



# Cooper Medical School of Rowan University

May 15, 2020

Dear CMSRU Students, Faculty, and Staff,

This week we celebrated the Commencement of the Class of 2020 and their accomplishments!

On Wednesday evening, the Awards for Excellence in a variety of disciplines and the Ambulatory Clerkship Awards for Outstanding Service at the Cooper Rowan Clinic were announced. The Golden Apple Teaching Awards for faculty and Excellence in Teaching awards for residents recognized by the Class of 2020 were also announced.

On Thursday afternoon, we had our first ever virtual commencement. Many thanks to Sharon Clark, Marion Lombardi, Nick Stamatiades, Ian Martini, John Dill, Kate Stewart, Jenene Thomas, and the Commencement Committee for doing such an outstanding job! Each of our graduates "entered" the event to the tune of the Rowan University Pep Band's version of "*Pomp and Circumstance*." In my message to the graduates, I linked the professional ethos of medicine and the response of physicians during past epidemics and pandemics to the current COVID-19 public health emergency. Dr. Kris Hendershot, class president, gave his farewell and the CMSRU tradition of Dr. Bill Kocher leading the Hippocratic Oath was preserved. Each graduate was recognized, and the finale consisted of a collage of photos of the class over the last four years prepared by Dr. Christine Collins! The various awards and recipients can be viewed on our [Instagram](#) and [Facebook](#) pages . [Click here to view the Commencement Ceremony and the Class of 2020 Commencement Book.](#)

Next week, we would like to publish a special edition of the **CMSRU Update** that will cover the awards and commencement! **Class of 2020, if you have photos from your own virtual celebrations, please send to [coopermednews@rowan.edu](mailto:coopermednews@rowan.edu)** to be included in the Class of 2020 online photo album. [In the meantime, please enjoy these photos, compliments of Dr. Patrick Gilhooley and his family!](#)

Rowan University has applied for a waiver from the Secretary of Higher Education for the State of New Jersey to permit resumption of on-site educational activities for CMSRU students starting with our current M3 students. We anticipate having our current M2 students (rising M3) back the first week in July. New M1 and rising M2 students will start classes in August, barring any unforeseen event. M1 students will finish out the remaining weeks of this academic year remotely.

I had the opportunity to host a virtual Town Hall with our CMSRU employees this week. We discussed plans to reopen the medical education building once we have the all clear from the State of New Jersey and the precautions that we will put in place to ensure safety for our students, faculty, and staff.

Lastly, as we conclude National Hospital Week, I'd like to recognize the extraordinary work that our academic affiliate, Cooper University Health Care, is doing as Southern New Jersey's lead healthcare organization in addressing the pandemic.

Sincerely,

*Annette C. Reboli, M.D.*

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Dean and Professor of Medicine