



Cooper Medical School of Rowan University

April 23, 2020

Dear Students, Faculty and Staff:

On Wednesday, April 22, we celebrated Earth Day. The theme for Earth Day 2020 was climate action. With social distancing and sheltering at home, transportation and industry have decreased dramatically, resulting in reduced pollution worldwide. This Earth Day we are optimistic and hopeful that we can have a positive impact on climate change.

Administrative Professionals' Day was also celebrated this week. The administrative assistants at CMSRU play a vital role in the functioning of our operation and medical education program. I thank each and every one of these dedicated professionals for their hard work!

This evening marks the start of the Muslim holy month of Ramadan. Omar Qari, a member of CMSRU's Class of 2023, kindly prepared the following: "Ramadan is uniquely celebrated with the spiritual discipline of fasting in order to develop a deeper consciousness and renewed gratitude for the things we have. The discipline of fasting (for those who are healthy enough) also teaches us the ethical and moral lessons of resilience - a virtue that is necessary in addressing the greatest obstacles, from food insecurity and poverty to an extraordinary pandemic. During the times we currently live in, it is important that we foster this attitude of resilience and an enduring sense of hope. I find that CMSRU can draw upon these messages to continue the impressive work many of you are doing to support your communities." Thank you, Omar, and Ramadan Kareem to all those who are celebrating!

This week, we held three individual Town Halls with the M1, M2, and M3 classes. It was a great opportunity to address questions and concerns specific to each class. The majority of questions were about testing (including Step examinations), clerkships, and summer research opportunities. FAQs are being developed from the questions asked and they will be emailed to the students in each class and posted on our website. Planning is also underway for a fourth Town Hall for CMSRU employees.

Finally, I have some great news to share. Today, the Arnold P. Gold Foundation announced that CMSRU's chapter of the Gold Humanism Honor Society earned the rank of "Outstanding," stating that CMSRU's "dedication to fairness, compassion and integrity shines through" in our chapter's work. The ranking was based on a variety of factors related to community engagement, wellness, leadership and compassionate care. The Gold Foundation also lauded CMSRU's ability to "inspire young physicians to show empathy, leadership and resilience." Congratulations to CMSRU's GHHS leaders, Drs. Edward Viner, Danielle Behrens, Anat Feingold and Marion Lombardi, as well as the student members of this distinguished group.

Best wishes for your continued good health.

Sincerely,

Annette C. Reboli, M.D.

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Dean and Professor of Medicine