



Cooper Medical School of Rowan University

May 6, 2020

Dear Students, Faculty and Staff:

We are starting to see hope for return of some in-person activities for CMSRU students within the healthcare environment. Health systems across the state, including Cooper University Healthcare, are making plans for resumption of "elective" (or what I refer to as essential non-COVID-19) surgical cases and procedures. Our CMSRU leadership team and faculty are working hard developing plans that are safe and compliant with state mandates, but also educationally effective.

I continue to work, through my participation on the AAMC's Council of Deans, to advocate to the NBME for a student-centered approach to address current USMLE testing issues. CMSRU has already taken several steps that are in our control and will continue to do so as the situation evolves. I anticipate some key announcements and guidance about M4 away electives and residency interviews from the national group charged with this task at the end of this week or early next week.

Effective today, May 6, 2020, students will be able to apply for federal relief funds by completing the CARES Act student emergency assistance form posted on the [Rowan University Office of the Bursar's website](#). Requests for assistance will be processed on a first come, first served basis until all the funds are disbursed, so please proceed to do this quickly if you have financial need.

Our leadership team has completed the first step of review of the independent student analysis (ISA) that our students completed earlier this year with an amazing completion rate of 99% plus. I am most appreciative of the effort our students put into this, and special thanks go to our students who have so ably led the process. I promise we will celebrate when we are safely able to do so!

Yesterday, Dr. Kocher and I completed our pre-recorded segments for our first ever virtual commencement event. I am grateful to Sharon Clark, Ian Martini, John Dill, Gail Stevens, Jenene Thomas, Kate Stewart, and the entire Commencement Committee for their work and flexibility in planning and producing our event this year. Sharon will be sending out further information later today. I am asking our CMSRU community to support our M4 graduates by participating in the virtual event. Our own [Katie Fenton is one of the featured graduates on the Rowan website, so please check out her inspirational story](#)! Great job, Katie!

I will end my message by wishing a Happy Nurses Day to all of the wonderful and dedicated nurses at Cooper University Health Care and to four very special nurses at CMSRU: Elizabeth Fletcher, director of interprofessional education, Mary Pileggi, HRSA project coordinator, Christa Schorr, scholars workshop facilitator, and Greg Staman, assistant director of the simulation program.

With best wishes,

Annette C. Reboli, M.D.

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Dean and Professor of Medicine