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For Immediate Release

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Joseph Metz Named Student DO of the Year by the South Carolina Osteopathic Medical Society

Spartanburg, S.C. – The [South Carolina Osteopathic Medical Society](#) (SCOMS) named Joseph Metz the 2022 Student DO of the Year at its Annual Meeting last week at the [Edward Via College of Osteopathic Medicine - Carolinas](#).

“The Student DO of the Year Award honors a current DO student who exemplifies what it means to be an osteopathic physician; shows compassion, leadership, and enthusiasm for medicine; and demonstrates a strong commitment to philanthropic and community service,” said SCOMS President Dr. Ryan Hakimi, a Neurointensivist and the Director of the Neuro ICU and TCD Services at [Prisma Health-Upstate’s Greenville Memorial Hospital](#). “Joseph Metz embodies the characteristics import for a future physician. He demonstrates compassion and kindness for others and is dedicated to improving healthcare in South Carolina.”

Dr. Matthew Cannon, Dean of VCOM-Carolina, said, “Joseph Metz is a student that truly embraces both the science of medicine and the art of medicine. He handles the rigors of medical school with relative ease and makes ample time to assist his fellow classmates in their studies when needed. His high intellect coupled with his affable personality make him a student that others strive to emulate. Other quality traits that describe Joseph are his impeccable integrity, his unique ability to lead by example, and his innate humility that he conveys in all his actions. The field of medicine needs more people like Joseph as he relates to patients, treats them with utmost respect, and is selfless in all his actions.”

Joseph, who received his medical degree from VCOM-Carolinas this summer, was by no means an ordinary medical student, but rather an individual who readily accepts all challenges, yearns for knowledge, always displays compassion, and truly strives to continually be the best version of himself. It was commonplace to see him volunteering for various community outreach activities or at a free medical clinic as well as hearing about his various random acts of kindness.

In 2020, he received the Mary Black Medical Staff Endowed Scholarship in recognition of his contributions to the community and his commitment for improving healthcare in South Carolina. His desire to serving the Spartanburg community with exceptional healthcare and aspirations of starting a research facility in the Greater Spartanburg area to create and supply biosimilar insulin and other life-saving, over-priced medications singled him out.

“I believe I have a moral responsibility to service the community of Spartanburg because of the wonderful opportunities Spartanburg as so graciously given me,” said Joseph. “Spartanburg has not just supplied me



with a school to pursue my aspirations of becoming a physician, it has shown me the importance to friendship, loyalty, dedication, and hard work.”

In 2021, VCOM submitted a request to the William Randolph Hearst Foundation for funding for scholarships for students pursuing careers in primary care medicine. It was Joseph’s compelling testimony that not only overwhelmingly impressed VCOM but it also weighed heavily in the William Randolph Hearst Foundation granting VCOM \$125,000 to fund scholarships for 50 students.

In early 2022, Joseph was approaching his final months as a medical student when he did the unimaginable. He established a scholarship at VCOM-Carolinas in recognition of students who are determined and inspired by the lifelong commitment of making a tangible difference within our healthcare community.

Be The Change Scholarship awards \$2,500 annually to an outstanding osteopathic medical student who has demonstrated his/her commitment to developing solutions for the betterment of all individuals, who has excelled academically, who is in financial need, and who works daily to encourage a more compassionate, unified future.

Dr. Metz was accepted into the Anesthesiology Program at Grand Strand Regional Medical Center in Myrtle Beach. He plans to return to Spartanburg to practice medicine. He received his undergraduate degree from the [University of South Carolina](#) and pursued his Doctor of Pharmacy degree at [Presbyterian College School of Pharmacy](#) before being accepted to VCOM-Carolinas.