



*Office of Marketing and Communications*

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **Morehouse School of Medicine Students to Meet Their Match in the National Resident Matching Program**

67 Percent of Morehouse School of Medicine Graduates Matched in Primary Care in 2013, Helping to Alleviate Shortage of Physicians in the United States

**ATLANTA – March 21, 2014** – Four years ago when Metro-Atlanta native Johnny Harris II joined Morehouse School of Medicine as a first-year student, he had a strong desire to help people and make a difference in their lives.

“If you ask my parents, they will tell you that I’ve wanted to be a doctor since I was six years old,” said Harris II. “And today, I stand with my graduating class to learn where I’ll spend the next four years of my life pursuing a dual specialty in Internal Medicine and Pediatrics.”

Harris joins 51 fourth-year Morehouse School of Medicine students that will participate in Match Day, an annual rite of passage for U.S. medical school students. The National Resident Matching Program will announce the 2014 Main Residency Match® results for more than 17,000 United States allopathic medical school seniors like Harris.

He and his classmates, like Rebecca Condon Staub, will fill postgraduate medical training positions in residency programs at teaching hospitals throughout the United States, most notably in primary care where family doctors, general internists and pediatricians are in high demand.

Nationally, the Association of American Medical Colleges estimates that the United States faces a shortage of more than 90,000 physicians by 2020, half of which represent primary care physicians.

Nearly 60 percent of Morehouse School of Medicine graduates have matched in primary care and core specialties since 2009 and Dr. Valerie Montgomery Rice, dean and executive vice president, wants to continue that legacy. A recent report by the Georgia Board for Physician Workforce uncovered that Georgia ranks 39<sup>th</sup> in the ratio of doctors per 100,000 people. The ratio is especially dire in rural areas.

“The doctor shortage is most critical in primary care and core specialties including family and internal medicine, obstetrics and gynecology and general surgery,” said Dr. Montgomery Rice. “Morehouse School of Medicine is committed to attracting and training the doctors and health professionals America needs most, like those who will care for underserved communities and those who will dedicate themselves to eliminating the health inequities that continue to plague the country.”

Morehouse School of Medicine student Rebecca Condon Staub plans to return to Georgia and practice medicine once she completes her residency in pediatrics.

“While I spent many years in a major metropolitan area, I have experienced the effects of living in a rural area plagued with a shortage of doctors, resources and patient education,” said Condon Staub. “Upon completing my residency, I am committed to being an advocate for patients in rural communities and helping them understand their own healthcare.”

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In 2013, 67 percent of Morehouse School of Medicine students were matched in primary care and core specialties including:

- Family Medicine
- Internal Medicine
- Obstetrics & Gynecology
- Pediatrics
- Psychiatry
- Public Health and Preventive Medicine
- General Surgery

“Morehouse School of Medicine is a top producer of primary care physicians where more than 140 of our graduates are physicians who staff Grady Memorial Hospital,” added Dr. Montgomery Rice. “And most notably, 69 percent of our resident graduates choose to stay and practice in Georgia following completion of their respective programs.”

**About Morehouse School of Medicine (MSM)**

Founded in 1975, MSM is among the nation's leading educators of primary care physicians and was recognized by *Annals of Internal Medicine* in 2011 as the top institution in the first study of U.S. medical schools for our social mission based on our production of primary care physicians, training of underrepresented minority doctors and placement of doctors practicing in underserved communities. Our faculty and alumni are noted for excellence in teaching, research and public policy, as well as exceptional patient care.

Morehouse School of Medicine is accredited by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools to award doctorate and master's degrees.

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