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**Sent:** Wednesday, May 13, 2020 11:03 PM  
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**Subject:** Wednesday Weekly Wonders - Have a great week!

### Wednesday Weekly Wonders

Dear Students,

Happy Wednesday! Today it was sunny and a balmy 52 degrees in Vermont! I will focus on this week's highlights, some class specific information, and FAQs that we have received.

#### Highlights from this week:

- **Clinical** (as of Tuesday May 12, 2020)
  - o 1 new case in Vermont
  - o UVMHC: 2 Positives, 9 PUI, 36 positive employees
  - o Hospital starting to test all admitted patients to inform on patient placement and use of PPE, provide reassurance and security to staff and community, and reinforce the Governor's goals to increase overall testing
  - o Patient Safety Metrics:
    - 59 days since our last serious safety event.
    - 20 days since our last catheter-associated urinary tract infection (CAUTI).
    - 43 days since our last hospital onset C diff case.
    - 38 days since our last central line-associated bloodstream infection (CLABSI).
- **Education**
  - o The Coalition for Physician Accountability's Work Group on Medical Students in the Class of 2021 Moving Across Institutions for Post Graduate Training provided their final recommendations, and executive summary and compendium resources (for more information see Class of 2021 notes)
  - o Electronic Residency Application Service (ERAS) announced an updated timeline for the residency application process
  - o Visiting Student Learning Opportunities (VSLO) announced updates on the Visiting Student Application Service (VSAS)
- **Research**
  - o Plan to begin cautious phased reopening of LCOM research laboratories beginning on Monday, May 18, 2020.
    - Phase 1 (May 18-31) – Only approved essential research faculty, staff, and graduate and postdoctoral trainees, as well as physicians with offices in MEDPLEX, and medical education essential personnel.
    - Phase 2 (June 1-14) - Additional nonessential research personnel including faculty, staff, and medical student, graduate and postdoctoral research trainees.
    - Phase 3 (June 15<sup>th</sup> and beyond) - Consideration of other nonessential personnel including administrative staff and additional student researchers.

#### Class of 2020:

- Regalia packages are in the mail! Due to some institutional limitations, we were unable to conduct a class gift survey, nevertheless we hope you will enjoy your gift and use it to select something that is meaningful to you.
- [A special message from an LCOM alumnus, Michael Ohkura '18, who sent a note to the class after he was unable to participate in the Residency Panel last week.](#)
- We look forward to celebrating your tremendous accomplishment this weekend! Though we too are disappointed not to be able to hold an in-person ceremony, we will do our very best to honor this important

milestone in your medical education through a virtual graduation ceremony. The ceremony will be held on Sunday, May 17 beginning at 2:45 pm and livestreamed for family and friends.

- Please [join us virtually](#) for the Class of 2020 Commencement Ceremony.
- [Click here](#) to view the Commencement Program.
- As discussed in other forums we also look forward to celebrating with you all in person when we are able to do so and are exploring options, including a celebration at your 1<sup>st</sup> class reunion in October 2021.
- [AMA Tribute to Medical School Class of 2020](#)

### **Class of 2021**

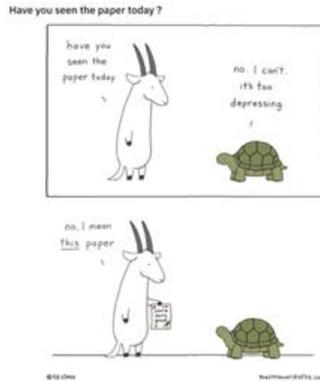
- We remain hopeful that we can begin our Advanced Integration clinical activities on June 1, 2020 and are working closely with our clinical affiliate sites.
- ERAS has determined that on **Wednesday, October 21, 2020, residency programs will gain access to applications and MSPEs will be released to residency programs.** These date changes are reflected on the [ERAS 2021 Residency Application Timeline](#).
- **What does this mean for step 2?**
  - Exams typically take 3-4 weeks to score and thus exams taken at the end of September will presumably be available when program directors are able to review applications.
- **What does this mean for Letters of Recommendation (LOR) and Medical Student Performance Evaluation (MSPE) content?**
  - Advanced Integration coursework through September and in some cases early October can be a source for LOR and/or MSPE content.
- **What training will be required?**
  - More information about fit testing and PPE donning/doffing is forthcoming
- Information about specialty specific guidelines, including newly added ophthalmology guidelines, can be found on the [AAMC Specialty Response to COVID-19](#) webpage.

### **Class of 2022**

- We remain hopeful that we can begin our Clerkship clinical activities on July 13<sup>th</sup>. Alternative options include:
  - needing to assign students originally assigned to other affiliate sites to Vermont
    - St. Mary's Hospital in West Palm Beach is uncertain if/when they will allow learners in their clinical environment
    - Connecticut continues to address PPE resource shortages
  - additional non-clinical clerkship course work and a late August start for clinical activities.
- The Medical Curriculum Committee will vote on the clerkship grading options below at their meeting next Tuesday, May 19, 2020.
  - Making the NBME or clerkship subject exam pass/fail. No honors cut off. The exam score would not be used to determine an honors grade.
  - Making the Clinical Skills Exams (CSEs) a maximum of 3 stations for each clerkship.
  - Making the CSEs formative only, ungraded. The CSE will not be used to determine the clerkship grade.
  - Making the entire clerkship pass/fail. No honors in clerkships.
- Locker clean out deadline of July 1, 2020 will be extended and there will be options for students who are unable to return to campus to clean out their locker. More information will be forthcoming from OMSE.
- Clerkship shelf exams will occur at the end of the clinical portion of each clerkship.

### **Class of 2023**

- We are aware of the issues related to the Medical Neuroscience exam this week and are working to improve our processes to avoid future problems.
- 5 more weeks till "schools out for summer", hang in there you are all doing great!



## All students

- Quarantine update – <https://www.healthvermont.gov/sites/default/files/documents/pdf/HAN-COVID-19-ChangetoQuarantine.pdf>. The following is from the Vermont Department of Health: *Based on data in the medical literature, almost 100% of individuals develop symptoms within 11 ½ days after exposure to an individual with COVID-19. Therefore, the recommended period of quarantine is being changed to 12 days. Individuals who are in quarantine can be tested on or after day 7; if the results are negative and they are asymptomatic, they can end quarantine (they should remain in quarantine while awaiting test results).*
  - o For students returning from out-of-state clerkships to UVM for a rotation or an AI, the Wellness Committee would like to remind you that we are here as a resource. If a quarantine is necessary for you, Wellness can assist you as you navigate the difficulties such as obtaining groceries, etc., through platforms like Instacart or by direct committee assistance. We are happy to help with any practical (or psychological) needs that you may have in your transition back to Vermont. Please don't hesitate to reach out to your committee representatives or any Wellness member.
- Additional information is located on the [Medical Student COVID-19 Information](#) web site
- Volunteer opportunities are listed on the [LCOMCares Service Corps](#) web site including a link to UVM Student Volunteer Opportunities which is a google document that lists volunteer opportunities and associated student leaders
- [A message for an opportunity from the New York Academy of Sciences to design a surveillance network to better understand the current pandemic and forecast future coronavirus outbreaks.](#)
- [Wellness resource](#)
- [Current Activity In Vermont](#) - Vermont Department of Health information
- Additional Items:
  - o [UVM Health Network Incident Command Scorecard for COVID-19](#)
  - o [COVID-19 PUI Inpatient Testing & Precautions Algorithm](#)

## FAQs

- **What do recent financial communications from the UVM Health Network, LCOM and UVM mean for me as a student?**
  - o These communications do not have any direct impact on students or our medical education program. The economic impact from COVID-19 is expected to be significant and university and clinical operations will be impacted, however the goal is not to raise student tuition and to avoid personnel cuts.

Please take time to enjoy the warmer weather and attend to your health and wellbeing during these uncertain times. We miss you and remain grateful to you for your patience and understanding during this stressful and challenging time. Stay safe, healthy and connected to your friends and family. Wishing you a wonderful week!

With gratitude,  
Christa Zehle and our amazing OMSE team!