



CMSRU Update

News & Information from
Cooper Medical School of Rowan University

May 29, 2020

Welcome!

Welcome 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 celebrates Class of 2020

CMSRU marked the graduation of the Class of 2020 virtually this year, with two special events.

On Wednesday, May 13, more than 40 awards were announced via CMSRU’s [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) accounts. Students were presented with **Class of 2020 Achievement & Service Awards** for excellence in a variety of disciplines, and Ambulatory Clerkship Awards for outstanding service in the Cooper Rowan Clinic. In addition a number of CMSRU faculty and residents were presented with [Golden Apple Teaching Awards and Excellence in Teaching Awards](#), respectively.

The following day, CMSRU’s Commencement Committee presented its first-ever virtual commencement. The event, produced totally in-house by CMSRU’s outstanding IT team, began with members of the Class of 2020 “entering” to the tune of the Rowan University Pep Band’s exciting version of “*Pomp and Circumstance*.” CMSRU Dean **Annette C. Reboli, MD**, provided an inspirational and timely message to the graduates, in which she linked the professional ethos of medicine and the response of physicians during past epidemics and pandemics to the current COVID-19 public health emergency. **Kristopher Hendershot, MD ’20**, class president, provided a farewell address, and **Bill Kocher, MD**, associate dean for admissions, led the recitation of Hippocratic Oath. Each graduate was recognized, and the finale consisted a warm welcome to the CMSRU Alumni Association by **Daniel Lefler, MD ’16**, and a video tribute to the Class of 2020 produced **Christine Collins, MD ’20**.

[Click here to view the full CMSRU Commencement Ceremony and the Class of 2020 Commencement Book.](#)

We are still collecting images from the at-home celebrations for the Class of 2020 grads! Please send your images to coopermednews@rowan.edu to be added to the [Class of 2020 Commencement Flickr album](#).

Finally, it’s not too late for our newly-minted CMSRU

Class of 2020 Achievement & Service Awards

Arthur Winkler Administrative Medicine Award
Shifan Li

Outstanding Achievement in Ambulatory Clerkship Awards

Christine Collins
Kathryn Fenton
Oumou Keita
Samir Shah
Olivia Coburn-Flynn
Christopher Rivera-Pintado

Outstanding Achievement in Anesthesiology
Patrick John Gilhooley

Outstanding Achievement in Biomedical Sciences
Christine Marie Collins

The Cooper Heart Institute Award
Rylie A. Pietrowicz

MD Anderson Cancer Center at Cooper Award
William G. Davis

Outstanding Achievement in Critical Care Medicine Award
Rylie A. Pietrowicz

Outstanding Achievement in Emergency Medicine
Paul Henry Comber

Society for Academic Emergency Medicine Certificate
Kristopher Allen Hendershot

Outstanding Achievement in Family Medicine
Shaili Kamlesh Patel

William Osler Award Chad
Frederick Hinkle

Outstanding Achievement in Neurology
Laura Rebecca Wolf

Outstanding Achievement in Neurosurgery

alumni to complete the GQ! As of today, 67.5% have completed this important questionnaire. The deadline for completion is June 5.

Congratulations Class of 2020 on your wonderful accomplishments!



Shifan Li, MD '20, celebrates her commencement from CMSRU with Mimi, her beloved Bichon.

CMSRU Award for Excellence in Obstetrics and Gynecology

Christopher Alexander Rivera-Pintado

CMSRU Award for Distinction in Obstetrics and Gynecology

Payal Chowdhary

Outstanding Achievement in Orthopaedic Surgery

Christopher Alexander Rivera-Pintado

Outstanding Achievement in Pathology

Gabriel Joseph DiNatale

The William G. Sharrar, M.D. Department of Pediatrics Awards

Melissa Christine Olsakowski

Outstanding Achievement in Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation

Laura Rebecca Wolf

Benjamin Rush Psychiatry Award

Sahana Malik

Outstanding Achievement in Radiology

Sean Michael O'Neill

Outstanding Achievement in Surgery

Chioma Grace Obinero

Three-year Accelerated Primary Care Track Graduate

Yaritza Santana Orozco

CMSRU begins planning for resumption in-person activities

Yesterday, CMSRU Dean **Annette C. Reboli, MD**, announced that Rowan University was granted a waiver to allow resumption of CMSRU's on-site educational programs, including within the medical education building and anatomy laboratory, within the simulation center, and within Cooper University Health Care for the clerkships and electives.

"The health and well-being of every member of the CMSRU community is our number one priority," explained Dr. Reboli. "When we open our campus, all students, faculty and staff will be required to follow best practices to prevent infections, including not coming to work or school if sick; universal masking; social distancing of at least 6 feet; and scrupulous attention to hand hygiene."



CMSRU's resumption of in-person activities will happen gradually and carefully, with some employees being permitted back in the building around June 8 -- if the "shelter at home" order is lifted by the Governor of NJ. Rowan's HR Department will issue further guidance, but it is anticipated that some employees will continue to work remotely for a period of time and/or in shifts in order to maintain social distancing.

For CMSRU students, the new schedule is as follows:

M1

8/10 - Orientation

8/17 - Classes begin

M2

8/10 - Classes begin

M3

6/29 - Orientation (remote)

7/6-7/24 - Extended Step 1 Prep or Wellness time

7/27 - M3 clerkships begin

M4

6/1-6/5 - optional M3 clinical week enhance clinical experiences and meet required learning objectives

6/8-6/26 - M3 Exam period

6/29-7/10 - M3 Block 6 & 7 required clinical immersion time to meet required learning objectives

7/13 - M4 Block 1 begins

"I am looking forward to the resumption of our on-site academic program and look forward to greeting our

students, faculty and staff upon our return to campus,” added Dr. Reboli.

More information regarding CMSRU’s resumption of in-person activities will be provided next week.

Accomplishments, Awards, and Accolades



Congratulations to **Jim Holaska, PhD**, associate professor of biomedical sciences, along with Katherine Bossone and Joseph Ellis, two recent undergraduate students in Dr. Holaska’s lab, on the recent publication of their

manuscript, “Histone acetyltransferase inhibition rescues differentiation of emerin-deficient myogenic progenitors” in *Muscle & Nerve*. This study showed that reducing histone H4 acetylation was sufficient to rescue the impaired muscle stem cell differentiation seen in muscle disease. [Click here to read the paper.](#)



Congratulations to rising M4 student Alec Kellish on the publication of his article on the popular medicine website KevinMD.com. In it, Alec reflects on the importance of listening and spending time interacting

with patients. [Click here to read this insightful essay.](#)

In case you missed it

Medical students create vital connection for critically ill patients’ families, doctors

Last month, senior students from CMSRU created an innovative program in which they communicate back and forth between intensive care unit (ICU) physicians at Cooper University Hospital and patients’ families. [Click here to read](#) about this wonderful program that has served as an important tool and valuable learning experience during the COVID pandemic.

