



## White Coat Sparty

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**P**rofessional responsibility, compassion, honesty, respect for others, competence, and social responsibility are the characteristics that the Michigan State University College of Human Medicine strives to instill in every student. The characteristics that the college aims to imprint on the student population are extraordinarily evident in the faculty. For instance, my pregnant wife recently had blood work done that came back as high risk for Angelman syndrome. I emailed the genetics professor that night and by the time I woke the next morning I had two emails from her. She was compassionate; she reassured me in my time of need. She was open and honest; she spoke frankly about the

situation and what would be involved. She showed respect for me; she took time out of her schedule to address my concerns. She showed competence; she not only discussed follow-up procedures but actually contacted a geneticist working for the company who performed the test so that she could best serve our needs. She showed both professional and social responsibility; she used her expertise as a doctor and her position as a teacher to encourage and help a member of her community. With such role models it is inevitable that CHM graduates will embody these ideals.

These ideals are represented by two iconic symbols in our college. These symbols are the 'Clinical Sparty'

logo and our white coats. The Clinical Sparty logo is a Spartan helmet that prominently features a stethoscope. This image shows not only our school's pride in its Spartan heritage but its pride in its Spartan physicians. The white coat represents the years of hard work each and every incoming medical student has put forth to get to this point in our lives. It is a badge of honor, signifying our place in not only a profession but also a family of medical personnel across the world. For this project I decided to bring these two icons together into a single display. With permission from the college, I utilized photographs from the 2014 White Coat Ceremony and the Clinical Sparty logo to make a photo mosaic of the logo.

This project was not only meant to highlight the previously mentioned ideals, but also to highlight other aspects of our education and future professional careers. To me, the most important aspect of this project is the representation of so many people, of different ages, genders, ethnicities, religions, sexual identities

and backgrounds coming together to form one cohesive whole. The diversity and inclusion present in these individuals, working together to become doctors, is amazing and inspiring. The fact that this collage would not look like the Spartan logo without each and every physician, faculty member, mentor and student in the picture hammers this point home. Of the limited training we have had as first-year medical students, a very significant portion has been dedicated to cultural sensitivity. We have learned through empathy, acceptance and understanding that we have the ability to treat every patient in a way that they desire. It is amazing to me that the many cultures and beliefs represented by my classmates will ultimately mesh to provide positive care for an even more diverse patient population. I hope that I have captured this diversity and have shown in some small way that despite our differences we form something so much bigger and better than our individual selves when we work together.