

# MISSION STATEMENT

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Rocky Vista University  
provides quality healthcare education  
while inspiring students to serve with  
compassion, integrity, and excellence.



**ROCKY VISTA UNIVERSITY | UTAH**

**MASTER OF SCIENCE IN BIOMEDICAL SCIENCES**

Class of 2024 Commencement

ELEVENTH OF MAY  
TWO-THOUSAND TWENTY-FOUR



# COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY

PROCESSIONAL

NATIONAL ANTHEM

Eric Carter, OMS I

INVOCATION

Brad Thornock, PhD

WELCOME, ANNOUNCEMENT OF PURPOSE, AND PROGRAM DIRECTOR'S CHARGE

Francina Towne, PhD

MSBS Program Director

Associate Professor of Immunology

GREETINGS FROM THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Maha Sallam, PhD

CLASS PRESIDENT COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS

Alexander Jones

COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS

Laura Rosch, DO, CS, MS, FACOI

Campus Dean

CLASS AWARDS

Amberly Reynolds, PhD

PRESENTATION AND HOODING OF THE MSBS CLASS

CONFERRAL OF MSBS DEGREE AND TASSEL CEREMONY

David Forstein, DO, FACOOG

President and CEO

CLOSING REMARKS

David Forstein, DO, FACOOG

RECESSIONAL

# LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT



Dear MSBS Class of 2024,  
Families, Faculty, and Members of the RVU Community,

Today is a celebration, not only for the students, but for everyone who has played a foundational role in their lives. They would not be here today if not for your support, love, and confidence.

Graduates, thank you for the trust you have placed in us. You have worked hard and have overcome obstacles to be one step closer to achieving your professional goals. We look forward to seeing the wonderful things you will accomplish.

As you transition from RVU Students to Alumni, remember to express gratitude to those who have helped you on your journey; your family, friends, faculty, and staff – all of whom stood with you to cheer you on during the good times as well as those challenging moments and now share the sense of pride and accomplishment with you. Remember that you are always a part of the RVU Family. Never stop learning, growing in mind, body and spirit and become an integral member of the communities you will serve.

We look forward to your future accomplishments and know that you will make us proud!

Warmest regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David A. Forstein, DO". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

David A. Forstein, DO, FACOOG (dist.)  
President and CEO  
Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology

# KEYNOTE SPEAKER

## **LAURA ROSCH, DO, CS, MS, FACOI**

Laura Rosch is a board-certified Osteopathic Internist from Chicago. She completed her medical school education in 1990 and went on to do a residency in Internal Medicine followed by Fellowship in Endocrinology at Olympia Fields Osteopathic Health Center.

Dr. Rosch worked for Northwestern Memorial Hospital in Chicago for over 23 years and has been involved in medical education her entire career. She has also served as program Director for Internal Medicine at Mount Sinai Medical Center in Chicago and held the positions of Internal Medicine Department Chair at the Arkansas College of Osteopathic Medicine and the Chicago College of Osteopathic Medicine. She was also the Joplin Campus Dean for Kansas City University.



Currently, Dr. Rosch is the Campus Dean for Rocky Vista University's Ivins location. She is actively involved in the medical community as she serves on the boards for the American College of Osteopathic Internists and the American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine. She is the current President for the Illinois Osteopathic Medical Society.

## **MSBS CLASS OF 2024 GRADUATION AWARDS**

### **PRESIDENT'S AWARD**

The MSBS President's Award recognizes a graduate who embodies the University's core values of integrity, collegiality, compassion, diversity, excellence, service, and innovation.

### **ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE AWARD**

The MSBS Academic Excellence Award recognizes a graduate who has demonstrated academic excellence.

### **HUMANITARIAN AWARD**

This MSBS Humanitarian Award recognizes a graduate who exemplifies the qualities of graciousness and humility, advocates for social justice, and works for the betterment of all members of their community.

### **SERVICE AWARD**

The MSBS Service Award recognizes a graduate who demonstrated involvement, leadership, and contributions to service efforts.

# MSBS FACULTY AND STAFF

**BENJAMIN BROOKS, PhD**  
Molecular & Cellular Biologist/Biochemist;  
Clerkship Director of Research Electives

**COURTNEY CAMPBELL**  
Program Coordinator

**ASHLIE FRANK**  
Administrative Assistant

**RICARDA HALLSTRAND, PhD**  
Professor of Microbiology

**DAWNETT HANN**  
Program Coordinator

**MELISSA HENDERSON, PhD**  
Vice Chair, Associate Professor of  
Biomedical Sciences

**ELIZABETH MOFFETT-GEORGE, PhD**  
MSBS Assistant Program Director;  
Associate Professor of Structural Medicine

**JOHNATHON OLIVAS, DO**  
Assistant Professor of Anatomy

**ANTHONY PAPPAS, PhD**  
Assistant Professor of Gross Anatomy

**AMBERLY REYNOLDS, PhD, MS**  
Assistant Professor of Anatomy;  
Co-Chair Faculty Development

**JOEL ROBERTS, MD**  
MSBS Assistant Program Director;  
Assistant Professor of Physiology

**INDER SEHGAL, DVM, PhD, CPHT.**  
Professor of Pharmacology

**JANÉE TERWOORD, PhD**  
MSBS Assistant Program Director;  
Assistant Professor of Physiology

**BRAD THORNOCK, PhD**  
Associate Professor of Medical Humanities

**TAYLOR THURSTON, PhD**  
Assistant Professor of Physiology

**FRANCINA TOWNE, PhD**  
MSBS Program Director;  
Associate Professor of Immunology

**QING ZHONG, PhD**  
Associate Professor of Pharmacology

# MASTER OF SCIENCE IN BIOMEDICAL SCIENCES CLASS OF 2024



**BRAYDEN ANDERSON**  
Bachelor of Science - Biochemistry  
Utah State University

**NICHOLAS PADILLA**  
Bachelor of Science  
Weber State University

**SARAH KHURSHID CHAUDHRY**  
Bachelor of Science  
University of Utah

**IMRAN QAYUM**  
Bachelor of Science  
University of Texas - Austin

**NICOLE COWAN**  
Bachelor of Science - Biotechnology  
Utah Valley University - Orem

**ADAM JENSON SAGE**  
Bachelor of Science - Kinesiology  
Utah State University

**RANDY HAGEN**  
Bachelor of Biological Science  
University of Nevada, Las Vegas

**GIDEON SMITH**  
Bachelor of Science - Biology  
Utah Valley University

**ALEXANDER DAVID JONES**  
Bachelor of Science - Biology  
Utah Valley University

**ZACHARY M. TOLD**  
Bachelor of Science  
Utah Valley University

**CHAD JORDAN**  
Bachelor of Science - Public Health  
Brigham Young University - Idaho

**SAMANTHA MCKENZIE WILLIAMS**  
Bachelor of Science - Emergency Health Sciences  
UT Health Science Center San Antonio

**KASEY KENNETT**  
Bachelor of Science - Biology  
Dixie State University

# THE UNIVERSITY MACE

Historically, the mace has been used as a symbol of authority in the military, first originating as a weapon to protect the king.

As the custom of carrying a mace into war disappeared, it became popular to use in governmental ceremonies. The mace made its way into the university setting in the 15th century, primarily associated with commencement ceremonies. With the Class of 2012 Commencement on the horizon, a search was launched for the perfect mace to represent Rocky Vista University. All options were made of metal, looked generic, or didn't reflect who we are. Instead, RVU decided to commission the creation of something special.



Chuck Hunsberger, husband of Katy Hunsberger, previous Associate Director of Admissions, was asked to carve the mace from wood. A skilled woodworker, Chuck used over five kinds of Colorado wood, creating an elegant yet rustic mace that was RVU through and through. The mace has been present at every commencement ceremony, starting with its first appearance at the inaugural class graduation in 2012.

# THE PRESIDENTIAL MEDALLION



The Presidential Medallion of Rocky Vista University is made of brass and weighs 24 ounces. It displays the seal of RVU in blue and gold. The chain consists of two plates depicting the Rod of Asclepius (a snake encircling a staff) — the symbol of medicine and healthcare in the United States. There are nine plates that display each of RVU's core values: Collegiality, Compassion, Diversity, Equity, Excellence, Inclusivity, Innovation, Integrity, and Service. Above the seal, there are four plates displaying the current President, David A. Forstein, DO, FACOOG (dist.), as well as three previous Presidents; Clinton E. Adams, DO, Cheryl D. Lovell, PhD, and Robert R. Roehrich, PhD. The Medallion is worn by the sitting President during commencement and, when not in use, is displayed in the President's Suite.

# ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

The Rocky Vista University Alumni Association was founded in 2012 as a way to provide graduates with an active and united organization, dedicated to the advancement of osteopathic medical education and related health and biomedical sciences. The Association members mentor current students, interview prospective applicants, and attend networking events. The Alumni Association identifies sources of—and educates the public on the need for—clinical rotations, internships, and residency programs for students and graduates. Additionally, the Association offers scholarships to incoming students of Rocky Vista University.

