NYCPM Class of 2023 Receives White Coats

In a ceremony filled with anticipation and joy, members of the Class of 2023 donned their new white coats in front of proud families and friends at the New York Academy of Medicine on August 21st. The 95 first-year students (the Class of 2023 actually numbers 103 students, including students who started in January,) had been welcomed with a Hudson River cruise on the previous Saturday, went through orientation, and then slipped into the most tangible and visible symbols of the medical profession.

VP for Academic Affairs and Academic Dean Michael J. Trepal, DPM, FACFAS welcomed the students and introduced all on stage, including Daniel Kline, executive director of NYSPMA, and Loretta Logan, DPM, Chair of the Admissions Committee.

Thomas Milisits (2021), President of the NYCPM Student Association, then spoke and advised the freshmen that during their four years of study, they should never lose sight of who [they] are. “Do what makes you happy,” he suggested.

Keynote Speaker D. Scot Malay, DPM, MSCE, FACFAS, director of podiatric research at Penn Presbyterian Medical Center, welcomed the students to the clinical realm. He said that the white coat is a symbolic part of the doctor-patient relationship that stands for cleanliness, compassion and caring, and a standard of professionalism. He related an anecdote that summed up the decision he had made to specialize in podiatric medicine: “Because … people should walk without pain.”

Afterwards, the new students were called onto the stage and walked off wearing their white coats. They then recited the Hippocratic Oath for the first time.