



Cooper Medical School of Rowan University

March 13, 2020

Dear CMSRU Students,

Today I had the opportunity to speak with almost all of the M1 ALG groups, the M2 class prior to their exam, and the M3 class. I appreciated the chance to speak with you.

The situation with COVID-19 remains fluid. Our goals are to keep our faculty, students, and staff safe; support the public health response and efforts to mitigate the pandemic; and preserve our educational programming. Our plans and contingency plans have been developed and some of them have been tested. At this point, our plan is to deliver the non-experiential portion of our curriculum online by March 23. Because the Cooper Rowan Clinic serves a vital service for many in our Camden community, we will continue to serve patients with scheduled appointments. Protocols are being implemented so that patients with flu-like illnesses are redirected to Cooper. **None of our students (M1-M4) will be involved in the direct care of patients with documented or suspected COVID-19.**

Later today, Dr. Andrea Bottaro, Assistant Dean for Phase 1 of the Curriculum, will send a communication to students about the plans for M1 and M2 for the rest of the year. Dr. Sundip Patel, Assistant Dean for Phase 2 of the Curriculum, will send a communication about the third and fourth year educational programming and some of the restrictions that we have put in place. Drs. Pukenas and Lombardi will communicate about Match Week, events, and resources to learn more about the pandemic and local conditions.

CMSRU's IT professionals have developed resources and tools to help students and faculty in the transition to online classes. The resources can be found on our website at <https://cmsru.rowan.edu/about/emergency/index-03-13-2020.php>.

I apologize for any inconvenience or disruption that the current emergency situation is creating. I know that CMSRU students will respond with emotional intelligence, adaptability, and a tolerance for ambiguity.

Please check your email daily and our website for updates. I wish the M1 and M2 students a safe and healthy spring break.

Sincerely,

Annette C. Reboli, M.D.

Annette C. Reboli, MD
Dean and Professor of Medicine