

NYCPM Class of 2020 Students Receive White Coats



The NYCPM Class of 2020 has been oriented, celebrated and made to feel at home, but in early September, class members received the first real symbol of their entry into medical education: their white coats.

At the White Coat Ceremony, held September 6, 2016 at the New York Academy of Medicine, Vice President of Academic Affairs and Academic Dean Michael J. Trepal, DPM ('81) made a few opening remarks and introduced Joseph Cataldo (2018), President of the Student Council. Mr. Cataldo described to the first-year students the impact of a white coat on a patient. "A patient sees a healer and a helper; a patient sees someone compassionate and understanding; a patient sees someone who can listen."

After Mr. Cataldo's speech, Dr. Trepal introduced Lieutenant Commander Evan Dash of the Department of Defense, Captain Jose Loor, DPM ('09) and Randy E. Cohen, DPM, Professor of Radiology and Director, Radiology Section, at NYCPM. Lt. Commander Dash attended the ceremony to recognize the College and Dr. Cohen's support of the US Army Reserves. NYCPM and Dr. Cohen have "gone above and beyond" in upholding the tenets of ESGR (Employer Support of Guard & Reserve) in their support of an employee's service, he said. Employers like NYCPM make the Guard and Reserve stronger, Dash said, and presented a Patriot Award to Dr. Cohen.

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Remarks of the keynote speaker, R. Daniel Davis, DPM, President of the American Podiatric Medical Association (APMA), went directly to the crux of the matter: "To the public, the wearer of the white coat is someone who practices medicine." He proceeded to discuss diabetes, "the fastest growing disease in the US," and the role of the podiatrist plays in saving limbs: "You have chosen the profession that can save a limb; if you save a limb you save a life."

In addition to describing the role of the APMA, Dr. Davis, noting that the 15th anniversary of 9/11 was near, talked about the role of podiatrists at Ground Zero, describing them as the busiest of all the medical personnel there. He paid tribute to NYCPM's Anthony R. Iorio, DPM ('81), MPH, Associate Professor and Chair, Department of Community Health and Medicine and Assistant Dean for Continuing Medical Education, for his sustained and dedicated work at Ground Zero. At the end of Dr. Davis' remarks, he received a crystal apple with thanks from NYCPM.

After the speeches, one by one the 86 members of the Class of 2020 received and donned their white coats in front of families and friends, and took the Hippocratic Oath.