

NEW STUDENT ORIENTATION 2024

# Graduate Education in Biomedical Sciences



**MOREHOUSE**  
SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

Entering Class of 2024

**Graduate Education in Biomedical Sciences  
(GEBS)**

August 8, 2024

# NEW STUDENT ORIENTATION 2024

Dear Morehouse School of Medicine Student:

Our school is graced by an overwhelming number of exceptionally well-qualified applicants. You are in good company, and I am delighted to see you begin your journey into the remarkable profession of medicine.

Professional school study is a time of exploration and immersion in your desired specialty. It is a time for the free exchange of ideas, acquisition of new skills, and creation of knowledge. It is a time when faculty will change from being your teachers to being mentors and colleagues.

Morehouse School of Medicine was founded in 1975 as the Medical Education Program at Morehouse College. In 1981, Morehouse School of Medicine became an independently chartered institution and the first established at a Historically Black College and University in the 20th century. Our focus on primary care and addressing the needs of the underserved is critical to improving overall health care.

During the course of my career, I have had the privilege to work in several other major health sciences centers, and I believe our faculty is second to none. Our faculty and staff are committed to exceptional teaching, research and patient care. We will never lose sight of the responsibility to guide, support, and teach. Morehouse School of Medicine has graduated many medical students over the years, and we remain the leading educator of primary care physicians in the United States.

Our medical school is inextricably linked to our principal teaching hospital, Grady Memorial Hospital, and several affiliates: The Atlanta VA, WellStar Atlanta Medical Center, and Children's Healthcare of Atlanta. Grady Memorial Hospital is the largest safety-net hospital in the Atlanta area, from core primary care services for the Atlanta region to complex cutting-edge referral services for patients from all over the world with our students as part of the clinical team. Here at Morehouse School of Medicine, students learn the basics of clinical practice by actually contributing.

We are also excited about the many research and community engagement opportunities afforded our students. Morehouse School of Medicine understands the valuable link among research, community participation, and patient care. As we work to realize our vision to lead the creation and advancement of health equity, we recognize in order to improve health outcomes we must foster innovative research that moves beyond the lab and directly to the patients who need it most.

We are proud of our institution, our facilities and our programs, but it is the people who make it all work. We are enormously proud of our faculty, staff, students, and alumni. I look forward to meeting each of you personally and hearing your story, please let me know if I can help you in any way.

Sincerely,



Valerie Montgomery Rice, MD  
President and CEO



# NEW STUDENT ORIENTATION 2024

Welcome to Morehouse School of Medicine.

This is a unique and unprecedented time to pursue a career in health science. Your decision to entrust your career journey to the faculty, staff, clinicians, and fellow learners at Morehouse School of Medicine fills us with immense pride. Your matriculation represents a new and exciting chapter in your career path, and we are committed to guiding you as you discover your passion for medicine, health care, and health equity.



MSM is deeply committed to leading the creation and advancement of health equity to achieve health justice, focusing on increasing the diversity of health professionals and the scientific workforce. Our aim is to diversify the scientific and clinical workforce to address the wide range of problems that affect society, with a particular focus on issues impacting underrepresented communities that have historically received little attention, investment, or investigation. Our school is dedicated to building the workforce of the future that will change lives and communities, with culturally competent care and equity as the central pillars of our mission.

We have gained national recognition for our social mission and our expertise in basic research, implementation science, public health, and clinical care, setting us apart from our peers. The talent at Morehouse School of Medicine is exceptional, and we are poised to make a significant impact.

Having you join us on this journey is a privilege. Through your efforts in inquiry, advancing your knowledge and expertise, and following your individual passions, you will contribute to making us all better. I am excited about the journey ahead and the contributions you will make.

Welcome, and I look forward to seeing all that you will accomplish.

With Deepest Appreciation,

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

J. Adrian Tyndall, MD, MPH  
Executive Vice President for Health Affairs  
Professor and Dean  
Morehouse School of Medicine

# NEW STUDENT ORIENTATION 2024

Greetings Graduate Students,

On behalf of the Admissions Team, it is with great pleasure that I welcome you to the Morehouse School of Medicine family!

We look forward to an opportunity to help you navigate your way through the challenging pursuit of your graduate degree. You will find that the faculty, staff, and administrators of MSM have created an environment that is conducive to learning, enhances emotional well-being, and helps in your professional growth. We look forward to assisting you in achieving your full potential.



We understand the challenges of performing well in your coursework, and we hope that our carefully cultivated "user-friendly" approach, provided by our supportive student services team, will aid you in your successful navigation toward obtaining your advanced degree.

Our students have a great sense of purpose and are noted for their outstanding effort, persistence, exemplary academic performance, and true grit. Our students come from various cultures and socioeconomic backgrounds and go on to become scientists and public health professionals who truly embody and carry out the great mission of this school:

"Improving the health and well-being of individuals and communities; increasing the diversity of the health professional and scientific workforce and addressing primary health care needs with emphasis on people of color and the underserved urban and rural populations across Georgia and the nation."

We hope you will take full advantage of what we have to offer, and we look forward to you becoming a student, who embodies the MSM ideals of Excellence, Service, Knowledge, Wisdom, Integrity, and Innovation. Join us as we Lead the Creation and Advancement of Health Equity!

Warmest Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Franklyn Geary, Jr.", written in a cursive style.

Franklyn Geary, Jr. M.D., FACOG  
Associate Dean of Admissions  
Professor of Clinical Obstetrics and Gynecology

# NEW STUDENT ORIENTATION 2024

Welcome to Morehouse School of Medicine (MSM) where we lead in the creation and advancement of health equity! We are so excited to have you as part of our MSM family. You are not only a student, but you are a health equity warrior! What does that mean? We will educate and guide you to develop the knowledge, skills and attitudes that will allow you to deliver compassionate, culturally competent care to patients and communities, eliminate health disparities and challenge systems and notions that limit people from reaching their optimal health.

Fifteen years ago, I came to MSM as an Assistant Professor of Medicine. MSM's mission was so closely aligned with my personal mission—to serve the underserved—I knew I had found my place and my people. Though I spent most of my early career at MSM in graduate medical education (residents), I have always been utterly impressed by our students. The care and compassion you provide our patients at our clinical sites is unrivaled.



MSM's Office of Student Affairs exists to provide support services, advising, and innovative programs for students. **Our vision: To empower and engage students to reach their full potential. Our Mission:** The MSM Office of Student Affairs advances health equity through providing our diverse group of health care professional students with holistic advisement, guidance and support that is flexible, timely and compassionate helping them to succeed on their educational journey.

**Our Core values:** Wisdom, Excellence, and Service (MSM core values) and Inclusivity and Compassion. We achieve our mission by focusing on three key areas: Wellness, Engagement, and Resources.

*Wellness:* We are uniquely attuned to the fact that holistic wellness is a key component to student success. Our Counseling Services office has three counselor's adepts at working with students in the graduate education space. In addition, we have a Student Health and Wellness Center just steps away from campus where students can get primary care, vaccinations, health screenings, and mental health services. There is an on-campus fitness center as well as a YMCA across the street. During this upcoming year we will be engaging in an innovative wellness program called "Core Wellness." We are excited to begin this initiative with your incoming class. A Student Wellness Committee will be key in helping us plan wellness-related activities for the upcoming year.

*Engagement:* There are over 30 student organizations at MSM. The OSA supports these organizations through assisting with events and fundraisers. Student leaders are actively engaged to participate in important campus events. At MSM, we have a highly active and engaged Student Government Association. In addition to sponsoring student events, the SGA sponsors Student Town Hall meetings and the leadership actively advocates student issues and concerns. We also have a Campus Activity Board that sponsors activities for all students and a newly formed Interprofessional Education Council.

*Resources:* In addition to those resources listed above we actively partner with OSLER (Academic Student Support Services), Undergraduate Medical Education, The Dean's Office, and the Office of Disability Services to make sure that students have the resources that they need to be successful during their educational journey. During this upcoming year we are excited to build our student advising system and continue and expand our peer support services for our students. We also house the Office of the Registrar that oversees transcript requests, etc.

In closing, we are delighted to have you join us at Morehouse School of Medicine. I look forward to meeting each of you and supporting you on your health care journey!

Sincerely,

*Cinnamon D. Bradley, MD*

Associate Dean of Student Affairs Professor of Medicine

# NEW STUDENT ORIENTATION 2024

## Faculty and Staff



### **Office of Graduate Education in Biomedical Sciences**

Danita Eatman, Ph.D., Associate Dean of Graduate Studies

Ernest Ricks, Ph.D., Director, Assessment and Operations

Fatima Stallworth, M.Ed., Assistant Director Assessment and Operations

Jaleesa Garth, Ph.D., Director, Curriculum

Kahli Smith, Ph.D., Curriculum Manager

Mae-Ling Baptiste, Curriculum Coordinator

Tambria McLaurin, Administrative Assistant III

Veronica Henderson, Lab Manager, Graduate Teaching Lab

### **Doctor of Philosophy, Biomedical Sciences**

Jason DeBruyne, Ph.D., Director

Da-Vion Wilbur, Program Manager

### **MS in Biomedical Research**

Karen Russell Randall, Ph.D., Director

Da-Vion Wilbur, Program Manager

### **MS in Clinical Research**

Alexander Quarshie, M.D., Director

Priscilla Pemu, M.D., Co-Director

Shantelle Smith, Program Manager

### **MS in Medical Sciences**

Rita Finley Ph.D., Director

Aliyah Alexander, Program Manager

Ashley Patterson, Program Coordinator

Leslie Boston, Administrative Assistant III

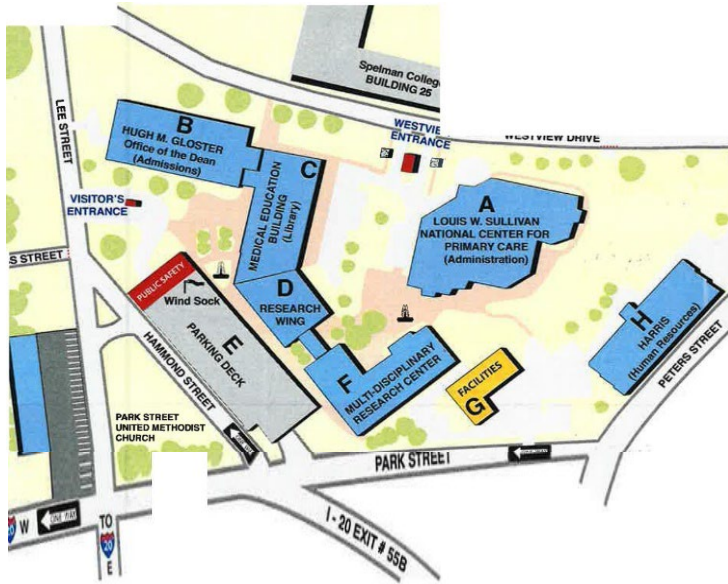
### **MS in Neuroscience**

Morris Benveniste, Ph.D., Director

Mekeon Yarber, Program Manager

# NEW STUDENT ORIENTATION 2024

## Campus Map



# NEW STUDENT ORIENTATION 2024

Hosted by the Graduate Education in Biomedical Sciences

Thursday, August 8, 2024

Hugh Gloster Building- Pavilion Room 171 A/B

7:30 am – 8:30 am	<b>Registration &amp; Breakfast</b>
8:30 am – 8:45 am	<b>Welcome- GEBS Program Staff</b> Danita Eatman, Ph.D. <i>Associate Dean for Graduate Education in Biomedical Sciences</i>
9:00 am – 9:50 am	<b>Program Overview: Policies, Curriculum, and Milestones</b> Program Directors Ph.D.- Jason DeBruyne, Ph.D.- <b>HG Room B-222A</b> MSBR- Karen Russell Randall, Ph.D.- <b>HG Room B-220B</b> MSNS- Morris Benveniste, Ph.D.- <b>HG Room B-215</b> MSCR- Alexander Quarshie, Ph.D.- <b>HG Room B-228</b>
10:00 am – 11:15 am	<b>Laptop Distribution</b> Office of Information Technology <b>HG Room B-215</b>  <b>White Coat Fitting</b> Office of Student Affairs <b>Pavilion Lobby (Upstairs)</b>
11:20 am – 11:50 am	<b>Students Fiscal Affairs Office</b> Chandra Flowers, Assistant Director of Financial Aid <b>Room PAV 171 A/B</b>
12:00 pm – 12:15 pm	<b>Office of Educational Outcomes and Assessments</b> Brandi Newkirk, DBA., Assistant Vice President of Assessment and Accreditation Services James Ofori, MPA, Assistant Director of Assessment and Learner Engagement <b>Room PAV 171 A/B</b>



# NEW STUDENT ORIENTATION 2024

12:15 pm – 1:00 pm	<b>Lunch</b> <b>PAV Lobby and PAV 171 A/B</b>
1:00 pm – 1:55 pm	<b>Ethical Dilemmas in Research</b> Shawn Garrison, PhD., Director of Counseling Services <b>Room PAV 171 A/B</b>
2:00 pm – 2:25 pm	<b>Office of Diversity and Inclusion</b> Walter Conwell, M.D., Chief Diversity and Inclusion Officer David Jones, Ed.D., Director of Career Services and Industry Partnerships <b>Room PAV 171 A/B</b>
2:30 pm – 2:55 pm	<b>Financial Award Information Session- PhD Students Only</b> Ernest Ricks, Ph.D., GEBS Director of Assessment and Operations <b>Room HG B-226</b>
3:00 pm – 3:25 pm	<b>Office of Student Learning and Educational Resources</b> Kimberly Redding, M.D., Director Victoria David, Ed.D., Assistant Director Jessica Collier, Program Manager <b>Room PAV 171 A/B</b>
3:30 pm – 3:55 pm	<b>Online Learning Resources</b> <b>Office of Digital Learning</b> Jay Williams, E-Learning Developer Tanisha Jackson, Learning Technology Specialist
4:00 pm – 5:15 pm	<b>Advisor/Advisee Meet and Greet (PhD and MSBR Students Only)</b> <b>Pavilion Lobby (Upstairs)</b>

# NEW STUDENT ORIENTATION 2024

## Morehouse School of Medicine Graduate Education in Biomedical Sciences *2024 Entering Class*

### Doctor of Philosophy in Biomedical Sciences

Last Name	First Name	State	Undergraduate Institution	Year
Biggers	Akolbia	TN	University of Alabama at Birmingham	2022
Camacho	Derek	GA	Geogia Institute of Technology	2022
Dawning	Amber	IN	Spelman College	2019
Diggs	Caitlynn	LA	Southern University	2022
Homrich	Derek	GA	University of Georgia	2019
Idowu	Praise	GA	Georgia State University	2020
Jadoon	Uswa	GA	Georgia State University	2020
Johnson	Joshua	CA	Prairie View A&M University	2023
Ogbuehi	Ulochukwu (Bethel)	GA	Georgia State University	2015
Sore	Awa	NY	Johnson C Smith University	2021
Stewart	Salim	MI	Howard University	2023
Walker	Joseph	GA	Morehouse College	2023
Willams	Austin	GA	Florida Atlantic University	2015

### Master of Science in Biomedical Research

Last Name	First Name	State	Undergraduate Institution	Year
Acquah	Nana-Ama	GA	Georgia Institute of Technology	2023
Andre	Damani	GA	Clayton State University	2023
Brantley	Timothy	VA	Virginia Union University	2019
Colson	Ariana	GA	Georgia Southern University	2024
Eaves	Keturah	GA	North Carolina A&T State University	2022
Kimble	Sydni	PA	Pennsylvania State University	2023
Sadler	Tia	FL	Florida A&M University	2024
Speed	William	MS	Miles College	2024
Todd	Rayven	GA	Johnson C Smith University	2021
Vance	LaVances	GA	South Carolina State University	1999
Wright	Danielle	NY	Lehman College	2024

# NEW STUDENT ORIENTATION 2024

## Master of Science in Clinical Research

Last Name	First Name	State	Undergraduate Institution	Year
Bello	Barakat	GA	University of West Georgia	2024
Berhanu	Isabel	GA	Wesleyan College	2024
Botchway	Cecilia	GA	University of Ghana	2014
Colley	Gibil	GA	Cambia College	2001
Day	Shaila	GA	Temple University	2003

## Master of Science in Neuroscience

Last Name	First Name	State	Undergraduate Institution	Year
James	Whitney	GA	Oglethorpe University	2018

## Bachelor of Science/Master of Science in Neuroscience

Last Name	First Name	State	Undergraduate Institution	Year
Campbell	Mika	Trinidad and Tobago	Spelman College	2024
Fawole	Ayobami	GA	Spelman College	2024
Green	Sedera	OH	Spelman College	2024

## Master of Science in Medical Sciences 1-Year Accelerated Track

Last Name	First Name	State	Undergraduate Institution	Year
Baruti	Xavier	GA	Georgia State University	2022
Bayin	Lawrence	GA	University of Texas	2013
Olorunfemi	Aramide	GA	University of West Georgia	2019
Rose	Brevin	VA	Howard University	2024
Scott	Ashley	GA	Georgia State University	2022

# NEW STUDENT ORIENTATION 2024

## Master of Science in Medical Sciences 2-Year Traditional Track

Last Name	First Name	State	Undergraduate Institution	Year
Carmichael	Destini	NC	Howard University	2021
Carter	Loren	LA	Xavier University of Louisiana	2023
Clemons	Summer	GA	Spelman College	2024
Cooper	Nasya	OK	Langston University	2024
Daya	Keeren	GA	University of Georgia	2020
Ginyard	Maya	DC	Tuskegee University	2024
Herndon	Nevaeh	VA	North Carolina A&T State University	2024
Johnson	Keneshia	GA	Georgia State University	2024
Kelly	Amiyah	AL	University of South Alabama	2023
Kelly	Lauren	GA	University of Georgia	2024
Massey	Damari	FL	Florida A&M University	2023
Norwood	Alexandra	GA	Mercer University	2024
Onwuzuruike	Chelsey	GA	Georgia State University	2024
Poma	Emilia	NY	Brandeis University	2023
Starling Jr.	Keithian	WA	University of Vanderbilt	2021
Tiller	Amari	LA	Xavier University of Louisiana	2024
Vera Pimentel	Yovanni	GA	Georgia State University	2021
White	Temple	TN	University of Central Arkansas	2021
Woodruff	Jasmin	FL	Spelman College	2022





## *Our Mission*

We Exist To:

- Improve the health and well-being of individuals and communities.
- Increase the diversity of the health professional and scientific workforce.
- Address primary health care through programs in education, research, and service.



**MOREHOUSE**  
SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

**720 Westview Drive, SW | Atlanta, GA 30310**  
**404.752.1650**