In a ceremony at the New York Academy of Medicine on August 23rd, 88 members of the Class of 2021 of the New York College of Podiatric Medicine received their white coats, that tangible symbol of the medical profession.

After a lovely rendition of the national anthem by Registrar Doreen D’Amico, and introductions by Louis L. Levine, President and CEO of NYCPM, Patricia Nicholas, DPM (’93), President of the New York State Podiatric Medical Association greeted the students. She spoke about her personal journey, which began in Haiti, and said she knows she “made the right [career] choice.”

Thomas Ehlers (2019), President of the NYCPM Student Association, characterized the white coats as representing the “compassion, understanding and the ability to listen” of the best members of the profession.

Keynote speaker Pradeep Albert, MD, an attending radiologist at Medical Arts Radiology as well as an Adjunct Assistant Professor at the College, told the students that “today is the beginning of a life of service,” and that “your tomorrow is here now.” He emphasized the traits they will need, highlighting grit, tenacity and perseverance. At the end of his address, President Levine gave Dr. Albert a crystal apple in appreciation of his distinguished career.
In closing, Michael J. Trepal, DPM ('81), Vice President of Academic Affairs and Dean, described the diversity of the Class of 2021, noting that of the 88 students, 40 percent are women, and that they come from 19 different states, and 4 countries.

Registrar Doreen D'Amico sang the national anthem at the White Coat ceremony for Class of 2021.