CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or on clicking links from unknown senders.
At noon on Friday, March 19th, 99 students participated in a private virtual Match Day ceremony, surrounded by family and friends. This is the second year that Match Day looked different for our fourth year medical students, due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Alumni Office partnered with Student Services to gift a custom Match Day box for each of our students. The gift included items to help make Match Day more memorable and to celebrate the students' impending transition to alumni. Each box included two cookies, one personalized with "Dr. [Last Name]" and the other of a white coat with stethoscope, a copy of their individual class composite photo, a black steel tumbler with the UofSC SOMC Alumni logo, a school branded penlight, a laminated sign for sharing their residency appointments in photos, and a festive confetti popper.

The boxes were personally given to students during a social distancing friendly drive-thru event on campus the Monday prior to Match Day. In order to encapsulate the excitement and preparation leading up to the big day, we also enlisted a videographer to document the process and collect Match Day reactions from the students to create a keepsake film. You can view the video by clicking on the graphic above.

We are excited to share with our School of Medicine alumni family that 95% of our senior students matched into internships/residencies, which is above the national average of 92%. As always, we are excited that many of our students are staying local (23 students matched into
Prisma Health residencies and a total of 29 students are staying in South Carolina. Other students will be attending strong training programs throughout the eastern US, including Duke, Wake Forest, Yale, Mayo Clinic, and Brown University to name a few. Of our graduates, 44% will enter residencies in primary care specialties (family medicine, internal medicine, pediatrics, med/peds) – this compares to 39% of graduating students entering those specialties nationally. Additional specialties highly represented include emergency medicine (13%), general surgery (7%) and radiology (6%).

Click on the graphic below to view the residency match list and see how you can connect with a new grad coming to your area!
As our new alumni head off to start the next chapter of their lives across the country, the unfamiliar can be scary. Connect with a grad via email or over a cup of coffee to help welcome them to their new home!

CLICK HERE TO REVIEW MATCH RESULTS

We had such an amazing response from alumni last year - we'd love for your help again! Here's how you can connect with the Class of 2021:

1. Click the graphic above to view the match results.
2. Review the list to see if there are any graduates coming to your city.
3. Email Paige Stiles if you'd like to connect with a graduate. Please include information about where you work and your specialty.
4. Once we receive a note back from the graduate letting us know they'd like to connect, we'll send you an email with their contact information.

FOCUS | Win Gamecock Football Season Tickets
Did you see the Prisma Health Vaccination Drive-Thru video that Gamecock Athletics shared on social media? It shows volunteers from the event, all members of the medical community, revealing the 2021 football schedule and being gifted football tickets for the upcoming season.

If not, click here - it's definitely worth a watch no matter who you root for!

We know that this last year has presented challenges for many of our alumni. Almost everyone in the health care industry felt the consequences of the pandemic, whether serving on the frontlines and treating COVID-19 patients, increasing or substantially decreasing hours devoted to research, teaching health care education virtually, or struggling to keep small private practices afloat.

Coach Shane Beamer, the new Gamecock football head coach, wants to not only hear from the experiences of our School of Medicine alumni, but also reward one graduate with season tickets to the 2021 football season.

Here's how you can participate:

1. Record a 1-2 minute cell phone video telling your COVID-19 story; talk about the role you played, the challenges you faced, and how you perservered.
2. Send your video to the Alumni Office to pass on to Coach Beamer. Email your video file to Holly.Jefferson@uscmed.sc.edu or text it to (803) 960-8876. **Deadline is midnight on May 1, 2021.**

3. Sit back and cross your fingers (and toes if you can!). We'll share a recorded video message from Coach Beamer announcing the winner of the tickets.

Our office is excited about this partnership with Gamecock Athletics, which recognizes the dedication and sacrifice from our alumni to keep their communities healthy and safe.

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**REFLECT | Remembering the School of Medicine's first class**

There were few options available to attend medical school in the mid-‘70s but Randy Suarez was determined to pursue his lifelong dream of a career in medicine. It was fortuitous for him that the University of South Carolina Columbia was developing a new medical school at the same time he was completing his undergraduate degree in biology from Presbyterian College in Clinton, South Carolina.

“All I wanted to do since I can remember was to go to medical school,” he says.

He and his wife were preparing to move to Columbia once he was accepted into the inaugural class, then came the news that there would be a delay.

“It was such an exciting time when I was accepted,” Suarez recalls. “Then we got the good news that the program received accreditation along with the not so good news that we would have to
wait a year before we could start classes."

Read the full story about Dr. Suarez here.

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**DISCOVER | Opportunities for Engagement**

THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

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**2021 ALUMNI REUNION WEEKEND**

POSTPONED
Give 4 Garnet, the university’s annual day of giving, will be held Wednesday, April 21, 2021.

During Give 4 Garnet, we are asking our entire community – students, staff, faculty, alumni,
patients and friends – to come together and support the School of Medicine Columbia’s Carolina Fund by giving $4 or $40 in honor of the four decades, or 40 years, our school’s alumni have been caring for the people of South Carolina and beyond.

Alumni Volunteers needed for

GRADUATE HOODING

May 7th

CLICK HERE FOR MORE INFORMATION
Research. Clinical. Day to day. All medical careers.

Give the gift of your time.

Our students are looking for shadowing opportunities.

CLICK HERE TO VOLUNTEER

Where on Earth are you now?

Click here to update your contact information
REVERE | Class Kudos

Jaya Wall Ruffin, MD ('19) was selected to serve as Chief Resident of Pediatrics at Prisma Health Richland.

The Office of Development and Alumni Relations
University of South Carolina School of Medicine

Kim Riggi, Senior Director of Development and Alumni Relations
Holly Jefferson, Associate Director of Alumni Relations and Development
Paige Stiles, Alumni Engagement and Marketing Manager
Alyssa Yancey, Communications Manager
Susan Butler, Finance/University Foundations Administrative Coordinator
Michelle Edgar, Development Research Analyst and Stewardship Coordinator
Margaret Gregory, Public Information Coordinator

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