This message applies to all DGSOM faculty, staff, trainees, and students.

Dear Colleagues,

We remain committed to sharing updates with you as they become available. As always, please do not hesitate to reach out to us if you have additional questions.

2021-22 Academic Calendar Released
Please [click here](#) to view the 2021-22 Medical Student Academic Calendar.

COVID-19 Guidance
Medical Student (MS3 & MS4) Clinical Rotations and PUI/COVID Positive Patients
As we closely follow the rising numbers of COVID-19 patients in Los Angeles, and specifically the prevalence of COVID-19 positive patients receiving care at our clerkship and elective sites, it is clear that clinical care delivery in all our clinical training sites is and will increasingly be dominated by COVID-19. We have decided that it is no longer possible or prudent to exclude medical students, specifically MS3 and MS4 students, from participating directly in the care of these patients, and we are lifting the prior restriction of students being involved in the care of patients with COVID-19. Our students are needed in this work, and we also need to equip them with the knowledge of the diagnosis and management of this condition and the comfort of practicing medicine in the worst pandemic of our generation. Our education team is supporting students in this transition and our clinical sites are prepared to support them with PPE and robust teaching.

This change will take place today, Wednesday, January 20, 2021.

As mentioned in the town hall last night, students should reach out to their Assistant and/or Associate Deans to discuss your individual schedules and unique circumstances. For faculty and staff who have questions, please reach out to us at CA@mednet.ucla.edu.

COVID-19 Vaccinations
The great majority of third- and fourth-year students have been invited to receive their vaccination. All first- and second-year students, as well as students on a leave of absence, should be hearing shortly about scheduling their first vaccination, if not already. The Dean’s Office has been liaising on a daily basis with leadership in the Health System overseeing the vaccination rollout program and we continue to be appreciative of the partnership and patience displayed by everyone involved.

COVID-19 Testing
Thanks so much to all students enrolled and are participating in the required surveillance testing as outlined in class messages last year. We would like to remind students that the Ashe Center is
now able to test any student, regardless of whether or not you have UC SHIP insurance, and the testing is covered at 100% (i.e., no charge for students).

**Campus Access**
The Center for Health Sciences, Geffen Hall and the Learning Resource Center (LRC) continue to remain closed and are not open for gatherings, studying, exams, etc. Additionally, the LRC is closed for construction. For additional information, please click here.

**Shadowing Experiences**
Given the need to respect social distancing and density requirements in our clinical settings, shadowing (referring to instances in which as student is working alongside a clinician, but not participating in patient care and not part of a required course) is not currently permitted. We will continue to monitor local trends and provide updates should this status change.

**Town Hall recordings are available here.**

**Volunteer Opportunities**
**Blood & Platelet Center**
A message from the UCLA Blood & Platelet Center: We are still facing a blood shortage during the COVID-19 crisis. While our UCLA patient need for blood products continues to increase, we would encourage you to please consider scheduling a lifesaving donation. Additional details can be found here. If you or someone you know has recovered from COVID-19 infection and are interested in donating convalescent plasma for patient treatment, consider registering as a potential plasma donor at https://www.uclahealth.org/gotblood/covid-19-plasma-donation.

**LA COVID-19 Volunteers**
For volunteer opportunities, please see the LA COVID-19 Volunteers website for additional information.

**COVID-19 Vaccine Effort**
UCLA Health is pleased to be launching a major COVID-19 vaccine effort, starting with our front-line health care workers in the highest risk tier. This is a massive public health effort and we’re looking for volunteers to assist! The vaccine center is in need of volunteers to assist with registering staff, assisting the team during the vaccination events, and overseeing people in the post-vaccine recovery area. They are also interested in having site administrators to oversee the process for the 2 shifts each day. The vaccines will be delivered in the basement of Ronald Reagan Medical Center in Westwood and at UCLA Medical Center, Santa Monica.
- Volunteers are needed from 6am-9:30pm – Monday thru Saturday and on Sundays from 6am-9:30am and also from 6pm-9:30pm. Hours are flexible.
- Volunteer administrator hours would be from 6:00am- to 2:30 pm and 2:00pm- 9:30pm.
To volunteer, please contact Sheri Monsein at: SMonsein@mednet.ucla.edu or Alex Wittenberg at: AWittenberg@mednet.ucla.edu.

**Class Specific Updates**

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### MS1 Summary of Curricular Updates

1. **EACE**
   - All in-person EACE activities have been suspended for the month of January. Virtual activities may be required for some or all sites. No decision has been made yet about EACE activities in February.

2. **Histopathology**
   - All histopathology labs in Block 3 will take place remotely via Zoom.

3. **Anatomy Labs**
   - Anatomy labs will continue to take place in person unless you have opted out. **If you have opted out**, Dr. Stark’s strong advice is to study the material weekly, as it is released, including the quizzes. It will be much easier to review in the summer than start from scratch at that time.

4. **Block 2 Grades**
   - Block 2 Grades will be released this week.

5. **Block 2 OSCE & Final CSI Session postponed until Block 4**
   - The Block 2 OSCE and the final CS1 session has been rescheduled to take place during Block 4. Stay tuned for additional scheduling details.

For specifics, please refer to the 12/31/20 MS1 Update and the 1/10/21 Notes from EACE Program Director Dr. Adriana Izquierdo emails.

### MS2 Summary of Curricular Updates

1. **Block 9 is available on Gryphon!**

2. **Preceptorship**
   - This year, you will only be required to complete four preceptorship visits total for the entire MS2 year. You are welcome to complete more, but only four visits will be required to meet course requirements. We have added an additional Preceptorship Visit on 2/16, 2/17, 2/18 (Week 4 of Block 9). Please continue to upload your attendance cards to obtain credit for your visits and to satisfy course requirements.

### Recent Class Meetings
All presentations are posted to MyCourses under **There are NEW and UPDATED notices.**
- AAMC Careers in Medicine & Mechanics of Scheduling Third Year Clerkships
- MS4 Panel - Third Year and Required Clerkships
Clinical Rotations and PUI/COVID Positive Patients
We believe it is no longer possible or prudent to exclude medical students, specifically MS3 and MS4 students, in the care of PUI or COVID+ patients. We see this opportunity as key in the preparation to become a physician. This will take effect today, Wednesday, January 20th, 2021.

Third-year students should meet with their society dean or Dr. Calmes to discuss their individual circumstances if they would like to take time away from the curriculum.

Upcoming Class Meetings via Zoom
All presentations will be posted to MyCourses under There are NEW and UPDATED notices.

- AAMC Careers in Medicine (CiM) & Mechanics of Scheduling 4th Year Electives
  Date: Wednesday January 20, 2021 | 5:30pm – 7:00 PM
- Introduction to the Residency Application & ERAS
  Date: Monday February 1, 2021 | 5:30 – 7:00 PM
- 4th Year College Welcome Meetings
  Date: Dates TBA | 5:30 – 7:00 PM

Please refer to the 1/14/21 SAO email Upcoming Mandatory Meetings - Wednesday, January 20th @ 5:30 pm for additional information and Zoom links.
Summary of Curricular Updates

1. ICU Deadline Extended
   Effective January 5th the deadline for completing your ICU rotation is now the end of the Spring 2021 semester for those of you planning to graduate this June. We ask that you complete this elective by April 30th, 2021.

2. Assessment for Internship will be Remote
   While we are finalizing the schedule for Assessment for Internship for March 8-12th, we wanted to inform you that the entirety of the course will be delivered remotely. All sessions will be live with faculty instructors engaging with you in real-time observing your performance of a number of clinical skills and providing you valuable feedback in preparation for starting residency.

Clinical Rotations and PUI/COVID Positive Patients
We believe it is no longer possible or prudent to exclude medical students, specifically MS3 and MS4 students, in the care of PUI or COVID+ patients. We see this opportunity as key in the preparation to become a physician. This will take effect today, Wednesday, January 20th, 2021.

Fourth-year students should meet with their society dean or Dr. Calmes to discuss their individual circumstances if they would like to take time away from the curriculum.

Match Day and Commencement
While we are unfortunately unable to gather in person to celebrate these milestones, planning is underway to create special virtual events to honor the accomplishments of the Class of 2021. Please stay tuned for additional information in the coming months.

LOA Students
For students returning from leaves of absence or thinking about taking a leave of absence please continue to reach out to your specialty mentor, Assistant Dean, Program Director, Dr. Calmes or Dr. Miller regarding your individual schedules and unique circumstances.

All our best,

Ashley Siemer
Director of Curricular Affairs

Brandon Susselman
Director of Student Affairs

Jason Napolitano, MD
Associate Dean for Curricular Affairs

Lee Miller, MD
Associate Dean for Student Affairs

Edward Ha, MD
Assistant Dean for Clinical Education