



Cooper Medical School of Rowan University

April 6, 2020

Dear Friends of CMSRU,

I hope this email finds you and your loved ones safe and healthy. During this extraordinarily challenging time, I wanted to update you on CMSRU's response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

As physicians across the nation respond heroically, I first want to send a special message to our alumni, many of whom are on the front lines caring for the sick: *On behalf of CMSRU, thank you for all that you are doing. I know that you have the knowledge, skills, compassion and fortitude to get through the challenging days and months ahead. We are so proud of you, and we send best wishes for continued good health and safety.*

The past month has brought tremendous and unsettling change to us all. However, I continue to take pride in the creativity and resiliency of our students, faculty, and staff. We've navigated through an abrupt transition from in-person education and clinical experiences to delivering our curriculum online by leveraging technology. While spring is usually a time of celebration at CMSRU, especially for our graduating students, we've had to cancel all gatherings and events to keep our community safe. Although our students celebrated Match Day privately, their CMSRU family was with them in spirit! For the second year in a row, 100% of CMSRU's students matched! [Please read about CMSRU's Class of 2020 residency programs.](#) We are now planning a "virtual" commencement.

Our amazing CMSRU students have organized a variety of volunteer initiatives to support area hospitals including our clinical affiliate, Cooper University Health Care. I'm extremely proud of the ways our students are continuing to embrace our mission to serve the community during this emergency situation - even as they comply with public health mandates. Here are some of the things they are doing:

- Creating face shields for hospital staff
- Collaborating with Rowan University engineering faculty and graduate students to design and 3D-print reusable masks
- Acquiring donations of personal protective equipment from local businesses for donation to hospitals
- Sewing masks
- Setting up virtual visits with seniors and others in assisted living
- Arranging a Red Cross Blood Drive
- Distributing SwipeSense badges to every hospital employee to track COVID-19 exposure
- Organizing CritiCall Connections, a program to assist with communication to ICU patients' families since family visitation at hospitals is restricted.

Moving forward, when this crisis passes, and we return to a "new normal," it will require a great deal of work, patience, and adaptability. Thank you for your continuing support of CMSRU. Your advocacy and philanthropy are more important now than ever before. I hope this note has been helpful. I will keep you updated as much as possible; please reach out to me at reboli@rowan.edu or to Felicia Gordon Riehman at riehman@rowan.edu with any thoughts or concerns. I wish you and your families good health.

Sincerely,

Annette C. Reboli, M.D.

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Dean and Professor of Medicine