Photographs and video recordings of today’s ceremony and reception may be used for reporting and illustration purposes in OHSU printed and electronic media, including OHSU-controlled social media websites. Please let our photographers know if you do not wish your image to be used in this way.
The White Coat Ceremony

The White Coat Ceremony creates an important focus for students entering the profession of medicine. In the presence of family, friends and faculty members, student-physicians are welcomed into the medical community and are “cloaked” with their first white coats. The class members and physicians present also stand to recite the Oath of Geneva, which is again sworn during the traditional doctoral hooding ceremony four years hence. In reciting this oath, they dedicate themselves to their patients, teachers and to support one another in a lifetime of service.

Through their involvement in this meaningful ritual at the beginning of medical school, student-physicians become more aware of their professional responsibilities. The ceremony impresses upon them the primacy of the doctor-patient relationship. It also encourages them to accept the obligations inherent in the practice of medicine: to be excellent scientist, to be compassionate, and to lead lives of uprightness and honor. It emphasizes for students the physician’s responsibility to take care of patients and also to care for patients. The message conveyed is that physicians must care as well as cure.

The spirit and tradition of the White Coat Ceremony are generously supported by contributions from alumni, faculty and friends of the School of Medicine.

The OHSU School of Medicine

The OHSU School of Medicine is the direct descendant of the University of Oregon Medical School that first opened its doors in Portland in 1887 and graduated its first class the following year. Only one other medical school in the west has a longer lineage; only thirty-three of the present 137 medical schools in the United States existed prior to the founding of the School of Medicine in Oregon. Today the School is widely recognized for excellence and its mission continues to be the enhancement of human health through programs in education, research, health care delivery and public service. It is where healing, teaching and discovery come together in Oregon.

The school’s faculty are dedicated to preparing physicians for the medical, ethical, and humanistic responsibilities of their calling, while also providing outstanding care to patients from Oregon and elsewhere. Along with the art of teaching and healing comes the responsibility for discovery. The School of Medicine faculty is internationally known for excellence in a wide range of investigative areas ranging from molecular biology and cancer to heart disease, behavioral science and public health issues. In addition to maintaining a high standard of basic and clinical research, the faculty also guide the graduate studies programs that prepare the next generation of investigators.

The School of Medicine wishes to acknowledge the grateful support of the ceremony sponsors whose names appear on page nine of the program. Their contributions to the School of Medicine at this significant juncture in our students’ medical education have provided the white coats that the members of our incoming Class of 2017 receive today.

For information on how you can participate, contact Annual and Special Giving at 503-412-6374.
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Introduction of the Reinschmidt Lecturer
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Associate Professor of Medicine
Division of General Internal Medicine & Geriatrics
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J.S. Reinschmidt, M.D. Lecture
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Division of General Internal Medicine & Geriatrics
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J. S. Reinschmidt Professor of Medical Education
“The Secret of Patient Care”

Presentation of White Coats
Molly L. Osborne, M.D., Ph.D.
Associate Dean for Student Affairs
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Oath of Geneva
Gabrielle Meyers, M.D.
Assistant Professor of Medicine
Knight Cancer Institute
Center for Hematologic Malignancies

Closing Remarks
Tracy Bumsted, M.D., M.P.H.

Reception at the Mackenzie Hall Fountain
hosted by the School of Medicine
About the J. S. Reinschmidt, M.D. Lecture

J. S. Reinschmidt, M.D.
1925 – 1998

Born in Florida’s panhandle, Dutch Reinschmidt served in the Army during World War II before receiving A.B. and M.D. degrees from Vanderbilt University. For three years in the late fifties, he interrupted his surgery residency at the University of Colorado to practice in rural eastern Washington. After residency, he became director of the Student Health Center at the University of Oregon (1963-1970).

His OHSU School of Medicine career began in 1970 as director of the Oregon Regional Medical Program. Familiar with the needs of practitioners in remote towns, he shepherded his circuit courses around this vast state. This led in 1976 to his being named the first head of the medical school’s new Division of Continuing Medical Education (CME).

Dr. Reinschmidt’s CME programs were carefully crafted to fulfill surveyed needs, engage dynamic teachers and feature practice-relevant topics. A strong advocate of strengthening ties between OHSU and rural communities, he helped many hospitals develop innovative educational programs. He worked tirelessly with Oregon legislators and earned their trust as a fair, forthright champion of OHSU’s programs.

In the Area Health Education Centers (AHEC) program, Dr. Reinschmidt found his ideal vehicle to bring education to rural Oregon. Beginning in 1989 and in only four years, he established the central office and five thriving regional centers.

From 1987-1992, Dutch was a principal architect of curricular reform in the OHSU School of Medicine, promoting integration among disciplines, the relevance of early clinical experiences and greater exposure to primary care.

In 1993, this humble and wise Senior Associate Dean and Professor of Preventive Medicine and Public Health was awarded emeritus status. Two busy years later, Dr. Reinschmidt relinquished the AHEC and CME programs to well-prepared successors. He remained a trusted advisor, and in his memory, the J.S. Reinschmidt Endowment Fund for Excellence in Medical Education has been established to support this lectureship and the future advancement of medical education at OHSU.
About the J. S. Reinschmidt, M.D. Lecturer

Donald E. Girard, M.D., M.A.C.P.

Dr. Girard was raised in Southern California with his twin brother – also a physician – and received his A.B. from Pomona College in Claremont, California. He then attended Baylor College of Medicine, in Houston, Texas, and was awarded his M.D. in 1969. His postgraduate training included a rotating internship at Harborview Hospital (University of Washington, Seattle), and residency in Internal Medicine at St. Joseph Hospital, University of Texas Medical School (Houston) and University of Oregon Medical School (the precursor to OHSU) and affiliated VA Hospital, including serving as Chief Resident in Internal Medicine.

Following this training, Dr. Girard served at Martin Army Hospital, Fort Benning, Georgia, where he was the Director of the Internal Medicine and Family Practice Residency Training Programs before returning to OHSU in 1975.

Dr. Girard has held a number of academic and administrative positions at both OHSU and the Portland VA Medical Center. Currently a Professor of Medicine, Dr. Girard is actively involved in the training of internal medicine residents in addition to seeing patients in his clinical practice.

Along with his colleagues, David Nardone, M.D. and James Reuler, M.D., Dr. Girard played a role in establishing primary care as a legitimate academic discipline for patient care, teaching and research within the VA and other university programs nationally. He has served as president of the Medical Society of Metropolitan Portland, Governor of the Oregon Chapter, American College of Physicians, President of the Association of Program Directors in Internal Medicine and on numerous committees and the board of the Oregon Medical Association. Perhaps one of his most challenging positions is his current role on the Oregon Medical Board, the agency responsible for licensing physicians in the State of Oregon.

Outside of the world of medicine, Dr. Girard is an enthusiastic cyclist, collector of antiquarian medical books and, most recently, has discovered woodworking.
The Oath of Geneva

At the time of being admitted as a member of the medical profession:

I solemnly pledge myself to consecrate my life to the service of humanity;

I will give to my teachers the respect and gratitude which is their due;

I will practice my profession with conscience and dignity;

The health of my patient will be my first consideration;

I will respect the secrets which are confided to me;

I will maintain by all means in my power, the honor and the noble traditions of the medical profession; my colleagues will be my brothers and sisters.

I will not permit considerations of religion, nationality, race, party politics or social standing to intervene between my duty and my patient;

I will maintain the utmost respect for human life, even under threat;

I will not use my medical knowledge contrary to the laws of humanity.

I make these promises solemnly, freely and upon my honor.

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The following list recognizes new donors giving $100 or more to support the White Coat Ceremony during the period of July 1, 2012 to August 9, 2013 and donors who have dedicated a gift to support the White Coat Ceremony. This support allows the School of Medicine to provide each student with their first White Coat at today’s ceremony.

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