



**TOURO
COLLEGE OF
OSTEOPATHIC
MEDICINE**

TOURO UNIVERSITY
Harlem Campus

MASTER OF SCIENCE

***INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES IN
BIOLOGICAL AND PHYSICAL
SCIENCES***

***HARLEM CLASS OF 2024
COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY***

*The Sixth of May 2024
At ten o'clock*

Virtual Program

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ARTHUR PRANCAN, PHD

DIRECTOR, MASTER'S PROGRAM



MS Class of 2024,

It has been a pleasure and an honor to work with you, from the first interview and campus visit, to this final step in your training with us.

I am impressed by your accomplishment and I have a great appreciation for your hard work throughout the year. Congratulations on the success you achieved as you reached for your goals.

We should all turn our appreciation to the Administrators and Administrative Assistants within the Touro College of Osteopathic Medicine who regularly support our efforts and who encourage this unique opportunity for students to develop their interests in the Biomedical Sciences. Some of these marvelous leaders are here today and join me in thanking them.

I believe that our teachers are the heart of this program and they have demonstrated their dedication with each hour of lecture and discussion. We owe any success of this program directly to all of them.

To the Parents and Families, I wish for you all of the satisfaction which accompanies the attainment of high goals by one of your own. I feel that you will continue to gain in satisfaction as your student continues to reach for higher and higher outcomes.

My best wishes to you,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'A. Prancan', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Dr. Arthur Prancan

Stacey L. Fanning, PhD

Assistant Director, MS Program



MS Class of 2024,

I am thrilled to celebrate this remarkable achievement with you. Your journey from eager graduate school applicants to accomplished Masters degree recipients has been a pleasure to witness. I have thoroughly enjoyed getting to work with you both in and out of the classroom, learning about your passions and goals, and celebrating your growth over the course of this challenging year.

I am eager to see where your path takes you as you continue in your professional journey. I have no doubt that your impressive dedication and commitment to the study of the Biomedical Sciences will make a positive impact in the healthcare field and on the lives of others.

My hope for you on your graduation day is that you can appreciate this moment with an immense sense of pride and joy on your amazing accomplishment. My deepest congratulations on reaching this milestone, and please know that your Touro family is in your corner as you move forward into your next chapter.

Warmest regards,
Dr. Stacey Fanning

ALAN KADISH, M.D.
PRESIDENT - TOURO UNIVERSITY SYSTEM



Dear Graduates,

Congratulations to the class of 2024! Today is the culmination of all your hard work and your commitment to fulfilling your dreams, to attaining your career goals, and to making a difference in your communities.

Commencement is a day of celebration, but it is also a day of

reflection. I know that many of you made great sacrifices in order to reach this landmark. It marks an important milestone in your life, perhaps even a turning point. Whatever path you choose, I am hopeful, and confident, that Touro has equipped you with the knowledge you need to achieve your goals. Now is your time to apply all you have learned at Touro to provide the means to live a life of fulfillment and purpose. Your dreams are about to become realities.

The word commencement implies not only moving forward but always reaching higher. You are now part of the Touro family, and we encourage you to share your stories and successes so that we may take pride in your achievements. I congratulate your family and friends and all who have supported you in reaching this significant accomplishment. I hope you will keep the pride and high spirit of this day with you for a long time to come.

PATRICIA SALKIN, JD, PhD
SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT, ACADEMIC AFFAIRS
PROVOST, GRADUATE & PROFESSIONAL DIVISION



Dear Graduates,

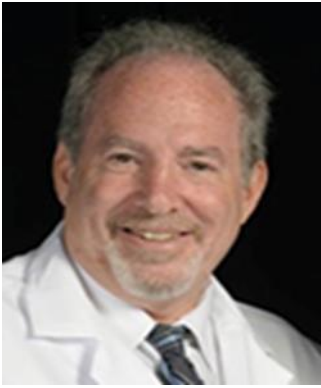
Congratulations to the Class of 2024 on earning a Master of Science degree in Interdisciplinary Studies in Biological and Physical Sciences from Touro University.

We are very proud of you and the hard work you have completed to earn this degree. The credential you now have can open many doors for you in the medical and health care fields. It is up to you to decide how to use the knowledge you have acquired to serve our communities, to advance science, and to help others.

I encourage you to continue to follow your dreams, and to dream big. To go out into the professional world and to make a difference. You have received a solid educational foundation at Touro University and we are proud to welcome you to our alumni ranks. Best wishes for much success, satisfaction and enjoyment in the future.

Patricia E. Salkin, JD, PhD

***KENNETH J STEIER – DO, MBA, MPH, MHA, MGH
EXECUTIVE DEAN & CHIEF ACADEMIC OFFICER***



Congratulations to the inaugural class of the first fully remote Harlem Masters program. This is a unique program in that all instruction was done remotely.

I would like to take this time to personally congratulate each and every one of you on this great occasion. You have successfully completed a very rigorous program. Many of you will go on to medical school, and others will go on to successful careers in podiatry, pharmacy, and other pursuits. This incredible Master's program has prepared you for success in whatever you choose to do next. You have done a great job and you should be very proud.

Races are not won based on where you start but where you finish. By choosing and completing this program, each of you has demonstrated the persistence and strength to keep moving forwards. You have committed yourself to a career in healthcare, and have achieved an important milestone along the way. We are all very proud of you.

I would also like to take a moment to recognize program director Art Prancan and the Touro staff and faculty who make the Master's program run strong. Without their commitment and dedication, we would not be having this ceremony today.

So as the Executive Dean of TouroCOM, you will always have my respect, and I pledge Touro's support for you in the future, whatever you choose to do next.

Congratulations.

NADEGE DADY, Ed. D
DEAN OF STUDENT AFFAIRS



Dear Class of 2024,

It is a pleasure to observe you achieving this important academic milestone. The faculty, staff and administration have noticed your hard work and commitment. When it comes to achieving your goals and aspirations this was an incredible amount of work.

Please understand that the late nights and dedicated hours were not in vain. Consider this not the end of a program but rather the beginning of your academic career, if you so wish. Start this new season with a fresh perspective on how you will continue to develop your goals. The dedication you put into enhancing your knowledge has now opened the door to additional opportunities with either the College of Osteopathic Medicine or other graduate and professional programs.

As I recognize your noteworthy accomplishments special recognition is extended to the loved ones in your lives who supported you during this time. Remember to not only thank them but include them in your delightful celebrations as you usher in the next phase of your journey.

Wishing you nothing but the best, Congratulations!

Dean Dady

Dr. Nadege Dady
Dean of Student Affairs & Assistant Professor

OMOBOLA ONIKOYI, DO ***KEYNOTE SPEAKER***



Omobola Onikoyi, DO is going into her final year of residency at SUNY downstate medical center . She is known for her dedication and resilience. A former master's student of the Class of 2013, Omobola's academic journey is a testament to her unwavering

commitment and hard work.

Following her graduation, Omobola pursued her passion in medicine and matched into dermatology, one of the most competitive specialties. This achievement was not just a result of her intellectual capabilities but also her perseverance and relentless pursuit of excellence. Her time in the master's program was a critical stepping stone in her career, providing her with the foundational knowledge and skills needed to excel in the medical profession.

Omobola's success in dermatology is driven by her dedication to patient care and her keen interest in complex dermatological conditions. Her approach to medicine combines innovative treatment methods with compassionate care, ensuring that her patients receive the best outcomes possible.

Beyond her clinical responsibilities, Omobola is deeply committed to giving back to the community that shaped her. She is actively involved in mentorship programs, where she guides and supports upcoming medical students. Her goal is to inspire and empower the next generation of healthcare professionals by sharing her knowledge and experiences.

OUR MISSION

The Touro College of Osteopathic Medicine is committed to training osteopathic physicians, with a particular emphasis on practicing medicine in underserved communities, and to increasing the number of underrepresented minorities in medicine.

We value and support public service, research, graduate medical education, and osteopathic clinical service in the community that will strive to improve health outcomes for those we serve.

We will work to educate students through the use of the latest innovative education techniques using summative and formative measures so as to graduate qualified osteopathic physicians.

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Touro University System

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Executive Dean and Chief Academic Officer

Arthur Prancan, PhD – Dean of Preclinical Education

Stacey L. Fanning, PhD - Assistant Dean of Research
Assistant Director, MS Program

Barbara Capozzi, DO, CNS. – Dean of Clinical Education

Nadege Dady, EdD - Dean of Student Affairs

***Geoffrey E. Eaton – Director of Community Affairs and
Diversity***



Martin Diamond, D.O., FACOFP - Dean Emeritus

Jay Sexter, PhD – Founding CEO

PROGRAM

Commencement Opening

Arthur Prancan, Ph.D.
Director, MS Program

Pledge of Allegiance

Mariluz Henshaw, MD, PhD
Associate Professor in Biochemistry

National Anthem

Paul Louigene, DO
TouroCom-Harlem Class 2023

Invocation

Rabbi Moshe D. Krupka
Department of College Affairs

Faculty Greetings

Masters Program Faculty Members

Touro University Greeting

Patricia Salkin JD, Ph.D.
Senior Vice President & Provost

Touro University Greeting

Alan Kadish, M.D.
President, Touro University

Dean's Message

Kenneth J. Steier, DO, MBA, MPH, MHA, MGH
Executive Dean & Chief Academic Officer

Keynote Speaker

Omobola Onikoyi, DO

Presentation of Awards

Nadege Dady, Ed.D.
Dean of Student Affairs

Closing Remarks

Arthur Prancan, Ph.D.
Director, MS Program

STUDENT AWARDS

Academic Excellence in Biochemistry Award

Academic Excellence in Medical Genetics Award

Academic Excellence in Histology Award

Academic Excellence in Neuroanatomy Award

Academic Excellence in Physiology 1 Award

Academic Excellence in Physiology 2 Award

Academic Excellence in Anatomy Award

Academic Excellence in Immunology/Microbiology
Award

Academic Excellence in Community Service
Performance Award

Academic Excellence in Human Behavior and Health
Performance

MASTER OF SCIENCE DEGREE CANDIDATES

Jose Acevedo Ortiz
Ashley Adler
Chinegbonkpa Akanno
Sonya Alam
Saanga Alikhail
Adeel Anwar
May Thu Aung
Olivia Banks
Malia Batiste
Mark Benner
Anthony Bianco
Faizah Chowdhury
Mohammad Chowdhury
Ashley Cody
Priscilla De Mesa
Stanley Dong
Amir Elias
Nya Evans
Sebastian Gardere
Busra Gocmez
Jorge Gonzalez
Ria Grover
Marco Halabi
Lidia Hassen
Pierce Hodges
Ivon Hong
Anastasia Ipekci
Anushka Itwaria
Japhe Jelks
Fatema Kamal
Yusra Karim
Theodora Katsarou
Samuel Kaushal
Rhyan King
Jenna Langan
Chris Lee
Giovanni Lopez

Lalla Maach
Bradley Macniven
Amanda Malayil
Zunarah Manzoor
Vanessa Marquez
Nia Martin
Rose Mohona
Yana Mullokandov
Shazib Naseer
Mikaela Nueva
Giovanni Pacheco Fuentes
Hunter Parker
Khushi Patel
Britney Peters
Dominic Popescu
Takeria Purdie
Rashik Raian
Lana Reaves
Robert Ross
Meera Savage
Katrin Shimonov
Kelsey Short
Susannah Simpfenderfer
Gabrielle Singh
Michael Suarez-Villamil
Talia Taheri
Nagma Tai
Raphael Tanen
Marina Thomas
David Tokpah
William Waldron
Alexa Wallace
Alyssa Williams
Kristina Yakubova
Prathima Yealuru
Michael Yeroushalmi
Abigail Zuckerman

The student listing in this program is not an official roster of graduates; it is a listing of candidates for degrees.

MASTER'S PROGRAM FACULTY

Anatomy

Sushama Rich, MD, *Course Director*
Bedia Castellanos, MD
Ramona Baez, MD
Naveen Kandavalli, MD

Biochemistry/ Medical Genetics

Nikolaos Papanikolaou, PhD,
Course Director
Mariluz P. Henshaw, MD, PhD

Community Service

Jeffrey Gardere, PhD, *Course Director*

Embryology

Luis Vidal, PhD, *Course Director*

Histology and Cell Biology

Luis Vidal, PhD, *Course Director*
Piotr Kozlowski, MD, PhD

Human Behavior and Health

Jeffrey Gardere, PhD, *Course Director*

Immunology/ Microbiology

Stacey Fanning, PhD, *Course Director*
Maysa Azzeh, PhD

Law and Ethics

Niket Sonpal, MD FACP,
Course Director

Neuroanatomy

Luis Vidal, PhD, *Course Director*
Naveen Kandavalli, MD

Physiology

Kurt Degenhardt, PhD, *Course Director*
Conrad Fischer, MD

Pharmacology

Kamilah Ali, PhD, *Course Director*
Arthur Prancan, PhD

*The Faculty
and
Administration
Congratulate
the
MS Class of
2024!*