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For Immediate Release

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Patrick Ruane Receives \$1,000 Student Scholarship from the South Carolina Osteopathic Medical Society

Spartanburg, S.C. – The [South Carolina Osteopathic Medical Society](#) (SCOMS) presented Patrick Ruane with its \$1,000 Student Scholarship at its Annual Meeting last week at the [Edward Via College of Osteopathic Medicine - Carolinas](#).

“The \$1,000 Student Scholarship honors a current osteopathic medical student who has completed at least 50 hours of volunteer work/community service in the last three years and plans to practice medicine in South Carolina upon completion of training,” 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](#). “Patrick Ruane is an inspiration to his peers, he exhibits true enthusiasm, dedication, and excellent leadership qualities. He volunteers at St. Luke’s Free Medical Clinic, Girls on the Run, and serves as an Anatomy Cadaver Tutor.”

Patrick was diagnosed with multiple learning disabilities as a child and struggled to overcome great obstacles in understanding the concepts of spoken language and to learning to process and relay information. As a child, he could not help himself, but he noticed the number of people who wished to care for him. It was during those moments that he began to seriously consider a career in medicine.

Today, he is a student at VCOM-Carolinas where he works to advance his education in and out of the classroom through research opportunities, shadowing experiences, and countless hours of volunteer work. His project “Testimonials from Multinational Medical School Students in the Face of the COVID-19 Pandemic” earned him the opportunity to present and win at the OMED conference in International Outreach.

“I was most impressed by Patrick Ruane’s ability to organize this project so graciously, with such little research background,” said Dr. Dean Sutphin, Professor and Vice Provost for International and Appalachian Outreach at VCOM. “He showed true enthusiasm, dedication, and eagerness to learn and perform. Patrick was quite analytical in his approach, trouble shooting, interpretation and implications of his findings. I am proud of the remarkable work Patrick has accomplished, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic.”

In addition to this research, Patrick is also currently working on a clinical project with St. Luke’s Free Medical Clinic as well our clinical professors with case reports. With his service to the community, Patrick has been on the sidelines for high school and collegiate sporting games, therapeutically with the free medical clinics, and academically in the cadaver lab.



“Living in South Carolina I see the need for physicians to serve in rural and medically underserved areas,” said Patrick. “When I think of the role of a physician, I see proud and accomplished healers, listeners, and communicators. Through all my experiences, I am enthusiastic about how much I have learned about myself and learned about the versatile roles that physicians must fill. I see South Carolina as the perfect place to build my foundation in the community especially for those in the greatest need.”

Patrick received a bachelor's degree in exercise science from the [University of South Carolina](#) in 2018. He expects to complete his medical education at VCOM-Carolinas in 2024.