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Subject: COVID-19 and medical education updates

Hello Class of 2021,

Thank you for all your patience and flexibility as the world responds to COVID-19. We understand that this has been a trying and confusing time for many and wanted to take a moment to provide some information, with the understanding that this is a very dynamic and rapidly changing situation.

It is the Larner College of Medicine's goal to graduate the class of 2021 fully prepped and ready to enter residency next May. The current plan is for students to remain enrolled throughout this time period and continue to take courses, though the year ahead may look different for the class of 2021 than it has for prior classes.

As it currently stands, in alignment with recommendations put forth by the AAMC, all LCOM medical student clinical activities have been suspended until April 5th, 2020. In an effort to limit the amount of time students are delayed entry into clinical activities, while also balancing the health and safety of the public, **the current plan is for students to resume clinical activities on April 6th, 2020, though this may change** and have to be postponed to a later date. If students are unable to resume clinical activities at that time, there are several non-clinical activities that students will be able to participate in, with new opportunities being added, including an online course on COVID-19.

This situation is constantly evolving and there is an inherent level of uncertainty when we try to plan around this. We will have to reevaluate as things change, though we will try to keep you as up to date as possible throughout this process. We are also working on a centralized website to post regular updates.

Updates on specific areas:

LCOM Acting Internships/electives – As of this time, students remain enrolled in Acting Internships and electives and the Office of Medical Student Education is working with departments to ensure centralized communication regarding any changes. Although student involvement may have to look different depending on the department and site, the Office of Medical Student Education will work closely with students to identify other educational experiences if one of your rotations needs to be cancelled, to support your residency application and medical education progress. At this point, if you receive specific information about a rotation, please pass the information along to [Dr. Eldakar-Hein](#) to review.

Away Rotations – Per national recommendations, LCOM and medical schools across the country are suspending away rotations. Away rotations at LCOM are suspended until 5/31/2020. The Council of Residency Directors in Emergency Medicine Advising Students Committee has written a [consensus statement](#) regarding standardized letters of evaluation (SLOEs) and away rotations. We will continue to monitor updates from other specialties.

Step 2 CS/CK – Currently all U.S. and Canadian [Prometric](#) testing centers are closed until 4/16 and all Clinical Skills Evaluation Collaboration test centers which offer the USMLE Step 2 Clinical Skills exam are closed until 4/13. It is possible that closures will last longer, and we are monitoring for updates from the NBME. Eligibility periods will be extended automatically, requiring no action from examinees. We are looking into options for additional Step 2 study time for students who need to delay their exam.

Residency Applications – At this time there have been no official changes to the residency application timeline. It is not every year that 4th year medical students have to deal with a pandemic viral outbreak – If you spend more time participating in non-clinical activities or are unable to participate in as many sub-Is as you had planned, it is our expectation that program directors will be understanding of the situation the world is facing.

Please know that the medical student services team remains available to all of you for advice and support. You can sign up for a drop in meeting with any members of the medical student services leadership [here](#) (see *Sign up for a Drop-in Meeting* on the right side of the screen, midway down). Thank you again for your patience and understanding throughout all of this. Take care of yourselves and continue taking care of each other.

Best,

Your class of 2021 reps from Student Council, SEG, and MCC
and
Deans Zehle, Kulaga, Eldakar-Hein and Menon