



### **Joanne Block Rief, DDS '86**

Dr. Joanne Block Rief's career in dentistry started at the age of 13. Prior to starting Dental Hygiene school, Joanne assisted her father at his dental practice in Annapolis, Maryland, and worked as a dental assistant through a temporary agency. In 1982, she graduated from the dental hygiene program at the the University of Rhode Island. That same year, she started dental school at the University of Maryland School of Dentistry and graduated in 1986. After graduation, she

practiced with her mentor and first employer, her father. The duo worked together for 18 years, until Dr. Rief purchased her own office in Owings Mills, Crossroads Dental Arts.

Dr. Rief is an active member of the Maryland State Dental Association and the Baltimore County Dental Association. In addition to being a member of The Pierre Fauchard Academy and The International College of Dentists, she enjoys attending study clubs and listening to dental and motivational speakers from around the country. Dr. Rief consults with peers who are just starting out in practice, lectures to dentists and dental students on practice management and marketing and has served as a writer for Dental Economics magazine.

Dr. Rief is married to her husband of 34 years, Marshall, and is the proud mother to Erika and Austin, son-in-law Jonathan, soon to be mother-in-law to Talia, and is a grandmother and part-time nanny to Dalia. In her spare time, she enjoys traveling, entertaining, working out at the gym, walking, playing pickleball, marketing her dental practice, and listening to podcasts.



### **Ekpa Eyoma, DDS '18, MPH**

Ekpa Eyoma was born and raised in Nigeria. She lived there with her mother and brother until she emigrated to the U.S. for college. Dr. Eyoma earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Community Health from the University of Maryland, College Park. After graduation she worked as a communication and health intern at the National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research at the National Institute

for Health. While a student at the University of Maryland School of Dentistry (UMSOD), Dr. Eyoma served as a mentor for the UMB CURE scholars and Johns Hopkins MERIT Mentor programs, a USGA dental school representative for four years, a Student National Dental Association impressions day co-chair, Student committee member for dental recruitment and admissions, American Student Dental Association community service chair, Mission of Mercy Baltimore Committee member, assisted on a service trip, and volunteered with many organizations within the Baltimore area.

After earning her Doctor of Dental Surgery from UMSOD, Dr. Eyoma earned a certificate in general dentistry from Harlem Hospital, and her Master of Public Health from Columbia University. Dr. Eyoma most recently earned a certificate in Dental Public Health from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta, Georgia.

Dr. Eyoma is currently a dental public health specialist conducting research with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, is applying to be board-certified in Dental Public Health, and practices general dentistry in private practice. In addition, Dr. Eyoma also takes the time to volunteer on dental mission trips. She is currently a Clinical Associate Professor in the Department of Comprehensive Dentistry. Dr. Eyoma will continue to work to bring oral healthcare to everyone, especially to the most vulnerable and underserved among us.

## **Professional Oath**

Being admitted to the profession of dentistry/dental hygiene, I pledge myself to the service of humanity — my patients, my community, and my colleagues. The health and well-being of my patients will be my first consideration: I will uphold the highest standards of care for my patients and hold in confidence all they entrust to me. I will promote the welfare of my community by speaking out against injustice and providing unbiased service to those in need. I will strive to merit the trust that society has placed in my profession, faithfully observe its principles of ethics and integrity, maintain the highest standards of personal and professional behavior, and encourage my colleagues to do the same. I am indebted to my teachers, and I pledge to improve my skills through a commitment to continuous learning. I promise to maintain my own well-being and assist my colleagues to do the same. I take this oath freely and upon my honor.



UNIVERSITY of MARYLAND  
SCHOOL OF DENTISTRY

## **White Coat Ceremony**

*Bachelor of Science Dental Hygiene Class of 2024  
Doctor of Dental Surgery Class of 2025*

Monday, September 18, 2023  
5 p.m.

## **Thank you to our White Coat sponsors!**

**For a complete list of sponsors, scan the code:**



University of Maryland, Baltimore  
Leadership Hall at MSTF  
685 West Baltimore Street  
Baltimore, Maryland

## Welcome

Chris Choi, DMD, MS, FACP  
Clinical Assistant Professor, Co-Director, Predoctoral Prosthodontics  
Department of Advanced Oral Sciences and Therapeutics

## The Procession of the Bachelor of Science in Dental Hygiene Class of 2024

## The Procession of the Doctor of Dental Surgery Class of 2025

### Greetings

Mark A. Reynolds, DDS '86, PhD  
Dean and Professor

### Guest Speakers

Joanne Block Rief, DDS '86  
President, Alumni Association Board

Ekpa Eyoma, DDS '18, MPH  
Clinical Instructor, Division of Diagnostic Sciences

### Presentation of Coats

*Dental Hygiene Class of 2024*  
Julia Boras, President, BSDH Class of 2024

#### *Assisted by*

Lisa Bress<sup>^</sup>, RDH, BSDH '83, MS '94, Clinical Associate Professor,  
Division Chief, Dental Hygiene Program  
Martha D. Kreiner, BSDH '89, Member, Alumni Association, Patient Care  
Coordinator Supervisor, Department of Clinical Affairs  
Erin Maurantonio<sup>^</sup>, RDH, BSDH '91, CDHC, Member, Alumni Association,  
Office Manager  
Oksana Mishler<sup>^</sup>, DHSc, RDH, BSDH '09, MS '12, Clinical Associate Professor  
Chathurika Weerasinghe<sup>^</sup>, RDH, MSDH,  
Clinical Associate Professor, Director of Admissions, Dental Hygiene Program

*Doctor of Dental Surgery Class of 2025*  
Keon Manesh, President, DDS Class of 2025

#### *Assisted by*

Guy D. Alexander, DDS '82, Member, Board of Visitors  
Barry Cohan, DDS '74, Member, Board of Visitors  
Stanley Cohen<sup>^</sup>, DDS '85, Clinical Instructor, General Practice Director  
Eve Desai<sup>^</sup>, DDS '09, Clinical Instructor, General Practice Director  
Alexandra Fitzgerald, DDS '18, Member, Alumni Association Board,  
President, Maryland State Dental Association  
Leslie Grant, DDS '86, Member, Board of Visitors  
Andrea Morgan<sup>^</sup>, DDS '90, Clinical Assistant Professor, Director of Student  
Advocacy and Cultural Affairs  
Marc G. Nuger, DDS '79, President, Alumni Association Board  
Christina Platia<sup>^</sup>, DDS '10, Clinical Assistant Professor,  
General Practice Director  
Joanne Block Rief, DDS '86, President, Alumni Association Board  
Deborah Rodriguez<sup>^</sup>, DDS '85, Clinical Assistant Professor,  
General Practice Director  
Kwanrak Sanit<sup>^</sup>, DMD, Clinical Instructor, General Practice Director

## Professional Oath

Patricia Meehan, DDS '93, BSN, FACD, FICD  
Associate Dean, Academic Affairs, Assistant Professor

## Closing Remarks

Mark A. Reynolds, DDS '86, PhD  
Dean and Professor

## Adjournment

## Class Photograph

Leadership Hall



## Faculty Marshals

*Chief Marshal*  
Nisha Ganesh, DDS, MAEd  
Clinical Associate Professor, Vice Chair, Department of Comprehensive  
Dentistry, Director of Predoctoral Education in General Dentistry

### *Dental Hygiene, Class of 2024*

Suzanne Burgee<sup>^</sup>, RDH, BSDH '12, MSDH  
Class Advisor,  
Academic Program Director, Dental Hygiene Program,  
Clinical Instructor

### *Doctor of Dental Surgery, Class of 2025*

Mona Gorman<sup>^</sup>, DDS  
Clinical Assistant Professor, General Practice Director  
Ramsay Koury<sup>^</sup>, DMD  
Class Advisor,  
Clinical Assistant Professor, General Practice Director

## Thank you, student volunteers!



## Bachelor of Science Dental Hygiene Class of 2024

<i>Sydney Bartolich</i>	<i>Khanh Minh Mai</i>	<i>Shannon Schubert</i>
<i>Julia Boras</i>	<i>Ramy Mikhail</i>	<i>Thanyathorn Vachira-anan</i>
<i>Carolina Elias*</i>	<i>Vanessa Ngo*</i>	<i>Claire Kristine Valenzuela</i>
<i>Laurie France*</i>	<i>Kathy Nguyen</i>	<i>Erica Zimmerman*</i>

*\*BS/MS Dual Degree Clinical Dental Hygiene Leader Track*

*<sup>^</sup>Department of Comprehensive Dentistry*  
*<sup>^</sup>Department of Advanced Oral Sciences and Therapeutics*

## Doctor of Dental Surgery Class of 2025

<i>Laylo Abdurahmonova</i>	<i>Mahamalage Fernando</i>	<i>Eva Masrani</i>
<i>Katie Abusaba</i>	<i>Daryan Fisher</i>	<i>Daniel Mazza</i>
<i>Tarek Adra</i>	<i>Jennifer Flores Pena</i>	<i>Patricia McAuley</i>
<i>Ali Ahmad</i>	<i>Ramata Fofana</i>	<i>Lincoln McNish</i>
<i>Ali Ahmed</i>	<i>Justin Ford</i>	<i>Artemis Metaxa-Kakavouli</i>
<i>Proma Ahmed</i>	<i>Meir Gabaie</i>	<i>Emily Mills</i>
<i>Camille Alexander</i>	<i>Elvira Galagan</i>	<i>Tina Mirzazadeh</i>
<i>Raleigh Allen</i>	<i>Longhui Gao</i>	<i>Aida Mohammadi</i>
<i>Amer Al-mefleh</i>	<i>Ruoyun Gao</i>	<i>Niyousha Mohtashami</i>
<i>Karsten Amezcua</i>	<i>Paul Garcia-Escabi</i>	<i>Iqra Mohyuddin</i>
<i>Dimpy Amin</i>	<i>Shoshana Garfield</i>	<i>Eesa Naseer</i>
<i>Aliyah Anderson</i>	<i>Daniel Ghabras</i>	<i>Bonsa Nemera</i>
<i>Bryan Andrew</i>	<i>Sydney Goertzen</i>	<i>Andrea Nguyen</i>
<i>Alanzo Aris</i>	<i>Eitan Hariri</i>	<i>Marilyn Okine</i>
<i>Imani Armour</i>	<i>Hunter Harrison</i>	<i>Brenda Paredes Andrade</i>
<i>Minnu Augustine</i>	<i>Ammar Hasan</i>	<i>Brina Patel</i>
<i>Amani Aulakh</i>	<i>Qasim Hasan</i>	<i>Samuel Phillips</i>
<i>Shehar Yar Awan</i>	<i>Idris Hassuji</i>	<i>Queen Ralph</i>
<i>Folashade Awofeso</i>	<i>Jacob Heath</i>	<i>Ahron Richter</i>
<i>Mifrah Baqai</i>	<i>Sara Heidari Zadi</i>	<i>Saunders Riley</i>
<i>Sarah Bazr</i>	<i>Sophia Heitzig</i>	<i>Zomorrod Rouhi</i>
<i>Oluwatosin Bello</i>	<i>Jennifer Hernandez</i>	<i>Hajra Sajid</i>
<i>Taylor Bordes</i>	<i>Nicholas Hipolito</i>	<i>Abdullah Senjab</i>
<i>Stephen Brockbank</i>	<i>Hnin Pwint Yi Hlaing</i>	<i>Gavriel ShaliehSabou</i>
<i>Katy Carlisle</i>	<i>Naomi Hoch</i>	<i>Sara Shateri</i>
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<i>Ashley Chibb</i>	<i>David Ibrahim</i>	<i>Amir Soleimani</i>
<i>Bong Seok Choi</i>	<i>Elvia Jimenez</i>	<i>Jane Song</i>
<i>Ashley Chung</i>	<i>Danielle Jones</i>	<i>Julia Song</i>
<i>Nicholas Conces</i>	<i>Riana Joseph</i>	<i>Chante Staine-Parker</i>
<i>Darielle Costa</i>	<i>Hyun Kang</i>	<i>Lia Stanco</i>
<i>Yeganeh Dastani</i>	<i>Serge Kens</i>	<i>Brian Swantkowski-Brown</i>
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<i>Emmanuel Engermann</i>	<i>Nila Lahijan</i>	<i>Adi Weisz</i>
<i>William Evans</i>	<i>Jessica Lee</i>	<i>Leon Wright</i>
<i>Zijuan Fan</i>	<i>Madelyn Lovett</i>	<i>Cyrano Yee</i>
<i>Ava Farahbakhsh Darabi</i>	<i>Amy Ly</i>	<i>Aaron Youn</i>
<i>Shelby Ferebee</i>	<i>Keon Manesh</i>	