



Cooper Medical School of Rowan University

March 30, 2020

Dear Students, Faculty and Staff:

Today is National Doctors' Day. On behalf of the CMSRU community, I would like to express sincere gratitude to our clinical faculty for all that you are doing for patients during the COVID-19 pandemic. We are thankful every day for the dedication so many of you have shown in ensuring that CMSRU graduates the kind of physicians we would want to be caring for our own families. You are teachers, role models and mentors, and the work you do is impacting the next generation of medical providers in profound and positive ways. We are glad that you are here for us, and for all of your patients.

CMSRU's clinical and basic science faculty are beacons of professionalism for our students as well, a fact that has become even more evident during this pandemic. Following the lead of our faculty, CMSRU students have come up with multiple creative volunteer projects to support the work of frontline medical providers while also following social distancing protocols. I'm so proud of the wonderful things they have been doing, including:

- Creating face shields for CUHC staff (led by Olivia Coburn-Flynn)
- [Collaborating with Rowan University engineering faculty and graduate students to design and 3D-print reusable masks](#) (led by Deep Patel)
- Acquiring PPE donations from local businesses for donation to CUHC (led by Lauren Burgoon)
- Sewing masks (led by Nicole Jochym)
- Setting up virtual visits with seniors and others in assisted living (led by Claudia Rugama, Kuntal Bhowmick)
- Arranging a Red Cross Blood Drive (led by Seema Doshi, Claudia Rugama, Rachel Manci)
- Distributing SwipeSense badges to every hospital employee to track COVID-19 exposure (led by Adamma Spearman and Lauren Burgoon)
- Organizing CitiCall Connections, a program to assist with communication to hospitalized patients' families during COVID-19 pandemic (led by Melissa Olsakowski, Rylie Pietrowicz, and Karen Baddoura)

I have some important information to share with CMSRU students who are planning to take STEP exams. Today, the National Board of Medical Examiners (NBME) announced that in response to the closure of Prometric Centers for a 30-day period starting March 18, they are extending eligibility periods for all examinees. For further information, [please visit the USMLE website](#).

Lastly, today, Dr. David J. Skorton, president and CEO of the AAMC, updated guidance which states that unless there is a critical healthcare workforce need in your area, the AAMC strongly suggests extending the time that students do not have in-person clinical interaction for another two weeks, through April 14. This will allow additional time to "flatten the curve" through social distancing, while enabling health systems to address issues with limited PPE and testing.

Thanks for your continued patience and understanding during this difficult time.

Sincerely,

Annette C. Reboli, M.D.

Annette C. Reboli, MD
Dean and Professor of Medicine