

Dear M3 Students,

Due to increasing concerns regarding local infection and transmission of the coronavirus (COVID-19) we have been in close communication with the leaders of our partner hospitals, the AAMC, and University. In response to hospital-issued mandates issued over the last 24-48 hours, effective Monday March 16<sup>th</sup> we will be transitioning all our third year clerkship students to alternate case-based online distance learning options. This means that all clinical activities related to your longitudinal integrated clerkships will be suspended at the end of the day today. We are committed to creating meaningful alternative learning opportunities for you and to only suspend clinical activities for as short a period as necessary.

### **Alternative Learning Experiences to Meet Clerkship Objectives**

Clerkship Directors will be in touch with you shortly by email to provide details in the discipline(s) for which you are currently scheduled. We are grateful that we are already prepared with a set of online alternative experiences for all required patient encounters (PET) in the clerkships. We also have innovative ways to modify learning modalities to continue to meet remaining clerkship objectives you have during the final 3 weeks of this LIC e.g. online case discussion boards, online videos, case-discussions through Webex and Canvas's Big Blue Button. Given that you have all already completed 37 of your 40 required longitudinal integrated clerkship weeks, we believe that the majority of our overall curricular objectives have already been met. However, we recognize that for those of you on 4 week inpatient rotation blocks, you will be missing the remaining 3 weeks of those hands-on experiences. With guidance from the LCME and AAMC, on a case by case basis, we are developing a plan to provide you with the opportunity to use 2 weeks of your 4th year selective/elective time to make up any experiences that can't be sufficiently met by online learning should that be necessary.

### **Year 3 Grading and Assessment**

Our Year 3 Team is working closely with guidance from the AAMC to make decisions on how best to handle Year 3 shelf exams, grading and assessment. We will update you as details become available but we are focused on developing a plan that will be equitable, transparent, and support the needs of our students. You should use this time to continue to prepare for your NBME Subject exams. One of your other concerns may be the potential impact of coronavirus on USMLE examination administrations. Please rest assured that we are monitoring the situation closely and will be modifying our deadlines and requirements as needed in response.

### **Year 3 Academic Half Day, Assignments and Evaluations**

We will continue to run Academic Half Day/DR Rounds remotely as we piloted last week until we hear otherwise from the University. Please submit all clerkship assignments you are able to complete as scheduled and if you have paper copies of completed DOCS cards, ER evaluations, or anything else you would typically hand in on a Tuesday, please scan, take a photo, or mail them in to us, as we want to gather all clinically related evaluations and assignments completed to date.

### **If You Have Questions**

We will be inviting you all to an optional Webex town hall meeting for M3 students on Monday afternoon at 3pm so we can speak directly to you, answer questions, and support you during this stressful and uncertain time. Please check the College of Medicine [webpage](#) for additional information and timely updates about COVID-19, as well as for links to related websites from FAU, FL Department of Health and the CDC. Please also feel free to reach out to your Clerkship Director or Dr. Foster if you have individual questions or concerns.

### **Social Distancing**

We ask that you strictly adhere to social distancing guidelines from the CDC. Stay at home as much as possible, do not travel, limit social interactions, do not gather as groups, and keep a healthy distance from those who appear or are at risk for being sick.

### **We Are All in This Together**

We can assure you that we are not alone facing this challenge, as many other US medical schools are temporarily suspending clinical experiences related to healthcare system-wide challenges due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Medical education leaders from across the nation are speaking frequently and collaboratively about how to support our medical students during this complex and evolving situation. Please [see the most recent AAMC and LCME communications](#). This unprecedented crisis is causing all medical schools to take unprecedented actions, but we do so thoughtfully and with the best interest of our students, patients, hospitals, and communities at the forefront of our mind.

Thank you all for your patience, resilience and flexibility as we work through this challenging and uncertain time together. It is more important than ever that we support one another and our community right now.

Sincerely,

*Dr. Wood and the Year 3 Team*