctoral gown is adorned with three bars of black velvet with bell-shaped wrist ends. The master's gown is unadorned, with the wrist ends of the sleeve open oblongs that extend beyond the hand.

**Chicago College of
Osteopathic Medicine**

Discipline Color: Kelly Green
Liner Color: Black
Chevron Color: Gold

**College of Health Sciences
Occupational Therapy Program**

Discipline Color: Sage Green
Liner Color: Navy
Chevron Color: Gold

**Chicago College of
Optometry**

Discipline Color: Seafoam
Liner Color: Navy
Chevron Color: Gold

**College of Pharmacy,
Downers Grove**

Discipline Color: Olive
Liner Color: Light Purple
Chevron Color: White

**College of Health Sciences
Clinical Psychology Program**

Discipline Color: Gold
Liner Color: Navy
Chevron Color: Gold

**College of Graduate Studies
Biomedical Sciences Program**

Discipline Color: Gold
Liner Color: Navy
Chevron Color: Gold

**College of Health Sciences
Physician Assistant Program**

Discipline Color: Gold
Liner Color: Navy
Chevron Color: Gold

**College of Health Sciences
Speech-Language Pathology Program**

Discipline Color: Crimson
Liner Color: Navy
Chevron Color: Gold

**College of Graduate Studies
Public Health Program**

Discipline Color: Salmon
Liner Color: Navy
Chevron Color: Gold

**College of Health Sciences
Physical Therapy Program**

Discipline Color: Teal Blue
Liner Color: Navy
Chevron Color: Gold

College of Dental Medicine–Illinois

Discipline Color: Lilac
Liner Color: Navy
Chevron Color: Gold

**College of Graduate Studies
Precision Medicine Program**

Discipline Color: Gold
Liner Color: Navy
Chevron Color: Gold



Hood

The hood, a commencement accessory placed around the neck that drapes down the back of the graduate's gown, signifies achievement in higher education. Its velvet top layer is the discipline color of the program of study. Both the lining and the chevron trim colors are those of the college or the program. The doctoral hood is four feet in length; the master's hood is three and one-half feet in length. At Midwestern University, the hood is carried over the right arm of the graduate in the processional and is placed on the graduate during the ceremony.

Tam

All Midwestern University graduates wear black velvet tams with black (master's programs) or gold (doctoral programs) tassels that hang to the right front side.

Honor Cords

The honor cord, nearly six feet in length, is worn around the graduate's neck and drapes down the front of the gown. The different cord colors designate the academic achievement or honor status in a national academic/professional society. A graduate can wear multiple cords if he or she qualifies for individual honors.

Midwestern University Coins

A custom minted coin is a military tradition to recognize achievement, create incentive, improve safety, or show appreciation for duty, dedication, or a job well done. Midwestern University proudly presents graduates who are in the military or entering the military following graduation with a coin to honor their service to our country.

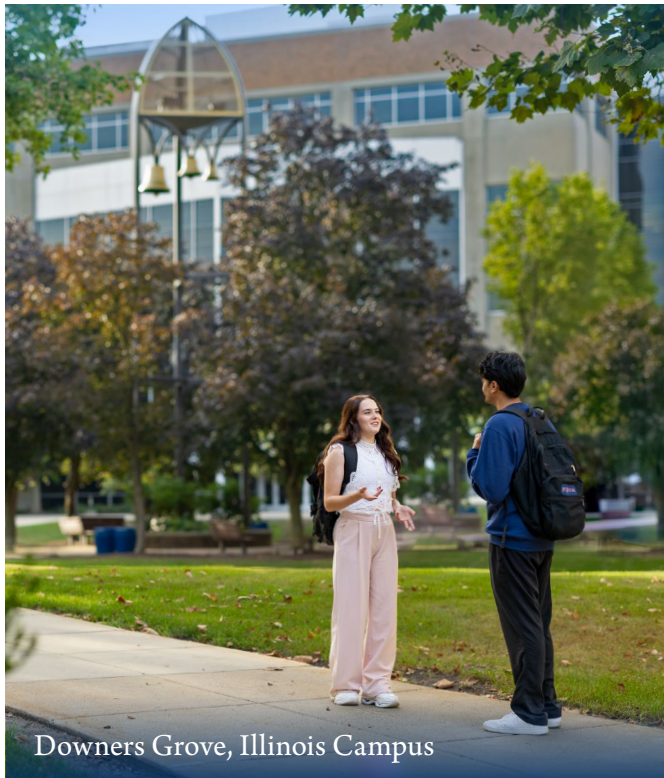
HISTORY OF MIDWESTERN UNIVERSITY

Founded in 1900 as the American College of Osteopathic Medicine and Surgery in Chicago, Illinois, Midwestern University began with a clear mission to educate healthcare professionals in a not-for-profit, student-centered environment. Early leadership and faculty built a strong reputation for academic excellence and hands-on clinical training, helping shape the future of osteopathic medicine.

The University's growth reflects both vision and responsiveness to the needs of healthcare. In 1986, the institution relocated to Downers Grove, Illinois, creating space for expanded programs across the health sciences. In 1995, Midwestern University established a second campus in Glendale, Arizona, significantly broadening its reach and impact. Over time, the University expanded to include programs in pharmacy, dental medicine, optometry, health sciences, podiatry, nursing, biomedical science, and veterinary medicine.

Today, Midwestern University is a comprehensive graduate university with two campuses, multiple colleges, and a wide range of healthcare programs. Students learn in modern facilities and gain valuable experience through interprofessional education, clinical education, and community-based clinics. The University's One Health initiative further emphasizes the connection between human, animal, and environmental health, preparing students to collaborate across disciplines to address complex global challenges.

Throughout its history, the University has remained committed to its founding principles of academic excellence, compassionate care, and student success, preparing our graduates to thrive in a rapidly changing healthcare environment.



Downers Grove, Illinois Campus



Glendale, Arizona Campus

ACADEMIC LEADERSHIP TEAM

Joshua C. Baker, O.D., M.S.
President and Chief Executive Officer

Thomas A. Boyle, D.O., M.B.A., FACEP, FACOEP
Dean, Chicago College of Osteopathic Medicine

Sheri Brownstein, D.M.D., M.Ed.
Dean, College of Dental Medicine-Arizona

Jared Chamberlain, Ph.D.
*Dean, College of Health Sciences,
Glendale Campus*

Megan Dallianis, Ed.D.
Dean of Student Services, Downers Grove Campus

Mitchell R. Emerson, Ph.D.
*Dean, College of Pharmacy,
Downers Grove and Glendale Campuses*

Alicia E. Feis, O.D., FAAO
Dean, Arizona College of Optometry

Carla Gartrell, D.V.M., J.D., DACVIM
Dean, College of Veterinary Medicine

Harold J. Haering, Jr., D.M.D.
Dean, College of Dental Medicine-Illinois

Brianne N. Hobbs, O.D., Ph.D., FAAO
Dean, Chicago College of Optometry

Sandra E. Inouye, Ph.D.
*Dean, College of Graduate Studies,
Downers Grove and Glendale Campuses*

Jeffrey L. Jensen, D.P.M., FACFAS
Dean, Arizona College of Podiatric Medicine

Lori A. Kemper, D.O., M.S., FACOFP
Dean, Arizona College of Osteopathic Medicine

Coretta C. Patterson, D.V.M., DACVIM-SA
Dean, Chicago College of Veterinary Medicine

Sarah Radtke, Ed.D., ATC
*Dean, College of Health Sciences,
Downers Grove Campus*

Shannon Sesterhenn, M.S., Ed.D.
Dean of Student Services, Glendale Campus

Yir Gloria Yuch, Ph.D.
Provost



Tomorrow's Healthcare Team

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