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Sent: Thursday, August 15, 2019 12:26 PM
To: LCOM Class Of 2022
Cc: Cook, Deborah L. <deborah.l.cook@uvmhealth.org>
Subject: Welcome Letter from Dr. Deborah Cook, Connections Course Director

A MESSAGE FROM DR. DEBORAH COOK, CONNECTIONS COURSE DIRECTOR:

Welcome (almost) back!

I hope that you have had a great summer and found some time to relax and explore. The fall semester is nearly upon us and there are a few details you need to know before you return.

I am the Course Director for Connections which begins **Monday, August 19th**. We are fortunate to have Julie Chiappinelli as our Course Coordinator. We will host a welcome back breakfast (bagels, fruit, coffee/tea) for you that morning starting at 8:00am in **Med Ed 302 and 303**, followed by an introduction to the course in **Med Ed 300** at 8:30am.

Connections is often described as a short and sweet (but *intense*) course and, as you will see from the schedule, we will hit the floor running. You will learn some valuable skills concerning the musculoskeletal and integumentary (skin) systems, work through cases in small and large class settings with some talented facilitators, and meet some very interesting patients. The VIC Calendar is now available (however, we are still actively building the content in it and VICPortal). Please read the syllabus so that you are familiar with the course, and be aware that there is a Clinical Skills exam on **Thursday, September 5th** and only **one** Summative Examination for the course on **Friday, September 6th**.

There are a few other items that you should be aware of before the course begins:

1. Many of the sessions will be utilizing the Case-based Learning (CBL) modality. Like Team-based Learning (TBL), these sessions will have preparatory material that must be completed prior to the session. Each session will also require a short (7-10 multiple-choice questions) Readiness Quiz (RQ) testing objectives from the preparatory material. The RQ must be completed by 7:00am the day of the session. **All of the faculty in Connections are clinicians who are eager to teach you about their specialties. Attendance and participation during the in-class sessions are essential for the learning experience in the active learning format!**
2. **The first CBL session is Monday morning August 19th at 9:00am** (yes, first day of the course). The preparatory material and RQ for this session are posted in the VIC Calendar. Please complete these prior to the session.
3. Students should bring their audience response system clickers to all sessions.
4. Please test your computers as soon as you arrive back on campus and if you are experiencing any technical issues with your laptop or your account, please see COMIS as soon as possible to get it fixed. COMIS is open from 7:30 – 5:00 Monday – Friday.

We hope that you will enjoy your reintroduction to medical school academics and the beginning of your second year! We are looking forward to seeing you and sharing your enthusiasm. Let me, or Julie, know if there are any questions and we'll see you in a few days.

Deb Cook, MD
Course Director

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