



Cooper Medical School of Rowan University

March 25, 2020

Dear CMSRU Students, Faculty and Staff,

It's Day 3 of our virtual classes and I'm happy to report that under the circumstances, things are going well. CMSRU's Office of Medical Education, together with our IT Team and faculty, worked diligently over the past few weeks on CMSRU's transition to online learning, and I'm very grateful to the team for their efforts. This new system was implemented in record time, and we are addressing any issues as they arise. We all look forward to the day we can return to in-person learning and working, but unfortunately, we are unable to predict when that will happen.

There continues to be much discussion about medical students volunteering to assist our front-line medical providers at Cooper University Health Care, as well as Camden's disenfranchised residents. CMSRU's Office of Student Affairs has reached out to students to assess and organize who is willing to volunteer, and what they are interested in doing. However, for the time being, it is important that we continue to comply with the guidelines put forth in the [Executive Order by N.J. Governor Phil Murphy](#) and remain sheltered in our homes or apartments. When the situation changes, we will have our plans ready and will be able to quickly get you involved. Anyone interested in volunteer activities should contact Rosemarie Loughlin, loughlin@rowan.edu.

Our Commencement Planning Committee continues to work on an alternative celebration to mark the graduation of our Class of 2020. This past weekend, I had the opportunity to personally speak on the phone with most of our soon-to-be graduates to congratulate them on their match, and to acknowledge our collective disappointment in having to cancel these milestone events. We hope to share information with you soon about our alternative plans. The committee is still welcoming suggestions via cmsruevents@rowan.edu.

Finally, I want to share with you some positive news. Thanks to a suggestion by CMSRU Medical Librarian Benjamin Saracco and Dr. Sundip Patel, Phase 2 Assistant Dean, CMSRU students with engineering backgrounds are working with Rowan College of Engineering faculty and graduate students, led by Dr. Shreekanth Madayam, Professor of Electrical and Computer Engineering, to utilize 3D printing technology to develop PPE. So far, the Rowan engineers have developed a face mask that is reusable. If the design works, the team will begin mass producing to help alleviate potential PPE shortages in South Jersey. I'm so proud of those who are participating in this important collaboration.

Now that we are adjusting to the "new normal," I plan to reduce the frequency of these emails to a few times per week. However, if you have any questions or concerns regarding CMSRU's response to this unprecedented situation, you can reach out directly to our Emergency Management team via our special email address CMSRU_COVID19@rowan.edu. Stay healthy everyone!

Sincerely,

Annette C. Reboli, M.D.

Annette C. Reboli, MD
Dean and Professor of Medicine