



University of
Pittsburgh®

Graduate Studies
School of Medicine

The First Annual
Welcome Ceremony
for Incoming PhD Students

University Club, Ballroom A

Friday, September 17, 2021

4:00pm-5:00pm

Reception to follow

The Welcome Ceremony

Introduction

John P. Horn, PhD

Associate Dean for Graduate Studies, Professor of Neurobiology
Director, Interdisciplinary Biomedical Graduate Program

Biomedical Research and the Mission of our Medical School

Anantha Shekhar, MD, PhD

Senior Vice Chancellor for the Health Sciences,
John and Gertrude Petersen Dean, School of Medicine

Building an Inclusive Community

Chenits Pettigrew Jr., EdD, Associate Dean for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

Finding the Right Mentor

Kara A. Bernstein, PhD, Associate Professor of Microbiology and Molecular Genetics,
Director PhD program in Molecular Genetics and Developmental Biology

Alumna Presentation of University Jackets to Entering Students

Kari Nejak-Bowen, MBA (2002), PhD (2010), Associate Professor of Pathology

Administration of the Scientist's Oath

Haley Cartwright, President, Biomedical Graduate Student Association and
Matt Keeney, Shekina Gonzalez-Ferrer, Priya Raja, Kaylee Ermine, Nicole Kaminski and
Michelle Lynskey, Vice Presidents of the BGSA

Photographs and Reception



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A Scientist's Oath

As I embark on my career as a scientist, I willingly pledge that:

- I will practice and support a scientific process that is based on logic, intellectual rigor, personal integrity, and an uncompromising respect for truth;
- I will perform my professional activities and interactions with scientific integrity and respect for the field and my peers;
- I will acknowledge my role as an ambassador of science to the public, and strive to be honest, respectful and unbiased with engaging the public;
- I will value my work and its contribution to the scientific community;
- I will never let the potential for personal recognition or advancement cause me to act in a way that violates the public trust in science or in me as a scientist;
- I will foster a community that is inclusive of all and recognize that diversity cultivates innovation, creativity, and progress;
- I will acknowledge and honor the contributions of scientists who have preceded me and become a worthy role model deserving of respect by those who follow me;
- And I will always be cognizant that my work is for the advancement of knowledge and the benefit of all humanity.

This oath was written in 2014 by Biomedical PhD students at the Johns Hopkins School of Medicine. (Bettridge, Cook, Ziegelstein and Espenshade (2018) Molecular Cell (2018) 71: 879-881.). It was reviewed and adopted by the Biomedical Graduate Student Association (BGSA) at the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine in 2021. The oath signifies commitment on the part of entering PhD students.