Med students don white coats in symbolic ceremony at MSU

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The incoming students in Michigan State University’s College of Human Medicine officially began their studies with the symbolic white coat ceremony Sunday. The 190 students in the Class of 2019 were chosen from a record 9,845 applications.

At the DeVos Performance Hall in Grand Rapids, interim Dean Dr. Aron Sousa welcomed the class to the White Coat and Matriculation Ceremony. The college’s faculty and alumni assisted the students as they donned their white coats.

About half of the students will spend their first two years of medical school on MSU’s campus in East Lansing, and half will be at the Secchia Center in Grand Rapids.

The class includes 97 men and 92 women, and 81 percent are Michigan residents. Seventeen of the students entered through MSU’s Early Assurance program, a partnership with colleges around the state that allows students to apply in their junior year.

Dr. Aron Sousa poses for a picture with Mary Cha during the ceremony. Sousa is the school’s interim dean. Below, Linh-An Cao, right, receives a hug from Dr. Francesca Dwamena after receiving her white coat. (Cory Morse/mlive.com)

Robert Haas, left, helps his brother, Alec Haas, put on a white coat. Above, Brittany Ajebe, left, and Ugochukwu Agbaiwuru hold their white coats. (Cory Morse/mlive.com)

Dr. Aron Sousa speaks during the ceremony. (Cory Morse/mlive.com)