



Summer 2026

Greetings from the Dean

The start of summer brings a wonderful moment of celebration and reflection as we honor the School of Health Class of 2026. Commencement is never just a destination, it is a powerful launching pad. Seeing our 154 new graduates transition into a new generation of trailblazers is a vivid reminder that the future of healthcare, public policy, and community health is in exceptionally capable hands.

Our ceremony was made all the more memorable by an inspiring [address from our Commencement Speaker, Kedar S. Mate, M.D.](#), whose words reminded us of the profound responsibility and privilege of health leadership. I encourage you to [read our full Commencement coverage here](#) to revisit those highlights.

In the weeks since graduation, I have been deeply moved by notes from families expressing their deep gratitude for the warm, supportive culture we have built here together. This environment is a direct outcome of the dedication of our faculty and staff, and it is the same energy that our students bring to our community every day.

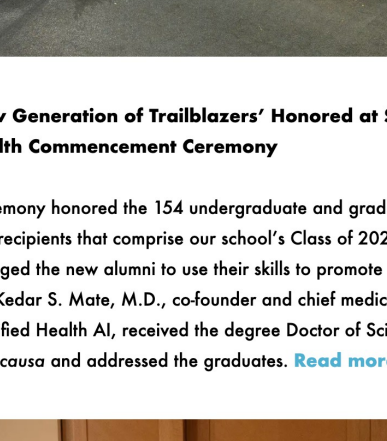
In this Summer issue of *Communitas*, we are proud to celebrate the hard work, persistence, and shared purpose of our newest graduates. They step into our global alumni network ready to lead with courage and serve with compassion. You will also find stories of our faculty, staff, and students who continue their vital work through the summer months, driving evidence-based solutions that advance health, equity, and human flourishing.

As we enter our fifth year, we will [welcome our incoming President Eduardo Peñaolver](#) on July 1. We are thrilled about his leadership and his support of the work we have been called to do.

Thank you for being a vital partner in our mission to advance the health and well-being of people—locally, nationally, and globally through interdisciplinary education, innovative research, and transformative engagement with communities. Together, we commit to a world where all people can achieve optimal health and well-being.

With gratitude and joy,

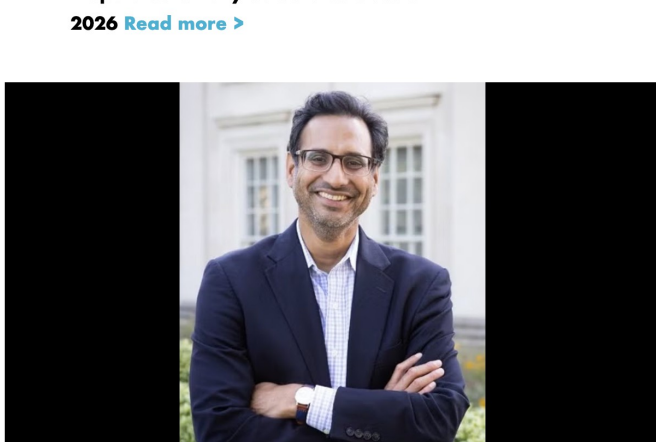
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Connect with the School of Health on Social Media:

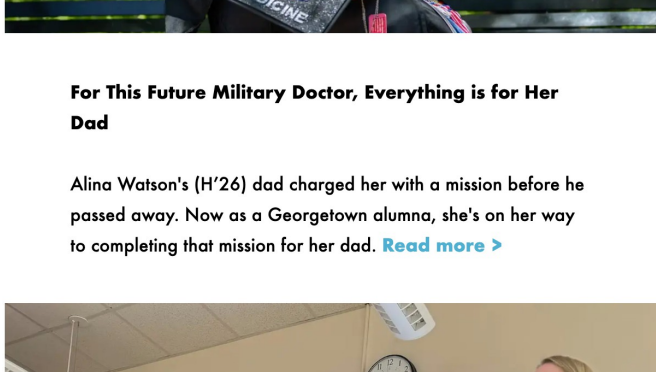


COMMENCEMENT HIGHLIGHTS

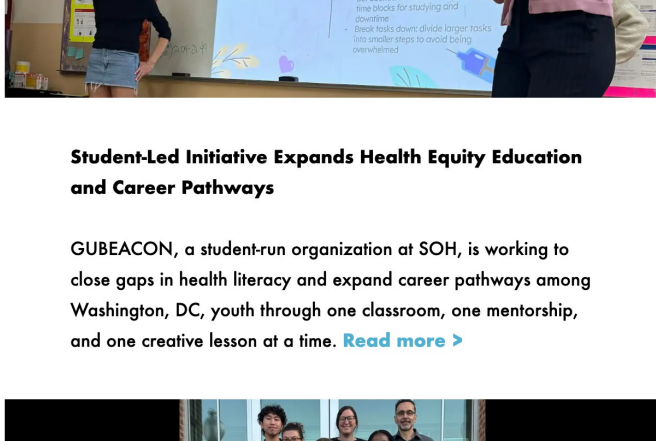


'A New Generation of Trailblazers' Honored at School of Health Commencement Ceremony

The ceremony honored the 154 undergraduate and graduate degree recipients that comprise our school's Class of 2026, and encouraged the new alumni to use their skills to promote health equity. Kedar S. Mate, M.D., co-founder and chief medical officer of Qualified Health AI, received the degree Doctor of Science honoris causa and addressed the graduates. [Read more >](#)

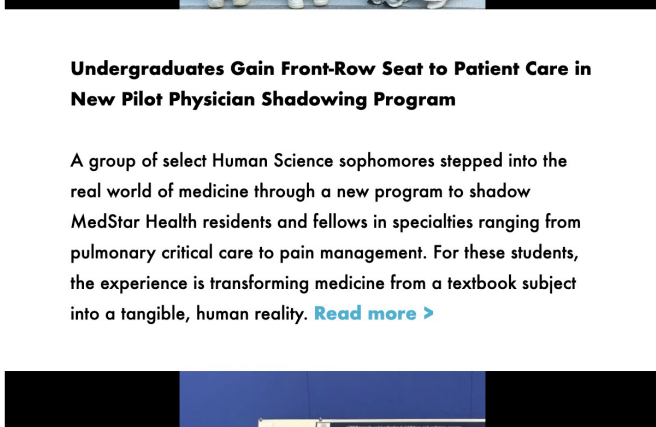


Tropaea Ceremony Celebrates Class of 2026 [Read more >](#)



Commencement Speaker Highlight: Kedar S. Mate, M.D. [Read more >](#)

OUR HOYA COMMUNITY



For This Future Military Doctor, Everything is for Her Dad

Alina Watson's (H'26) dad charged her with a mission before he passed away. Now as a Georgetown alumna, she's on her way to completing that mission for her dad. [Read more >](#)



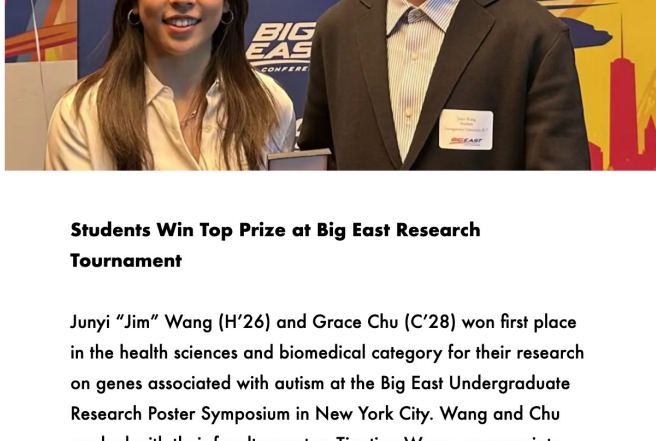
Student-Led Initiative Expands Health Equity Education and Career Pathways

GUBEACON, a student-run organization at SOH, is working to close gaps in health literacy and expand career pathways among Washington, DC, youth through one classroom, one mentorship, and one creative lesson at a time. [Read more >](#)



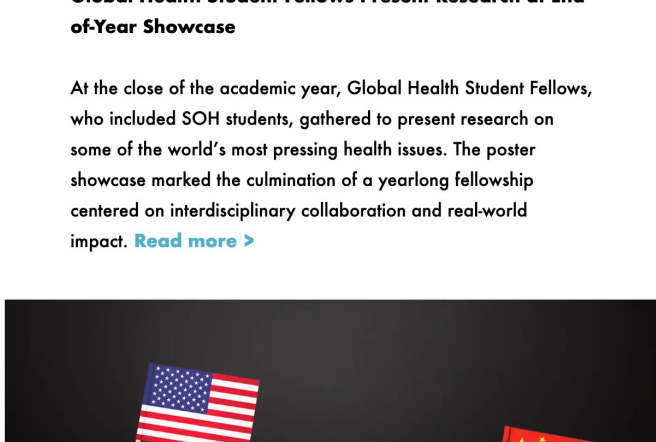
Undergraduates Gain Front-Row Seat to Patient Care in New Pilot Physician Shadowing Program

A group of select Human Science sophomores stepped into the real world of medicine through a new program to shadow MedStar Health residents and fellows in specialties ranging from pulmonary critical care to pain management. For these students, the experience is transforming medicine from a textbook subject into a tangible, human reality. [Read more >](#)



Undergraduate Wins 2026 Goldwater Scholarship

Ishaan Sharma (H'27), a junior Human Science major, has been named a 2026 Goldwater Scholar, a prestigious undergraduate scholarship awarded to the next generation of scientists, researchers and engineers. Sharma, a junior who researches neurodegenerative diseases, was selected out of a pool of 1,485 nominees and joins a cohort of 453 scholars. He is the 51st Hoya to be named a Goldwater Scholar. [Read more >](#)



Global Ties, Local Impact: SOH Hosts International Preceptors

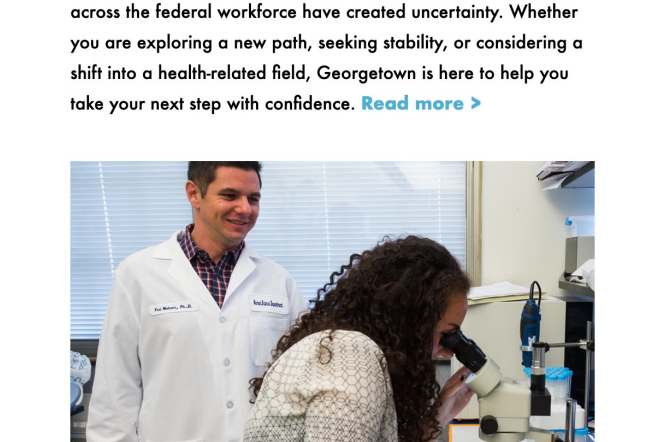
Preceptors from Indonesia, Tanzania, Mexico, Kenya, India and beyond gathered in Washington to celebrate over two decades of international partnership with Georgetown. The meeting served as both a homecoming for longstanding mentors and an orientation for new partners, unified by a mission to provide Georgetown students with a real-world experience that transcends the classroom. [Read more >](#)

INNOVATION, RESEARCH & SCHOLARSHIP



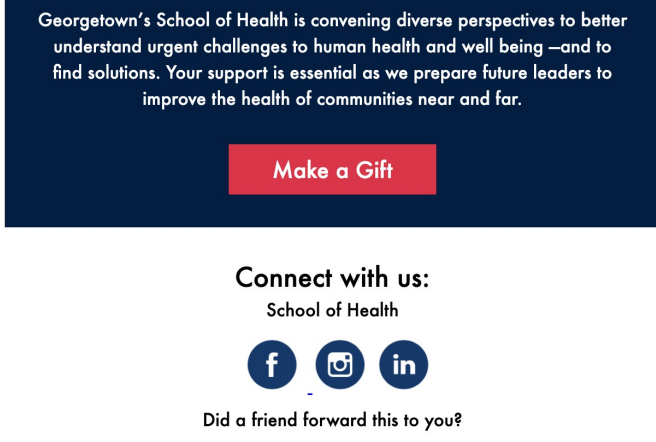
Student-Driven Research Highlighted at 2026 Undergraduate Research Conference

The 2026 Undergraduate Research Conference brought together Hoyas from across campus for a daylong showcase of student-driven work. Recognized as Georgetown's premier undergraduate research forum for science and health, more than 1,400 student posters have been presented since the conference was founded in 2003. As the conference has grown in popularity, this year marked a notable shift to a selective event with limited presentations; 100 abstracts were chosen through a competitive process, prioritizing hypothesis-driven work. [Read more >](#)



Students Win Top Prize at Big East Research Tournament

Junyi "Jim" Wang (H'26) and Grace Chu (C'28) won first place in the health sciences and biomedical category for their research on genes associated with autism at the Big East Undergraduate Research Poster Symposium in New York City. Wang and Chu worked with their faculty mentor, Tingting Wang, an associate professor in the pharmacology and physiology department at SOM. [Read more >](#)



Global Health Student Fellows Present Research at End-of-Year Showcase

At the close of the academic year, Global Health Student Fellows, who included SOH students, gathered to present research on some of the world's most pressing health issues. The poster showcase marked the culmination of a yearlong fellowship centered on interdisciplinary collaboration and real-world impact. [Read more >](#)

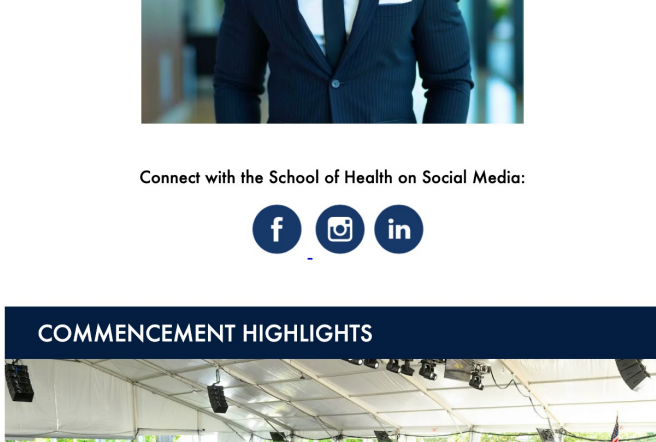
Over the Past Decade, Early-Stage Drug Innovation Shifted Toward China, Georgetown Researchers Find

Early-stage drug development worldwide has nearly doubled over the past decade and shifted from a U.S.-dominated model to a dual hub centered in the United States and China, according to new research described by Georgetown University health policy experts. [Read more >](#)

CAHME Announces the Reaccreditation of Georgetown University's Executive Master's in Clinical Quality, Safety & Leadership

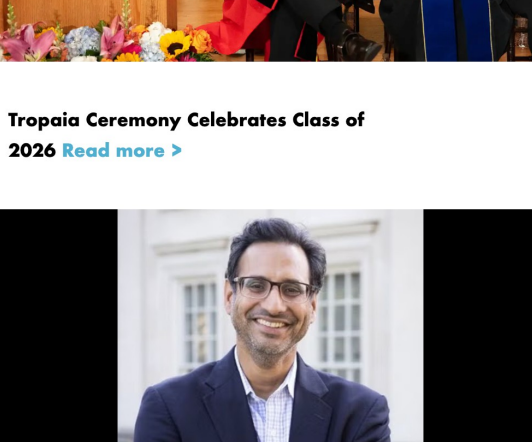
The Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Management Education (CAHME) Board of Directors approved the reaccreditation of our Executive Master's in Clinical Quality, Safety & Leadership (EM-CQSL) for an eight-year term. The EM-CQSL program is a collaboration between SOH and MedStar Health. The online program is designed to reflect the complex, real-world environments that healthcare providers and patients encounter every day. It combines the academic rigor of a leading research university with the operational expertise of one of the region's largest healthcare systems. [Read more >](#)

ANNOUNCEMENTS



Opportunities and Resources for Displaced Federal Workers and Georgetown Alumni

We deeply value the service and dedication of federal workers and are committed to supporting our alumni and current students during this period of change. We recognize that recent changes across the federal workforce have created uncertainty. Whether you are exploring a new path, seeking stability, or considering a shift into a health-related field, Georgetown is here to help you take your next step with confidence. [Read more >](#)



Academic Program Applications

Learn more about our programs at the [Bachelor's](#), [Master's](#) and [Doctoral](#) levels, as well as our [Accelerated B.S./M.S. Pathways](#), [Graduate Certificate Programs](#) and [minors](#).



SOH Apparel at Georgetown University Bookstore

School of Health t-shirts are available at the Georgetown University Bookstore!

