



RUTGERS

Robert L. Barchi, President

April 2020

Members of the Rutgers New Jersey Medical School Class of 2020:

Congratulations on your graduation! You are among a special cohort of students in the United States who are completing degrees early amid the global coronavirus pandemic in order to bring your talents to the medical profession as soon as possible.

While this unique circumstance would have been enough to distinguish the NJMS Class of 2020, you already have stood out. From your earliest days together, you developed a reputation for working as a cohesive, close-knit team—not only in the academic sense but also in supporting each other's physical and emotional wellness. You were instrumental in creating the *Lifestyle in Medicine* group to encourage healthy living among yourselves and the wider community and in establishing *Walk with a Doc* to promote physical health.

You can be deeply proud not only of your own individual achievements but also of your shared accomplishments, such as the exceptional support you gave the people of Newark through your student organizations and clinic.

As you receive your degrees and pursue your careers—and we are fortunate that more than 100 of you are joining residencies in our state or in New York at this critical time—please know that all of you leave Rutgers with our pride, admiration, gratitude, and warm best wishes.

Sincerely,

Robert Barchi