Dear All,

As we continue to navigate this dynamic situation we remain committed to sharing with you updates as they become available. As always, please do not hesitate to reach out to us if you have additional questions.

**Faculty Position Announcements**

**Structural Racism & Health Equity Theme Chair**

The Structural Racism & Health Equity Theme Chair at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA will work together with all Block, Thread, Clerkship, Systems Based Healthcare and College Chairs to ensure a robust focus on anti-racism, structural and social determinants of health and health equity throughout all four years of the medical school curriculum. For additional details please see the attached announcement.

**Assistant Dean for Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion**

The Assistant Dean for Equity and Diversity Inclusion (EDI) at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA will work together with all deans and staff of the EDI Office in providing guidance and leading activities to advance equity and diversity inclusion with a focus on medical students. For additional details please see the attached announcement.

**COVID-19 Testing on Campus**

Students received an email from Deans Miller and Napolitano yesterday regarding COVID-19 testing on Campus. That email is attached for your review.

**Enrolling in UCLA Health Symptom Tacker**

All students should complete UCLA Health’s daily symptom tracker and you must monitor yourself for symptoms daily. To enroll, please follow this link: [https://uclahs.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_bIJs2HsqqgM5v6t?new_reg=1](https://uclahs.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_bIJs2HsqqgM5v6t?new_reg=1) and complete the form using the information provided below.

- For Supervisors Name please insert Curricular Affairs.
- For Primary work site please select Ronald Reagan Hospital (RRMC).
- For Job Category please select Student.

**Face Shield Distribution for ALL Students**

All students 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

Town Hall recordings are available [here](#).

Volunteer Opportunities

A message from the UCLA Blood & Platelet Center: We are currently 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](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 Updates

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class Year</th>
<th>Updates</th>
<th>7/15/20</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>MS1s</strong></td>
<td>We look forward to formally welcoming you to medical school during the remote Introduction to the Profession course, which will commence on Monday, August 3, 2020. Additional details regarding specific scheduling, introduction materials, and the textbook and equipment listing will go out later this week. Our overall plan is to continue with “hybrid instruction,” with many educational activities conducted remotely, and a small number of educational activities for which in-person instruction is essential. Please note that for all students, only activities that require an in-person experience for optimal learning will be conducted on campus. Lectures, Problem-Based Learning sessions, Doctoring sessions, and some laboratories that may be adequately taught virtually will remain remote. In-person instruction will begin the week of Monday, August 10th so please plan accordingly. There will be approximately one – three in person activities/week.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>2020-21 Pre-Clerkship Exam Calendar</strong></td>
<td>Is now available on our website here: <a href="https://medschool.ucla.edu/current-student-calendars">https://medschool.ucla.edu/current-student-calendars</a></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>MS2</strong></td>
<td>Option to Opt-Out of In-Person Instruction</td>
<td>MS2 students have the option to opt-out of in-person activities for the Fall semester (August - December). To take the survey and opt-out of instruction, please follow the individual survey link that was emailed to you</td>
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last Tuesday, 7/7/20 with the subject line: Class of 2023 - Opt Out Qualtrics Survey. An email reminder was also sent directly to those of you who have not yet submitted the survey yesterday afternoon.

For those who do not opt out by this Friday, July 17th, 2020 you will be required to attend in-person sessions for the semester, following the standard HB&D attendance guidelines.

FAQs
The email sent out from Deans Miller and Napolitano, including the frequently asked questions document, is attached. We have had a few additional questions that have come in and wanted to add them here for your review.

- Will opting out of in-person sessions affect my ability to gain CA Residency?
  Any questions about establishing CA residency should be referred to the Residency Deputy in Murphy Hall. They have added updates related to the impact of COVID that you can find here: https://www.registrar.ucla.edu/Fees-Residence/Residence-Requirements/Classification-as-a-Resident
- Students who choose to opt-out will not be doing preceptorship for that first semester. Will their transcripts differ from the transcripts of students who decide to attend in-person classes?
  The Preceptorship is classified as a thread that runs throughout the block curriculum and so it does not appear as a stand-alone course on your transcript. The transcript of those who choose to opt-out will appear no different than a student who elected to participate in the in-person activities.
- Is there any way that residency programs will know that certain students have decided to opt-out?
  No, we will not be articulating this on the transcript or in the MSPE.

2020-21 Pre-Clerkship Exam Calendar
Is now available on our website here: https://medschool.ucla.edu/current-student-calendars

MS3
Patient Log Clarification
Students should log every patient they encounter in which they are active care participants (perform at least 1 clinical skill) during the direct patient care component. For any of the required diagnoses/complaints/conditions that are not encountered in direct patient care, an alternative method can be utilized (e.g., online case module, didactic).

Shelf Exam Update
We are still uncertain when we will be able to host in person exams. It is our recommendation that if at all possible, you sit for your exams remotely, and no later than the end of your direct patient care portion of the clerkship. If there are extenuating circumstances that prevent you from taking your shelf exams in the remote environment, please reach out to Student affairs at DGSOMSAO@mednet.ucla.edu.

FAQs
- Since there is a new wave of COVID cases coming, are there plans in place to move folks back from in-person to remote clerkships?
  There are no plans to return to fully remote clerkships at the moment. Such a decision is not dependent solely on the local numbers. A change back to remote instruction would be contemplated if PPE supply becomes limited or it becomes impossible to meet the educational objectives of clerkships. For example, if all elective surgeries are shut down to make space for COVID patients, then we would have to reconsider some or all in-person clerkships.

MS4
Coming Soon - New Virtual Emergency Medicine Elective
Please stay tuned for additional details next week!

Brief summary and Follow up from Clerkship Chairs Meeting 7/2 RE: LOA students
After our conversation on June 23rd we had three specific questions to present to the Clerkship Chairs Committee. We’d like now to share with you a brief summary from the meeting:

1. **Ambulatory Medicine Shelf Exam**
   
   We shared with the committee the concerns you expressed regarding the Incomplete grade designation for students who had taken Ambulatory Medicine in Block 11 or Block 12 of the last Academic Year (19-20), but who have not yet been able to sit for the shelf exam. The committee voted unanimously to remove the shelf exam requirement for students who took their Ambulatory Medicine clerkship during any period of time that was COVID-19 impacted. These recommendations will go to the Faculty Executive Committee (FEC) for final approval. Once they are formally accepted, we will be messaging all MS4s. The only students who will still be required to sit for the Ambulatory Medicine shelf exam are those who completed their rotation prior to the COVID-impacted clerkships who either failed the exam or did not sit for the exam due to personal reasons. For those students, we are exploring the possibility of offering the examination in-person following masking and physical distancing guidelines. Please stay tuned on this.

2. **Including Narrative Comments in Summative Feedback from Previous Clerkship Experiences**

   Those of you who completed one-week on the Inpatient Medicine clerkship immediately prior to the time when ward experiences were paused due to COVID asked whether written feedback from this time on the Internal Medicine service would be incorporated into your final summative evaluations, and potentially into your MSPE comments. We verified with our Inpatient Medicine Clerkship Chair that these comments will in fact be included in your final evaluations.

3. **Consideration of “Opt-in” to 4-tier Grading for Remaining Clerkships**

   During our discussion on June 23rd, several students requested that we explore with the Clerkship Chairs Committee whether off cycle and leave of absence students could “opt-in” to 4-tiered grading for their remaining clerkships. This question was discussed in depth by the committee, and below are the salient points that were raised:
   
   a. The chairs heard the concerns that not all student voices were part of the MS3 survey that was previously presented to the committee. The chairs wanted to provide assurance that their decision to move to a credit/no-credit grading system for all students completing clerkships during Academic Year 20-21 was not swayed by the student survey. The chairs reiterated that their decision was based more on whether accurate assessments could be made during shorter in-person experiences and the possible inequities that may result from evaluating students that may be unequally affected by COVID-19.
   
   b. Many of the chairs have clear insights into the residency selection process given their other roles in their home departments. They conveyed their very strong belief that residency programs will be taking a more holistic approach to evaluating applicants this year. Residency programs are expecting to review applicant files with significantly disparate numbers of tiered grades, pass/fails, and “incompletes” this year, and they will therefore be compelled to look much more closely at written comments, letters of recommendation, and performance on fourth-year rotations.
   
   c. It was emphasized that all clerkships taken this year under the credit/no-credit system will be clearly identified as COVID-impacted in the MSPE. This will provide a clear signal to residency programs that the move to credit/no-credit was due to COVID and therefore the number of clerkships graded on the 4-tiered system should in no way be used to compare students.
   
   d. Committee members felt strongly that residency prospects for off-cycle and leave of absence DGSOM students would not be impacted negatively by credit/no-credit grading.
   
   e. A committee member reminded the group that to date all decisions about grading for each academic year have applied to all students completing the clerkship during the academic
year, regardless of whether students are in their third-year or are completing the clerkship near the start of the fourth year.

f. By the end of the discussion, there was unanimous agreement by the clerkship chairs that it would not be optimal to have students opt in to 4-tier grading for any clerkships taking place this academic year for the aforementioned reasons.

We also wanted to remind you that there will not be any student comparisons at the end of the MSPE this year. We thank you for sharing your concerns with us as they led to a very robust discussion with the clerkship chairs and further clarity on decision-making surrounding core clerkship grading. We know this has been a challenging year for numerous reasons, and we are committed to doing the best that we can to make decisions that are in your best interests. We will ensure that more efforts are made to include the voices of LOA students in all issues moving forward.

| 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