



# Cooper Medical School of Rowan University

March 23, 2020

Dear Students, Faculty and Staff,

This is an important week for CMSRU as we commence with the online delivery of our educational program for M1 and M2 students and the remote learning for M3 and M4 students. I know this is not an ideal situation, but I urge everyone -- students and faculty, alike -- to be patient and to work cooperatively to ensure the success of this new and nontraditional way of teaching and learning. I suspect that we will see a quantum leap in the use of technology in education as an outcome of this pandemic. Our IT team is standing by to help with any issues. They can be reached via email at [cmsrusupport@rowan.edu](mailto:cmsrusupport@rowan.edu).

This weekend, Rowan University made some very important announcements. Two people associated with the University have documented COVID-19: an undergraduate student who lived on-campus, and a clinical faculty member from RowanSOM in Stratford. We send our thoughts and prayers to them, their families, classmates and colleagues as they recover from their illnesses. Rowan University is working hard to keep the community informed. You can access the most up-to-date information at <https://www.rowan.edu/virusinfo/>.

Rowan University also announced that the Class of 2020 Commencement ceremony is postponed. Instead, they will hold a virtual ceremony in May to confer degrees and recognize graduates. They hope to have the university-wide event later in the summer.

I know this is extremely disappointing news for our M4 students, and I acknowledge that a postponement is problematic for most of our graduates as they move on to their internships. In the coming weeks, CMSRU's Commencement Planning Committee will be exploring ideas for alternate ways to recognize our graduates. We will be working closely with your class officers. If you have suggestions you would like for us to consider, please send your ideas to [cmsruevents@rowan.edu](mailto:cmsruevents@rowan.edu).

Over the past week, I have heard from students who are interested in volunteering to assist our health system, Cooper University Health Care, and/or some of the disenfranchised citizens of Camden. In the coming week, Rosemarie Loughlin, our Wellness Coordinator, will be surveying students to assess and organize who is willing to volunteer, and what they are interested in doing. I am especially interested in activities for which we can reasonably give academic credit. **However, under guidance from national organizations, and more recently the [Executive Order by N.J. Governor Phil Murphy](#), we (students, non-clinical faculty, and staff) are mandated to shelter in place (stay in our homes or apartments), and if you must go out for an essential reason, to socially distance yourself.** I believe this is a compelling public health mandate that we **MUST COMPLY** with at this time. When the situation changes, we will certainly get you involved since I believe you can make important contributions during this emergency situation.

Finally, I remind you that if you have any questions or comments regarding CMSRU's response to COVID-19, you can send an email to [CMSRU\\_COVID19@rowan.edu](mailto:CMSRU_COVID19@rowan.edu) and we will respond.

Thank you for your continued support and patience as we navigate through this challenging time. I wish continued good health to you and your families.

Sincerely,

*Annette C. Reboli, M.D.*

Annette C. Reboli, MD  
Dean and Professor of Medicine