



Cooper Medical School of Rowan University

April 9, 2020

Dear Students, Faculty and Staff:

This week we recognize important religious celebrations, including Passover and Easter. Both the ancient Israelites and early Christians suffered as disenfranchised and persecuted groups. Beyond COVID-19, discrimination and disparities unfortunately persist in our modern times. Even for those who are not religious or who do not celebrate these religious observances, I find messages of hope, faith, and resilience that we can all apply to this particularly difficult time. April also marks the celebration of the Hindu festival of Hanuman Jayanti. Lord Hanuman symbolizes strength and selfless devotion, and courage and wisdom needed in overcoming various challenging situations in life.

I had the opportunity to "Dean-Bomb" eight of our ALG's yesterday! I am so proud of how our faculty and students are adapting and playing an active part in advancing our academic program. I miss our M1 and M2 students terribly, and it was great to see so many of them. Yes, I promise I will learn how to use the grid view!

To all classes, I've been in touch on a regular basis with your class presidents and will continue to do so. They have many ways to reach me, including my cell number, so please do reach out to them with any questions or concerns that you may have.

M1 students: At this time we plan to continue to offer summer research opportunities. You will hear more about that from our research office.

M2 students: I would like to assure you that the school will do everything in our power to ensure that you progress into your M3 year as planned (even absent Step 1 scores), and that we will work with you as further plans roll out with regard to Step 1 from NBME. Our Office of Medical Education and our Office of Student Affairs will keep you informed of any new developments.

M3 students: I hope Telehealth is offering you an opportunity to continue to advance in our curriculum. Drs. Sundip Patel, Joe Campellone, and Snehal Gandhi worked hard to get this ready for you. Very soon, surgery and OB/GYN will also be able to offer this experience. Mr. Gentile will keep you updated as he gets information about remote shelf exams and how that will work out logistically. Similar to the M2s, we assure you that any delay in NBME testing will not inhibit your advancement and ability to graduate on time.

M4 students: We continue to work with our parent University on developing plans for an alternative celebration of your wonderful achievement. You've received information about the compressed M4 requirements. Our goal with this is to ensure that all of you graduate on time and are ready to proceed to graduate medical education. I believe, and so does the faculty, that all who are graduating are, indeed, ready. However, if there is anyone who feels that they need a longer or more experiential activity as part of your remaining requirements to ensure that you are ready for internship, please reach out directly to the Office of Medical Education. We will work with you individually to try to accomplish this. Please realize, however, that we do not know when on-site clinical experiences will return.

We can accommodate you through an extension of your M4 year, but you would have to get permission from the PD of your internship program to start your internship late if you cannot complete the experience at CMSRU before your internship start date.

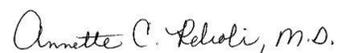
For the cohort of M4's who would like to graduate early we have set the date of April 20. I want to emphasize two things: 1.) It is totally voluntary and 2.) You are still bound by the rules of the Match. After those two requirements are met, it is up to you whether you want to try to start your residency training program early. This would require a conversation with the PD of your program. You can work temporarily as an employee of a health system, including the one where you will be doing your residency, if they are agreeable. Or you can use the time to handle logistics of relocating. This is totally up to you. If you have changed your mind with your choice of whether to graduate early or not, **please notify the Office of Student Affairs by 9 a.m. on Monday, April 13.** Similarly, if you have any questions about graduation, please reach out to the Office of Student Affairs.

We recognize that these are particularly stressful times but please try to complete your GQ if you haven't already done so. It will close in June.

While we see additional cases of COVID-19 in our region and across the United States, there is encouraging news that social distancing efforts are having an impact and helping to flatten the curve. We continue to send our thoughts, prayers, and gratitude to CMSRU's clinical faculty and the health care teams who are on the front lines. [If a member of your household contracts the virus, the CDC offers this helpful resource for caring for someone in your home who is sick.](#)

Wishing you all a peaceful weekend, especially to those who are celebrating one of the spring holidays.

Sincerely,



Annette C. Reboli, MD
Dean and Professor of Medicine