



CMSRU Update

News & Information from
Cooper Medical School of Rowan University

May 8, 2020

Welcome!

Welcome back to our online newsletter for communicating news, events, activities and accomplishments for members of the CMSRU community! Formerly called “Weekly Update,” we’ve changed the name to **CMSRU Update**.

If you have a story you wish to share, please send a few well-crafted paragraphs with the “who, what, when, why and how” and a suggested image to **Sharon Clark** at clarks@rowan.edu. To ensure your email isn’t overlooked, please put “**CMSRU Update Submission**” in the subject line of the email. If you sent stories while the newsletter was on hiatus during the past two months, and you still wish for it to be shared, please accept our apology and resubmit! We hope to begin publishing the newsletter on a bi-weekly basis through September 2020.

CMSRU set to celebrate Class of 2020 with virtual events next week

CMSRU will mark the graduation of the Class of 2020 by holding a virtual Commencement Celebration on **Thursday, May 14 at 1 p.m.** The event can be viewed on the [CMSRU Facebook](#) page and [YouTube](#) channel. It will include messages from **James Newell, PhD**, senior vice president, medical initiatives and affiliated campuses; CMSRU **Dean Annette C. Reboli, MD**; SGA M4 President **Kris Hendershot**; and CMSRU alumnus **Daniel Lefler, MD**. In addition, the newly-minted physicians will have an opportunity to recite the Hippocratic Oath along with **William Kocher, MD**, as well as enjoy photo montages from their time as students at CMSRU.



“This is not the medical school graduation that any of us envisioned, especially our students and their loved ones,” said Dr. Reboli. “But we will not let the current circumstances take away from the tremendous achievements of this class, and the pride we have in them. They are entering their residencies at a historic moment in time, and I hope everyone participates in our online events to help give them a great send-off.”

The student and Golden Apple awards, typically presented at the graduation banquet the evening before Commencement, will also be announced virtually on **Wednesday, May 13** via CMSRU’s [Instagram](#) and [Facebook](#) pages. The awards will begin rolling out at 7 p.m.

This Saturday at 3 p.m., Rowan is hosting a [university-wide virtual Commencement event](#) as well. The virtual ceremony will include President Houshmand’s address, messages from Adam Savage, Rowan alumnae Catherine Ni ’00, and Rowan student speaker Riccardo Dale ’20, as well as the conferral of degrees. While CMSRU will host its own virtual event, our students, faculty and staff are encouraged to show support for our parent University through participation in this Saturday event as well.

CMSRU associate dean offers perspective on COVID effects on minorities

For years, **Jocelyn Mitchell-Williams, MD**, CMSRU’s associate dean for diversity and community affairs, has been a leading voice in educating the public about health disparities in the underserved communities of our region. Now, Dr. Mitchell-Williams is helping to inform about the disproportionate effect the coronavirus pandemic is having on African American and Hispanic residents.

In late April, Dr. Mitchell-Williams was a guest on 6ABC's *Inside Story with Matt O'Donnell*," where she discussed the effects of COVID-19 on African Americans, and the alarming mortality statistics in that community. [Click here to watch the interview.](#)

More recently, Dr. Mitchell-Williams collaborated on a blog post on Rowan's Division of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion. [Click here to read the essay.](#)



April's virtual Camden Scholars Forum a huge success

Last fall, well before anyone heard of COVID-19 or envisioned a global pandemic and its effects on day-to-day life, organizers of the 2020 Camden Scholars' Forum made the prescient decision to hold a virtual event in place of the annual April symposium. This year's Camden Scholars Forum was another huge success with a record number of posters (157) submitted by our medical students, residents, fellows, nurses, and allied health professionals.

[Click here to view the book that includes information on all the submissions.](#)

Normally first place winners present their research to an audience of their peers and faculty. This year, **presentations will happen virtually on Wednesday, May 13, 8-9 a.m. via Zoom.** Here is the information for joining the Zoom presentation:

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/71545514560>

Meeting ID: 715 4551 4560

Special thanks to the applicants for conducting scholarly work and submitting the posters. In addition, **Dr. Harry Mazurek**, associate dean for research, expresses his gratitude to the 74 faculty members who took the time, despite having busy schedules, to judge the posters; and the organizing committee that made this virtual event successful – **Barbara Cruz, Gabrielle Hughes, Krystal Hunter, and Dr. Ernest Post.**

Camden Scholars' Forum Winners

Medical Student Research

1st - Gabriel Makar

Refusal of Cancer-Directed Surgery in Patients with Colon Cancer: Risk Factors of Refusal and Survival Data

2nd - Geoffrey Kelly

Peritoneal Mesothelioma presenting as an asymptomatic heterogenous solid and cystic mass in an 84-year-old male

3rd - Abraham Hakim

Inguinal lymph node dissection does not improve overall survival in anal cancer nodal disease

Clinical Research

1st - Abraham Hakim, CMSRU

Inguinal lymph node dissection does not improve overall survival in anal cancer nodal disease

2nd - Gabriel Makar, CMSRU

Refusal of Cancer-Directed Surgery in Patients with Colon Cancer: Risk Factors of Refusal and Survival Data

3rd - Katherine McMackin, MD, Surgery

Validating the Clinical Value of Temporal Artery Biopsies

Basic Research

1st - Dana McCloskey, MD, Surgery

Human Adipose Derived Stem Cells Increase Collagen Deposition and Granulation Improving Healing in a Rat Model of Esophageal Injury with Stent Placement

2nd - Nicholas DeLeo, MD, Surgery

Development of a AAA Model in Swine

3rd – Leona Chang, MD, Obstetrics and Gynecology

Epigenetic regimens shorten duration of classic chemotherapy in the treatment of ovarian cancer with minimal toxicity to normal tissue

Case Study

1st - Geoffrey Kelly, CMSRU

Peritoneal Mesothelioma presenting as an asymptomatic heterogeneous solid and cystic mass in an 84-year-old male

2nd – Eugene Marrone, CMSRU

Physiological and Psychological Manifestations of Kratom Withdrawal

3rd – Janice Hejirika, CMSRU

Challenges in the management of severe ovarian hyperstimulation syndrome

Performance Improvement

1st - Rachel Paul, Allied Health

A process improvement study to analyze referral rates to genetic counseling for consideration of germline genetic testing after receipt of somatic genetic testing results

2nd – Jesse Krikorian, CMSRU

Transgender Health Grand Rounds: combining culture competency and clinical knowledge for physician education

CMSRU faculty paper named “Top Download” for 2018-19

A paper by Drs. **Charlene Williams, Susan Perlis, John Gaughan, and Sangita Padtare** was cited by Wiley publishers as the “Top Downloaded Paper” in 2018-19.

The paper, “*Creation and implementation of a flipped jigsaw activity to stimulate interest in biochemistry among medical students,*” was published in **Biochemistry and Molecular Biology Education** (BAMBED), one of the top journals in biochemistry education. BAMBED is indexed in Pubmed and belongs to the International Union of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology (IUBMB). This paper was also a “Top Downloaded Paper” in 2017-18 and among the Top 20 most read papers.

Congratulations to the team!

Accomplishments, Awards, and Accolades



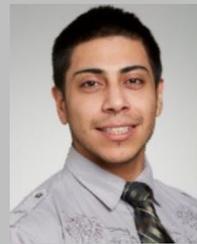
An essay by John McGeehan, MD, professor of medicine, was published on the popular website KevinMD.com. [Click here to read Dr. McGeehan's insightful essay, "Not visiting your loved one is a an act of love."](#)



Sangita Phadtare, PhD, associate professor of biomedical sciences, was co-author on an original paper "[Shaping Perceptions of Basic Science Education by Utilizing Real Patient Encounters,](#)" published last month in [Medical Science Educator.](#)



Congratulations to Puja Singh (M3), whose article "Dehumanized" was recently published as a feature article in the online edition of "Common Sense," The American Academy of Emergency Medicine's magazine. This heartfelt piece reflects Puja's thoughts and personal experiences during the COVID Pandemic, and will also be included in an upcoming print edition. [Click here to read.](#)



Jefferson Benites, MD '17, a radiology resident at Cooper University Health Care, created the winning logo design for the [STARS \(Standardized Tool for Assessing Radiology Students\) website.](#) Congratulations Dr. Benites!

Faculty and Staff Wellness Committee offers events and information for coping during pandemic

CMSRU Staff and Faculty Wellness Committee wishes to recognize the moments that matter with our work family. At a time like this, we all need to be there for each other and want to do everything we can to help get us through these challenging times.

One easy way to combat stress is to tickle your funny bone – watch a funny video, dance a silly dance with your family or enjoy a movie.

Mayo Clinic research shows the positive things laughter can do:

- Enhancing the intake of oxygen-rich air stimulating our heart, lungs and muscles and increases the endorphins (giving that feel-good feeling) release to your brain,
- Activate and relieve your stress response to leave you with a good, relaxed feeling
- Soothe tension to stimulate circulation and aid muscle relaxation.

The Wellness Committee invites CMSRU faculty and staff to join in for Tuesday Trivia or Fuzzy Friends Friday to meet with co-workers, chat & enjoy a laugh. Also, be sure to take a minute to review the [CMSRU Faculty and Staff Wellness libserve](#) to check out ways to increase your wellness. Enjoy a work-out, read an interesting article or try a yummy recipe!

Your continued commitment and willingness to offer support to our students and staff is very much appreciated.

Stay well!

In case you missed it

CMSRU students recently sent a special "Thank You" video to frontline workers at Cooper University Health Care!

