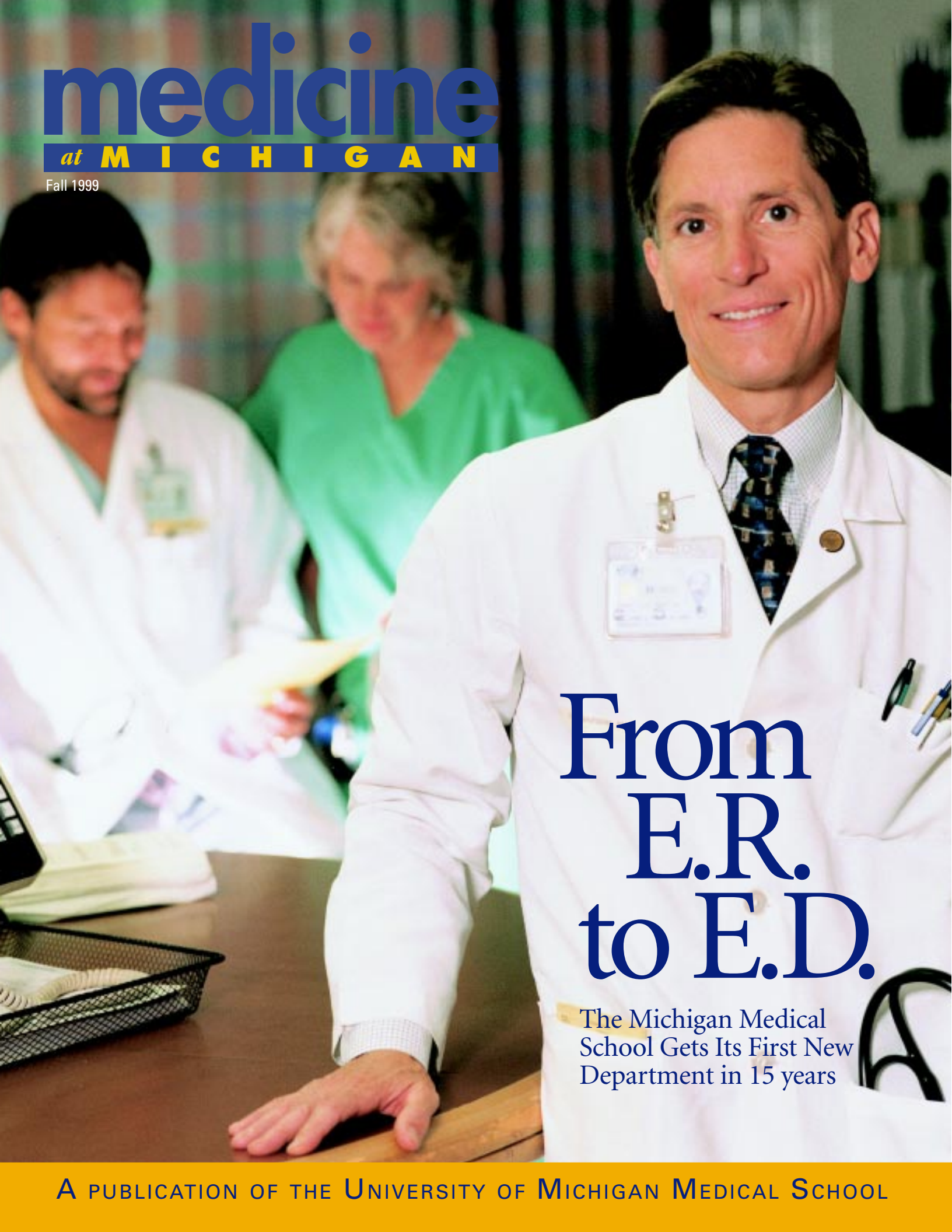


# medicine

at M I C H I G A N

Fall 1999



## From E.R. to E.D.

The Michigan Medical  
School Gets Its First New  
Department in 15 years

# Graduation Day 1999



Deborah Berman (Obstetrics/Gynecology, U-M Hospitals) with her family: mother and fellow U-M alumna Barbara, (AB '63, MA '64, Ph.D. '72), father and fellow Medical School alumnus Jack L. Berman (AB '64, M.D. '68), and brother Joshua.



Speaking on behalf of her class: Gerami D. Seitzman (Ophthalmology, Johns Hopkins Wilmer Sinai - MD) with "This Won't Hurt, But You May Feel Some Pressure."



Professor of Anesthesiology Satwant K. Samra with her graduating daughter Neena Szuch (Orthopaedic Surgery, Medical College of Ohio).

*That I will lead my*

*"I do solemnly swear by that which I hold most sacred..."*

**O**n a June afternoon in Ann Arbor, a sunny day as beautiful as might have been dreamed of by the most optimistic of events planners, the 1999 senior class of the University of Michigan Medical School assembled in Hill Auditorium for their last and most triumphant gathering—their graduation. The assembled students, 169 strong, walked across the stage of Hill Auditorium, resplendent in their robes and hoods, trimmed in the traditional dark green velvet (the color of healing herbs) which has been the faculty color for medicine since the late 19th century, to receive their *Doctoris in arte medica* diplomas and pledged, by their recitation of the ancient Hippocratic Oath, to practice “uprightness and honor” in their profession.

The ceremony was convened by Nancy E. Cantor, Ph.D., provost and executive vice president for academic affairs, and Gilbert S. Omenn, M.D., Ph.D., executive vice president for medical affairs, introduced honored guests. Dean Allen Lichter (M.D. 1972) presided over the ceremony, and described to the students, based on his own experience as an alumnus, what their Michigan medical degrees would mean to them: “After this day, nothing will be the same. On this day you are joining more than 16,000 graduates of the University of Michigan Medical School. When you meet them there will be an immediate bond of understanding between you.”

The students’ fellow graduate Gerami Seitzman, who began her academic life thinking she wanted to be on the stage and who did improvisational theater in Chicago, represented the class with a theatrical reflection on their years together in her speech, “This Won’t Hurt, But You May Feel Some Pressure,” recalling via her carefully constructed “plot,” memorable moments that she and her fellow students, sustained by pizzas, then saltines and graham crackers, experienced on their arduous but poorly fed journey to medical knowledge. ▶

The appreciative audience that graduation speaker Gerami Seitzman still knows how to play to: from left, Cyril M. Grum, professor of internal medicine and associate chair for undergraduate medical education, Susanna Bahng (Pediatrics-Spectrum Health, Downtown Grand Rapids), Seth Bagan (Family Medicine, Tacoma Family Medical Center - WA), Jesse Arellano (Family Medicine, Northridge Hospital Medical Center - CA), Charlene An (Emergency Medicine, Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania), Kristen Allen (Obstetrics/Gynecology, Thomas Jefferson University - PA), Christopher Aho (Neurosurgery, Oregon Health Sciences University), Jyotsna Agrawal (Psychiatry, UMDNJ).



**Professor of Surgery Gerald B. Zelenock (M.D. '73) congratulates fellow alumna and daughter Jennifer (Obstetrics/Gynecology, U-M Hospitals).**

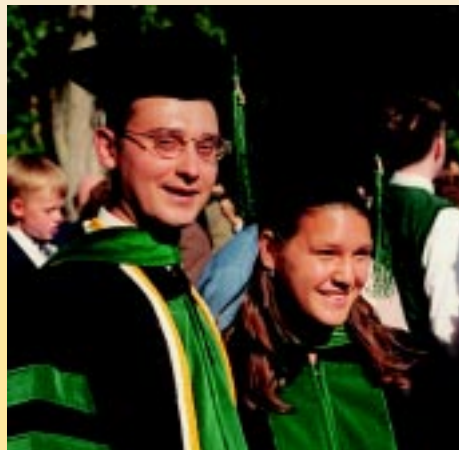
*life and practice my art in uprightness and honor...*

**Benjamin S. Carson, Sr.,** director of pediatric neurosurgery at the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, delivers his commencement address, "Physician, Heal Thyself."



**Charlene An (Emergency Medicine, Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania) sings a spirited rendition of Yellow and Blue with Jesse Arellano (Family Medicine, Northridge Hospital Medical Center - CA).**

In his commencement address, "Physician, Heal Thyself," Johns Hopkins pediatric neurosurgeon Benjamin S. Carson Sr. (M.D. 1977) described his path from a poor childhood in Detroit to the great satisfactions of his highly successful medical career, and the hospital public address system ("Dr. Jones, Dr. Jones to the OR") that had inspired him to become a doctor. ("Now they have beepers, so I never do get to hear my name broadcast in that way, but the dream was wonderful," he said.) He did an impressive riff on the extraordinary complexity of the human brain, but reminded the graduates that science isn't everything — that "those little caring moments" between a physician and a patient can make all the difference. He ended his lecture on a spiritual note, suggesting that the graduates not leave God out of their thoughts ("If it's in our constitution, and our pledge of allegiance and our courts and on our money, and we can't talk about it, what is that?") [m](#)



**Patrick Javid (General Surgery, Brigham & Women's Hospital - MA) and Sumac Diaz (Obstetrics/Gynecology, Riverside Regional Medical Center - VA).**



(From left) Ali Bydon (Neurosurgery, Henry Ford Health Science Center), Cheryl Claxton (Ob/Gyn SUNY HSC-Brooklyn), Alan Brown (Radiation Oncology, Massachusetts General).



Jonathan Osburn (Family Medicine, U-M Hospitals) with daughter, Grace.



Dean Allen Lichter presents diploma to Theodore Welling (General Surgery, U-M Hospitals).

Graduates' residency specialties will be as follows: internal medicine, 33; family medicine, 24; pediatrics, 15; obstetrics and gynecology, 10; general surgery, 8; medicine/pediatrics, 8; ophthalmology, 7; radiology-diagnostic, 7; anesthesiology, 6; emergency medicine, 6; psychiatry, 6; orthopaedic surgery, 5; otolaryngology, 4; dermatology, 3; neurology, 3; neurosurgery, 3; preliminary surgery, 3; medicine preliminary, 2; pathology, 2; plastic surgery, 2; radiation oncology, 2.

*That into whatsoever he will, I will direct the good of the sick to the utmost of my power. I holding myself aloof from wrong, from corruption, from the tempting of others to vice;*