

From the University of Mississippi Medical Center Division of Public Affairs

## UMMC MED STUDENTS LEARN THEIR FUTURE ON RESIDENCY MATCH DAY

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JACKSON, Miss. – Medical students at the University of Mississippi Medical Center discovered today where they will spend the next three to seven years of their lives in residency training, during the annual rite of passage called Match Day.

The 128 fourth-year students on UMMC's Match Day list were among the thousands of students across the country who participated simultaneously in the National Resident Matching Program.

Most of the 900 chairs in a Jackson Marriott Hotel event room were filled by students, their family and friends and others gathered to learn where members of the 2014 medical school class will train for their 23 different specialties, such as pediatrics, emergency medicine, surgery, psychiatry and family medicine.

"It reminds me of Christmas," said Terica Jackson of Jayess, who drew a coterie of 10 relatives, including her husband Jason Jackson, to downtown Jackson for her big day.

"I set two alarm clocks to make sure I woke up in time this morning," Terica Jackson said before the announcements were made. "It's like Santa Claus is coming, and you don't want to miss it."

More than a third of the class, or 49, will remain at UMMC for their residencies, including Jackson, as she learned later. Others are headed to institutions as far away as Oregon and California.

Some of those facilities are the University of California, San Francisco; the University of Kentucky Medical Center in Lexington; the University of Virginia, Charlottesville; and Oregon Health & Science University, Portland.

Those leaving the state were urged to return to Mississippi by two of UMMC's leaders – Dr. James Keeton, vice chancellor for health affairs and dean of the School of Medicine; and Dr. LouAnn Woodward, associate vice chancellor for health affairs and vice dean of the medical school. UMMC is their med school alma mater.

"We need you," Keeton said. "If you leave, come back and help us do something about the health care of Mississippi."

Woodward described the Match Day process as an "exhausting" series of applications, travels, interviews and more that led up to the moment when each student walked to the stage and opened a white envelope for the big reveal in front of their supporters.

Quoting a previous med school graduate, Woodward described the day as a "combination of the Academy Awards and the NFL Draft for Nerds."

"We're happy," Woodward said. "It's a good day to be nerds."

One of the day's bonuses was the awarding of a doctor's black bag stuffed with a \$5 bill by each student who walked to the podium. Traditionally, it goes to the last student called, who in this case was Vicky Phillips of Vicksburg; she's bound for Vanderbilt University Medical Center in Nashville, where she will do her residency in pediatrics.

Asked what plans she had for the several hundred dollars spilling out of the bag, Phillips said, "Relocation expenses."

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Please forward this message to colleagues who might be interested. If you wish to be removed from this list or know of a colleague to add, send an e-mail message to: [jmazurak@umc.edu](mailto:jmazurak@umc.edu).

The University of Mississippi Medical Center, located in Jackson, is the state's only academic medical center. UMMC encompasses five health science schools, including medicine, nursing, health related professions, dentistry and graduate studies, as well as the site where University of Mississippi pharmacy students do their clinical training. The Medical Center's health-care enterprise includes five hospitals and University Physicians, the faculty group practice. The Medical Center's threefold mission is to educate tomorrow's health-care professionals, conduct innovative research to improve human health, and to provide the highest quality care available to the state's population. A major goal of the Medical Center is the improvement of the health of Mississippians and the elimination of health disparities. For more information, contact the Division of Public Affairs at [\(601\) 984-1100](tel:6019841100) or [umc.edu/publicaffairs](http://umc.edu/publicaffairs)