

From: Zehle, Christa H

Sent: Wednesday, November 11, 2020 4:59 PM

Subject: Wednesday Wonders

Dear students,

Do you ever feel like you are on a roller coaster ride? I do, and so I want to remind you to reach out for support when needed, find joy in the ride, and appreciate that the ride does end so you can regain your equilibrium. Here are today's Wednesday Wonders, lots to share! 😊

All students

Clinical: (per the most recent communications from UVM Medical Center between Wednesday, October 21 and Tuesday November 10, 2020 – Thank you to Delaney Sztraicher, class of 2023 SEG rep who compiles this information for us!). Our support goes out to our clinical colleagues and students who continue to prioritize patient care despite the challenges associated with the second virus to hit – the recent IT cyberattack!

- 3 COVID Positives in McClure 6
- Total Census: 331; Med –Surg Census: 217; ED 51 patients
- Welcoming Policy will be changing soon
- Continuing to operate on downtime procedures for EPIC. There is progress but many unanticipated obstacles. Recovery of other applications will take longer - unclear how long.
- IT Priorities: Trying to build a McKesson “Shelter” for radiology to be able to read imaging safely and reliably. Kronos for employee scheduling and payroll reconciliation. Still working on cleaning the thousands of end-user devices before EPIC can be reintroduced.
- Lab has been feeling tremendous pressure from all sides
- Only taking transfers from other facilities for urgent and emergent cases. Limiting transfers from outside facilities to keep the census below 340
- The ORs continue to operate – represents 50% of elective cases, plus urgent/emergent and all add-ons coming from our inpatient demand. We cannot do any surgeries requiring high level imaging, etc.
- We are not doing cancer staging any longer because the quality of images is too sub-optimal and there is no access to prior imaging. All other imaging studies currently being generated and read will have to be re-read de novo on higher quality equipment, once restored. That is why the radiology department is limiting imaging to urgent and emergent needs.
- Making progress on stabilizing paper workflows, lab processes and communications processes at all levels.
- Planning to communicate with the community, telling patients to bring in all the medical info details they have, their meds, etc. anytime they come in.
- You can access some PHI on some patients through VITL - the information exchange for EHRs in VT. You all can create an account on VITL and get trained this week by emailing: PASCprecertification@uvmhealth.org

IT information

- LCOM IT has not been impacted so use of our WIFI (HSID), any of our systems (e.g. the calendar, VIC portal, the tracker, etc.) and our email is not a risk. As for UVM Medical

Center / Health Network systems students should follow the guidelines set forth by UVM Medical Center / Health Network when using those systems.

- For additional information please see the [communication from Assistant Dean for Technology/CIO, Jill Jemison sent on Friday, November 6, 2020](#).

Shared Responsibility

- As cases of COVID-19 increase in Vermont and around the world, now is the time to be extra vigilant and comply with all guidelines to mitigate transmission. This is an expectation of **all students** and **all members** of our community. Please see the attached communication from Dean Page regarding COVID-19 sent on Friday, November 6, 2020. In addition to **Six-Foot Spaces, Masks on Faces** and **Uncrowded Places**, the Governor's administration and the department of Health encouraged Vermonters to strictly observe all health guidance and take extra precautions to minimize the spread of COVID-19 and issued the following guidelines:
 - Avoid ALL unnecessary travel
 - Limit social gatherings to no more than 10 people
 - Only gather with members of trusted households
- **Thanksgiving/Winter Vacation:** Please see the CDC guidelines for [Celebrating Thanksgiving](#). There is a gradient of risk with every decision we make, and I want to remind all of us to carefully consider the risks and err on the side of caution with every decision we make.
 - **VT travel:** The leisure travel map has been suspended and there is a **mandatory quarantine** for anyone returning or traveling to Vermont. The current restrictions are available at [VT Department of Health Travel & Quarantine](#) site.
 - **CT travel:** Any travel needs to be compliant with local guidelines in CT and the location you are travelling to. The current restrictions are available at [CT DPH Travel guidelines](#) and are updated weekly on Tuesday.
 - As of 11/10/20, travel to Connecticut is restricted from 46 states and territories. Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York and New Jersey are currently allowing residents to move between states without a need for testing or quarantine but are not encouraging travel.

Volunteer Opportunities

- The [LCOMCares Service Corp](#) is advertising volunteer opportunities to assist the hospital during the cyberattack recovery period and the pandemic. If available and interested in volunteering sign up for an opportunity or email the [LCOMCares Service Corp](#).

Tuition 2021-2020

- We are grateful that we are able to freeze tuition for another year even with the financial pressures facing the university and the academic medical network. Please see the [communication from Dean Page regarding the continued tuition freeze sent on Tuesday, November 10, 2020](#).

Clinical Updates (Class of 2021 and 2022)

Please see the following document for information: [11/11/2020 Clinical Updates Communication and FAQ](#)

Clinical Shadowing

We recognize that many of you are disappointed that shadowing is not currently available. Please rest assured that your medical education curriculum provides you significant opportunity to explore career

options in the clinical environment without having to engage in additional shadowing and at this time we need to maximize the clinical learning for students enrolled in their clinical courses while protecting the faculty when students are not assigned to them. We will revisit clinical shadowing opportunities when the clinical environment is more stable.

Pre-clinical updates:

Class of 2023

- **DIV sessions:** We understand the additional difficulties that some students are facing in completing their DIV requirements. If your DIV sessions are affected by the concurrent IT and COVID-19 issues, please contact [Martha Seagrave](#) to get assistance in reaching the DIV objectives. Options are being considered, so please be patient as we develop solutions to best fulfill the objectives.
- **Step 1 preparation:** Please take advantage of the Step 1 Support Series that provides remote activities to assist planning, study strategies, and wellness related to Step 1 study. More information is available in the [Weekly Wire](#).
- **Attendance:** We remind students of the importance of actively engaging in HDRH sessions, whether in-person or remotely. As the stresses surrounding Step 1 increase, we urge you to use the Foundations curriculum to its full potential. Take this opportunity to receive instruction from outstanding faculty who are dedicated to assisting you in the application of curriculum objectives that span all specialties (and are tested on Step 1).

Class of 2024

- **Public Health Projects (PHP):** After several years of curriculum discussion and review of student evaluations, the longitudinal PHP course has been formally moved to Spring of M1. Your class will be partaking in a remote PHP experience this Spring which will enhance opportunities for continued student engagement with community agencies throughout their LCOM medical education.
- **Anatomy:** We have student safety as a priority in the development of the Anatomy curriculum. We stress the importance of following the guidelines to reduce your personal risk of COVID-19 transmission to protect faculty, staff and your classmates when close contact is required.

I am grateful for who you are and your many contributions to our academic community! Please do not hesitate to reach out if you have any questions or if we can support you in any way. Be well.

With appreciation and gratitude,
Christa Zehle and the Office of Medical Student Education team

Christa H. Zehle, MD
Senior Associate Dean for Medical Education
Office of Medical Student Education
Larner College of Medicine at The University of Vermont

Associate Professor of Pediatrics
Pediatric Hospitalist
Vermont Children's Hospital University of Vermont Medical Center

MEDICAL STUDENT EDUCATION OFFICE
[Drop In Sessions](#)
The Courtyard at Given, N-127
89 Beaumont Avenue

Burlington, VT 05405-0068
Office: 802.656.0722
Christa.zehle@med.uvm.edu | www.uvm.edu/medicine
Pronouns: she/her [[Why include pronouns?](#)]

