

Stritch Alumni Messages  
to the Class of 2021

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Match Day Congratulations!

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A great school and a wonderful career ahead  
– Congratulations!

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- Nicholas Burriesci, MD '56

“

A wonderful future awaits.  
Enjoy the journey!

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- William Hulesch, MD '72

“

Although Match Day and Graduation festivities don't look like you may have imagined them, that does not diminish your accomplishments. Congratulations! ”

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- Gayle Winters, MD '79

“

Best Wishes and Congratulations! Continue to challenge yourself and take advantage of the opportunities that come before you in service to others.”

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- Marianne Frieri, MD '78

“

Best wishes for successful and happy careers!  
Enjoy the ride, care with all your heart, always  
do the right thing and the rest will follow! ”

Congrats, Class of '21!

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- Judith McCaffrey, MD '91

“

Coming from SSOM, you are going to be one of  
the BEST MD's in any hospital you work at.

#truth

#well-trained

#whenindoubtlistentothePATIENT

”

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- Irshad Shakir, MD '12

“

Congrats on all your accomplishments!  
Can't wait for you to join us.  
Special shout out to all the future family docs!”

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- Kate Schreck, MD '19

“

Congratulations 2021 Physicians. You have persevered thru the COVID pandemic and will be great public health protectors because of it. Always do your best and leave the outcome in hands of the Almighty. We have a great profession and calling!

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- David O'Brien, MD '87

“

Congratulations during these extraordinary times; now more than ever this world needs compassionate caring physicians to take care of us.”

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- Christine Bennett, MD '88

“

Congratulations graduates!!!

I wish each and every one of you great success in your endeavors. May your journey be filled with joy and accomplishments. ”

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- Janet Meyer, MD '76

“

Congratulations on receiving your degree;  
and, best wishes for success with your medical  
practice, and caring for everyone in your  
community!”

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- David Hike, MD '81

“

Congratulations on your awesome  
achievement. Strive to be the best physician  
you can for others.

”

Gaudeamus igitur 😊

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- Thomas Sobotka, Ph.D. '69

(Pharmacology)

““ Congratulations to 2021 Graduates. As a Loyola graduate you have proved yourself to have these 21 qualities:

**Sincere**

**Tenacious**

**Responsible**

**Intelligent**

**Thoughtful**

**Compassionate**

**Honest**

**Meticulous**

**Empathetic**

**Diligent**

**Impressive**

**Challenging**

**Attentive**

**Loyal**

**AMAZING**

**Scientific**

**Confident**

**Humane**

**Observant**

**Outstanding**

**Learner**

””

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- Omer Iqbal

“

Congratulations to the Stritch Class of 2021! You are about to enter the most wonderful career on Earth, and with the pandemic, and inequities that we face, it is at the most critical time in any of our lifetimes. You undoubtedly are prepared to carry the torch from here.

”

Good luck!

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- Peter Silver, MD '86

“ Congratulations to you on achieving your status as a physician. Never forget how hard you wished, hoped, and prayed for this moment for the years leading up to this. You are amongst a great group of persons who are in an important position to make a change in peoples lives! ”

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- Glenn Nelson, MD '81

“

Congratulations!

Maintain your energy and dedication to  
medicine for the rest of your careers. ”

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- JB Joo, MD '96

“

Congratulations!

Now, more than ever, is an amazing time to be in medicine. Challenge what the future holds.”

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- Susan Pike, MD '97

“

Congratulations! You have chosen a very fulfilling profession. Best of luck as you progress along the road of additional training!!

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- Paul McAvoy, MD '69

“

Congratulations! Remember as a Stritch  
Physician you are treating someone who is not  
just a heart or lung or kidney but someone who  
has a mind, body, and soul! Treat the whole  
person. Good Luck!

”

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- Jerry Meservey, MD '67

“

Congratulations! You will often look back fondly on your Loyola experience! Go forth, and set the world on fire! ”

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- Lindsay Green, MD '12

“

Congratulations.  
Always be compassionate.

”

- 
- John J. Downes, MD '56 (Philadelphia)

“

Keep your eye and attention on the patient - the problem - not the computer. Listen, examine, discuss, communicate. Make them the sole reason for the moment - makes for a happy patient and a happy practice.”

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- Ray A. Dieter, Jr., MD '60

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Lead the way for your patients to have good health. That means practice the preventive care yourself that you hopefully will tell your patients. Specifically, stay on the PAGEN diet, (a blend between the Paleo and Vegan = a little meat and lots of veggies and fruits), exercise regularly, (do NOT allow yourself to get fat), meditate or control your stress regularly, and keep good relationships. FYI I am an orthopedic surgeon and an integrative medicine doc.”

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- Dennis Gates, MD '65

“

Match day and graduation were some of the most memorable moments of my life. While altered in location due to the pandemic, I know that these days will be no less impactful on the course of your career. Welcome to a profession like no other.

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- Nicholas Katsantonis, MD '13

“

Pray you will care for others and feel fortunate that you have been able to do it! ”

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- Jim Eggers, MD '61

“

Saint Ignatius inspired me to service, Loyola gave me the needed tools. So glad you will continue this vital work!

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- Joan Grabenstetter, MD '75

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Take heart! There will be many opportunities for in-person celebrations, personally and professionally, in the future. To you, our new doctors, this is a year of hope and new beginnings. Congratulations!

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- Fred Hom, MD '82

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Warm congratulations. You are a doctor, and will be listening to heart aches and joys, examining, and learning from your patients, ”  
all your life.

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- Merrill Kies, MD '73

“

We've watched you grow for 4 years.

You are ready!!

You will make the world a better place!!!

”

Congratulations SSOM Class of 2021!

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- Aaron Michelfelder, MD '97

“

When Dr. Zeman and I last addressed you at your white coat ceremony, graduation must've seemed far away but as I told you it comes up really fast.

You've all made tremendous accomplishments and your families are very proud of you. Take some time to really enjoy match day, graduation and how far you have come. Keep your Med school friends close and stay in touch.

You are about to join us as Graduates of The Stritch School of Medicine. ”

Each of the alumni is welcoming you and please continue to make us proud with your further accomplishments. Martin Walsh we are very proud of you.

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- John Walsh, M.D., M.S and
- Therese Zeman, M.D., both class of '82

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Wherever you go will be getting an amazing  
new doctor! It's time to go forth and set the  
world on fire!

”

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- Ann Hillman

“

You are embarking on a wonderful journey with a responsibility to your fellow humans to ease suffering and prolong life with compassion and care. Enjoy! ”

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- George LaRocco, MD '72

“

You made it across the finish line and are now  
entering the vocation of a lifetime!

Congratulations on a job well done. ”

We're so proud of you! Best of luck!

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- Mary Ann Emanuele, MD '75

“

You're going to be great doctors!! You've watched the world fall apart. But you've fought through and didn't miss a beat. Can't wait to see the change you bring. The world has no idea what's about to come ”  
at it. Congratulations!!!

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- Mark Kuczewski, Ph.D.

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Arteries are red. Veins are blue.  
Now that you've graduated, I welcome  
surgery from you.

”

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- Michael Dauszvardis, Ph.D.

“

If you survived med school in a pandemic,  
you can survive anything!

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- Andrew Makowski, MD '03

“

Congratulations! Your perseverance and passion has brought you to graduation! May your gifts bring hope and healing to your future patients. ”

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- Jessica McIntyre, MD '05

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So proud of you, Class of 2021! Thank you for who you are and for how you move through this world! We need you, you are ready, and the world is better for your presence!

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- Ginny McCarthy

“ Congratulations to the entire Stritch graduating class of 2021! Also, a special congrats to Louis Nikolis and Andrea Wakim! We are so proud of you!! We wish everyone a future of endless success, happiness and prosperity! ”

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- Nancy & Steve Nikolis

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So proud of all of you and your incredible  
achievements! All the best to the  
MD Class of 2021!

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- Colleen Fitzgerald, MD