

For immediate release

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Med Students Match Dreams with Reality in Residency Placements

AURORA, Col. (March 19, 2009) - The planning for the 2009 University of Colorado Denver School of Medicine Match Day celebration started over a year ago when the planning committee members were guests at the Match Day for 2008. The committee worked hard to plan this special event and on Thursday March 19, 2009 arrived early to decorate the ballroom at the Grand Hyatt. As members of the class of 2009 began to arrive with their spouses, significant others, children, parents and grandparents, the tension in the room rose. Everyone was waiting for the moment when they would find out where each student would be spending the next three to five years as resident physicians. The room was decorated in the University of Colorado colors. At one end of the room a table, marked with balloons in the shape of 2009, was lined with envelopes. Each envelope contained a letter, telling the student which residency program they had matched.

This day marks a milestone in the journey that started four years ago for most students, longer for some, when they sat in the classroom on the Ninth Avenue campus for their first anatomy class as medical students. A year ago, the students had just completed all of their required basic science and clinical curriculum and started the process of taking clinical electives and sub-internships in order to hone in on their final career choices. During the spring and early summer, they completed resumes, personal statements, collected letters of recommendation. During the fall and winter, they sent out applications and traveled around the country for personal interviews with programs. Then in February, both students and programs turned in their preferred rank order list and everyone waited for this moment.

At 11:00 Dean Maureen Garrity came to the podium and gave the class an Irish toast, "May the roads rise to meet you and may the wind be always at your back" and invited them to open their envelopes. After a brief moment of silence, the quiet transformed to pandemonium and cheers. For the next hour, students moved around the room, hugging and congratulating their classmates, talking with their families and the faculty who were present to help them celebrate and using their cell phones to call family who were not present. The planning committee had prepared a slide show of images of the students during activities during the past four years and this was in the background as lunch was served. Dean Krugman shared stories of his own match day experience as he congratulated the class and their families. The class selected two speakers for this special

day. Dr. Dan Bessessen was the faculty speaker and Jo O'Connell-Romero was the class speaker.

One-hundred-thirty-two students participated in the match, including two members of the class of 2008 who had deferred match for one year. Fifty-four (41%) of the students will stay in Colorado for at least their first year, with some of these leaving after this to complete specialty training in another state. An additional 23, (14%) will stay in the West and the remainder of the class will head for states from as close as Nebraska and Kansas to as far as North Carolina and Florida. Internal Medicine was the specialty that captured the most students, with 36 choosing this discipline. An additional 18 students chose Family Medicine and 15 chose Pediatrics, making a total of 52% of the class starting their training in primary care fields. Emergency Medicine with 13 students and Anesthesia with 11 were also very popular choices with this class. The class of 2009 also had a number of students who matched in the competitive sub-specialties of Dermatology (2), Otolaryngology (4), Neurosurgery (2) and Radiation Oncology (1). Several members of the class of 2009 knew before arriving at the Match where they would be going, including the students who had matched with the military, one who had matched in Ophthalmology, one in Urology and one student who had matched in Child Neurology.

The majority of the class of 2009 have completed their graduation requirements and will use the next two months to travel, plan moves, buy houses and prepare to begin their residency. During the month of May, the class will celebrate with its traditional "senior skit", an irreverent look at their medical school times, the Honors Convocation and Silver and Gold Banquet, and finally, graduation and hooding on May 22, 2009. The graduation and hooding will be held on the educational quadrangle at the Anschutz Medical Campus.

The [School of Medicine](#) faculty work to advance science and improve care as the physicians, educators and scientists at University of Colorado Hospital, The Children's Hospital, Denver Health, National Jewish Health, and the Denver Veterans Affairs Medical Center. Degrees offered by the UC Denver School of Medicine include doctor of medicine, doctor of physical therapy, and masters of physician assistant studies. The School is part of the [University of Colorado Denver](#), one of three campuses in the University of Colorado system. For additional news and information, please visit the [UC Denver newsroom](#) online.