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'The Kind of Doctor I Want to Be': U of T Medicine Grad Chika Oriuwa on Becoming an Advocate for Diversity

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[University of Toronto Alumni](#)

by Julia Soudat

When she started medical school at the University of Toronto in 2016, **Chika Oriuwa** didn't expect to be the only Black student in her class. She also didn't expect this reality to catapult her into four years of advocacy, speaking engagements and [media attention](#) — paving the way for her to be named class valedictorian this year.

"There's a certain weight that comes along with this title that didn't really hit me until I fully came to realize and appreciate the gravity of this," she says. "It's a big honour and I'm so grateful."

In her first year of medicine, Oriuwa was the only Black student in her class - a discovery that catapulted her into four years of advocacy, speaking engagements and media attention. "My medical school experience was definitely underscored by my experiences as a woman of colour," says Oriuwa. "I never thought that when I started medical school, a huge part of my narrative would be wrapped around being an advocate and bringing attention to equity, inclusion and diversity within the curriculum and just within life in general."

[Read the full article](#)

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