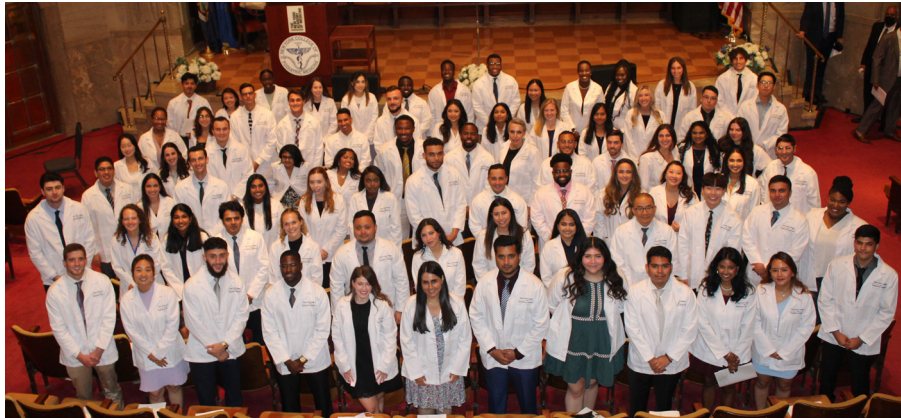


White Coat Ceremony Celebrates Class of 2026



August 17th's White Coat Ceremony celebrated the first-year Class of 2026 and represented the return of the single-class ceremony for NYCPM, the norm in pre-pandemic years. (Last year's White Coat Ceremony was a double; it celebrated both the classes of 2025 and 2024 because of the previous year's pandemic-caused event cancellation.)

The ceremony, organized by Student Services, took place in the event's traditional home, the New York Academy of Medicine, and was held before an audience of family members as well as NYCPM faculty and staff. Music, played by musicians (Alina Lee, Hye Jin Koh, Jiwon Kim) from the Juilliard School, was donated by **Trustee Kathleen Reilly Fallon, DPM, LHD, DM.**

After **Dean for Student Services and Enrollment Management Lisa K. Lee, MA** presented the Class of 2026, and the playing of the national anthem, **Michael J. Trepal, DPM, FACFAS, Vice President for Academic Affairs and Dean**, welcomed all to the ceremony and provided introductions. **Maria A. Branca, DPM**, President of the New York State Podiatric Medical Association, greeted the students and audience, and remarks were delivered by **Trevell Moxey (2024)**, the president of the NYCPM Student Association.

The keynote speaker was **Edward C. Halperin, MD, MA, Chancellor and Chief Executive Officer of New York Medical College.** Halperin, a distinguished physician, described the attributes of a professional, and then challenged the new students to live up to those ideals. Dr. Halperin is also Professor of Radiation Oncology, Pediatrics, and History, and Provost for Biomedical Affairs of the Touro College and University System.

Eight members of the NYCPM faculty and staff helped the Class of 2026 don their white coats for the first time and Dr. Trepal led the students in their first recitation of the Hippocratic Oath: big first steps on the road to their doctorates. After Dean Lee's concluding remarks, the students and families dispersed into the night.