



Cooper Medical School of Rowan University

June 1, 2020

Dear CMSRU Students, Faculty, and Staff,

Today's message is not about the COVID-19 pandemic, reopening the medical education building, resuming clerkships and onsite activities, or testing. It is a message about the Camden community and pride and hope for the future.

In the days following the tragic death of George Floyd in Minneapolis, we have seen violence erupt in many U.S. cities, including Philadelphia, where police cars were burned and stores vandalized and looted. But not in Camden. Local clergy members said "Camden stands with their police," and the police stood with their community by participating in a peaceful protests over the weekend. It showed leadership, solidarity, collaboration, and unity. For the last several years, the Camden County Police Department has tried a new method of policing and community engagement. Approximately a year ago, they put in place a policy that requires that officers do "everything possible to respect and preserve the sanctity of all human life, avoid unnecessary uses of force, and minimize the force that is used, while still protecting themselves and the public." Their actions seem to be working. After the march ended, law enforcement seized on the positive tone of the day and continued engaging with community residents throughout the evening -- including at pop-up barbecues.

At CMSRU, we are proud of our rich diversity and strive to create a learning environment where everyone feels safe, respected and included. We encourage our students to be strong advocates for the community and to speak up about injustice. Both Rowan University and CMSRU are planning opportunities for groups of students, faculty and staff to have conversations about these issues. Please be attentive to a message from Dr. Jocelyn Mitchell-Williams.

CMSRU is proud to be part of the Camden community and stands with our entire community!

Sincerely,

Annette C. Reboli, M.D.

Annette C. Reboli, MD
Dean and Professor of Medicine