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.

Driving Real Change in the Learning Environment
At DGSOM, one of the most important priorities in our education program is to provide students with the highest quality clinical learning experiences within an environment grounded in integrity and respect. While we have established some initiatives in the past few years to address learning environment issues, these efforts have not resulted in sufficient positive change in this critically important area. As such, we are pleased to announce that the Dean’s Office will be launching a major school-wide initiative to improve the clinical learning environment.

To help launch this new initiative we are asking that Course Chairs please relieve all third- and fourth-year medical students of duties beginning at noon (and for the entirety of the afternoon) next Thursday, November 5th to attend an afternoon meeting with Dean Martin and Vice Dean Braddock. In this space, students will be asked to provide insight into their experience of the learning environment, which will be used to inform leadership as we develop plans for the next steps of this key initiative.

In addition to meeting with the third- and fourth-year students we are also planning to reach out and seek insight from first- and second-year students regarding the pre-clerkship learning environment.

As part of this important work, we are encouraging students to report incidents of mistreatment through the Mistreatment Incident Reporting Form (MIRF) rather than course evaluations. Submitting incidents through the MIRF allows the Committee on Learning Environment Oversight (CLEO) to rapidly activate a robust set of processes to respond to reports of mistreatment and provides students additional options in the degree to which they choose to remain anonymous or be included in any follow-up. Although we will continue to gather mistreatment incidence data through course evaluations, all questions that ask about specific incidents of mistreatment will be retired. The link to the MIRF will continue to be widely available across a variety of DGSOM websites and will now be included in all course evaluations.

We Strongly Encourage You to Exercise Your Right to Vote
Voting is one of the most important responsibilities and privileges of living in a democracy.
- Students: As we near the day of the Presidential Election, we know that many student communities may benefit from attending facilitated spaces for debriefing and reflecting on the results. Please see the table below listing the spaces. You can find additional information on these open spaces at the [Bruins Vote Community Calendar](https://medschool.ucla.edu/bwc) or reference the attached Voting Message that went out on 10/28/20 for voting information and resources.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Space Description</th>
<th>Dates and Times</th>
<th>Additional Information</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Behavioral Wellness Center (BWC) Drop in Breathe Out Sessions.</td>
<td>Wednesday, November 4th, 10:00am and 12:00pm</td>
<td><a href="https://uclahs.zoom.us/j/95862534219">https://uclahs.zoom.us/j/95862534219</a>. Additional details listed below under “Reporting &amp; Support Resources” or visit <a href="https://medschool.ucla.edu/bwc">https://medschool.ucla.edu/bwc</a>.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Thursday, November 5th at 1:00pm</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Participants may join by navigating to</td>
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<td>Office of Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion; A Conversation on Community (for staff, faculty, and students) This is an election related space.</td>
<td>November 5, 11:30-1:00 pm</td>
<td>Rusty Kilbaner <a href="mailto:rklibaner@equity.ucla.edu">rklibaner@equity.ucla.edu</a></td>
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<td></td>
<td>**Note: A valid UCLA email address is required to join</td>
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<td>Student Affairs, via the RISE Center, is hosting open election reflection spaces for undergraduate and graduate students.</td>
<td>November 4, 11, 18, 25; Dec. 2, 9 5:00-6:00 pm</td>
<td>Andrea Letamendi <a href="mailto:aletamendi@orl.ucla.edu">aletamendi@orl.ucla.edu</a> Josh O'Connor <a href="mailto:joconnor@orl.ucla.edu">joconnor@orl.ucla.edu</a></td>
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<td>Zoom link: <a href="https://uclazoom.us/j/91910418868">https://uclazoom.us/j/91910418868</a></td>
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- For Faculty, Staff and Trainees please visit the [Bruin’s Vote website](https://medschool.ucla.edu/bwc) or [Bruins Vote Community Calendar](https://medschool.ucla.edu/bwc) for voting information and resources

**Reporting & Support Resources**

- **DGSOM Reporting and Support Resources Website**: UCLA has a robust system of reporting and support resources for those in need of guidance, counseling or resolution services. Use this webpage to navigate the different options available to you, which range from confidential counseling and anonymous reporting to mental health support and emergency services.
The Behavioral Wellness Center (BWC) Breathe Out - Drop-in Spaces to Cultivate Student Community: The BWC invites DGSOM students to “drop-in” each week for the next several weeks to connect with peers and BWC staff during this season of societal stress. There is no need to RSVP or sign-in as a client of the Behavioral Wellness Center in order to join these spaces. Participants may join by navigating to https://uclahs.zoom.us/j/95862534219. They will be asked to sign into Zoom using their Mednet/UCLA address in order to access these spaces. Upcoming Dates and Times:
- Wednesday, November 4th, 10:00am and 12:00pm
- Thursday, November 5th at 1:00pm

2020 Cultural North Star Award
The annual Cultural North Star Award is designed to recognize an individual who has gone above and beyond to exemplify DGSOM’s Cultural North Star values in their work, actions or interactions. Typically, the Cultural North Star Award recipient would be announced at our annual Cultural North Star Day event. This year, the award winner will be recognized virtually. The awardee will also receive a $500 prize.

2021 UCLA PREP Announcement
The DGSOM Office of Outreach & Pipeline Programs is pleased to announce the return of a four-week UCLA Pre-Medical Enrichment Program (PREP) 2021 Virtually from June 15th – July 9th. Students will receive an introduction to the MCAT course, individual advising, personal and professional development workshops, connections with current medical students and faculty, and a guided walkthrough of the AMCAS application components.

COVID-19 Guidance
COVID-19 Testing
As we continue to work together to ensure a safe environment for teaching and learning at UCLA, we are now engaging in a robust COVID-19 testing, contact tracing and isolation program. If you are attending on-campus classes, you are in Group 1 and have mandatory weekly testing. If you are not attending on campus classes but you are living in campus housing, you are in Group 2 and have mandatory biweekly testing. Please refer to the email from Dean Miller for class specific testing details. If you are currently in clinical rotations, not living in campus housing and not going to campus, you are currently exempt from mandated testing.

Face Shield Distribution
All staff, students and faculty should obtain face shields before participating in any patient care or on-campus activities. Please note, you will receive two face shields: UShield for clinical use and iShieldMax for classes/admin work/meetings/etc. Please bring your ID badge to Materials Management to pick up your shields on Monday-Friday during normal business hours (8 AM-4:00PM) at the following locations:
- Ronald Reagan: B-301
- Santa Monica Hospital: B-415

Campus Access
To help promote a safer environment, campus access remains limited to essential staff, residents, students attending in-person classes, and approved essential visitors. 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. For additional information, please visit: https://www.studentaffairs.ucla.edu/guidebook/campus-access.

Shadowing Experiences
Given the need to respect social distancing and density requirements and preserve mandatory in-person activities (for example EACE, Preceptorship, third year clerkships, electives, etc.) 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 the local trends and provide updates should this status change.

Town Hall recordings are available here.

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

Class Specific Updates

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<th>Class</th>
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<tr>
<td>MS1</td>
<td><strong>EACE Open Office Hours – Friday, 11/6 at 3:00pm</strong>&lt;br&gt;We hope you had a wonderful time getting to know your Site Director and health-care team members during your first EACE session. We have heard from your class leadership that it would be helpful to host another town hall with the EACE Leadership team to answer additional questions and create a space for open dialogue about how things are going. We’ve scheduled an optional EACE Office Hour session for this Friday, 11/6 at 3:00pm.</td>
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<th>MS2</th>
<th>Y2Q Request</th>
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|     | We kindly request that you complete the AAMC Year Two Questionnaire (Y2Q), which is available until January 3, 2021. To encourage full participation and thank you for your contribution, we will provide a $10 Amazon e-gift card to each student who completes the Y2Q and, if 90% of your class completes the Y2Q, we will donate a total of $1500 across the following three DGSOM initiatives: Dream Campaign (DACA Scholarship), Mobile Clinic Project, and Food Closet. We value your honest feedback about your educational experience at DGSOM! For additional information, please see the emails from “Y2Q Survey” and “DGSOM Program Evaluation”.

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<th>Spring Semester - No Opt-Out Option</th>
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|     | As previously communicated, there will not be a choice to opt-out of in-person activities for the spring 2021 semester (January-June). To share some additional details now, the curriculum will be “hybrid” with activities such as lectures and PBL remaining remote, and other activities including Preceptorship and Clinical Skills sessions being in-person. We’ll continue to provide updates and details regarding mandatory in person sessions as they become available. For those of you who would like to be considered for UCLA Housing, we recommend that you submit an application as soon as possible.

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<th>Preceptorship Assignments &amp; Transportation</th>
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|     | We’re working hard to place all students with Preceptorship assignments in this challenging time. Please be advised that given the rich network of educational experiences at affiliate hospitals, community clinics and practices, all students at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA must have reliable transportation as indicated in the transportation policy. If you have a documented disability that may be the basis for an accommodation related to this policy, please contact the UCLA Center for Accessible Education (CAE).

<table>
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<th>Update to the USMLE Step 1 - Deadline</th>
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|     | The Medical Education Committee has approved a new policy that states that students in the Class of 2023 must simply take their USMLE Step 1 examination before they can begin fourth-year clinical rotations (electives or sub-internships). In short, you can take your test any time between the end of second year and the beginning of fourth year. You will still have a dedicated study period following Block 9, but it will be your choice as to whether you take your examination during that period or wait to take it during or after your clerkship year. Please reference the email you received from Dr. Napolitano on October 16 for additional details.

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<th>Planning for Next Year</th>
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<td>We look forward to getting together virtually with your entire class on December 7th at 3:00 PM for an Introduction to USMLE Step 1 and Third Year. Please stay tuned for more details closer to this date.</td>
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Driving Real Change in the Learning Environment Initiative
we ask that every one of you join Dean Martin and Vice Dean Braddock on Thursday, November 5 from 2-3:30 pm for an open dialogue about the clinical learning environment at DGSOM. All MS3 and MS4 students will be excused from clinical rotations beginning at noon for this session. We will create a space intentionally designed to provide us with insight into your experiences and inform our plans for the next steps of the initiative.

Update to the USMLE Step 1 - Deadline
The Medical Education Committee (MEC) has approved a new policy that states that students in the Class of 2022 (and future classes) must simply take their USMLE Step 1 examination before they may begin fourth year clinical rotations (electives or sub-internships). In short, the deadline date previously approved (July 11, 2021) has been removed to provide additional flexibility to meet your individual needs.

Planning for Next Year
We look forward to getting together virtually with your entire class on December 7th at 5:30 PM for an Introduction to Fourth Year and the Colleges. Please stay tuned for more details closer to this date.

Driving Real Change in the Learning Environment Initiative
we ask that every one of you join Dean Martin and Vice Dean Braddock on Thursday, November 5 from 2-3:30 pm for an open dialogue about the clinical learning environment at DGSOM. All MS3 and MS4 students will be excused from clinical rotations beginning at noon for this session. We will create a space intentionally designed to provide us with insight into your experiences and inform our plans for the next steps of the initiative.

ERAS is open to Residency Programs
Below are some resources from the AAMC/ERAS. Nothing new, more just a reminder of tools to use as you navigate interview season.

- ERAS Tools and Worksheets for 2021 Residency Applicants
- Specialty Response to COVID-19
- ERAS COVID-19 Frequent Asked Questions (FAQs)
- ERAS 2021 Recorded Webinars for Residency Applicants
- Effectively Utilizing ERAS
- AAMC Tools for a Successful Residency Application
- Effectively Utilizing ERAS: Q&A session
- Residency Explorer comparison tool
- New data released from Diminishing Returns to support students in deciding how many programs to apply to

If you have any questions, please contact ERAS Client Technical Support available Monday – Friday, 8 a.m. – 6 p.m. ET.
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<tr>
<th><strong>LOA Students</strong></th>
<th>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.</th>
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All our best,

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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