

Dear Members of the College of Medicine Community,

Like you, I have been following the reports of COVID-19 closely as it rapidly spread from across the globe to within our nation's borders – and more recently into our local community in Broward County. Just yesterday, the World Health Organization declared the COVID-19 outbreak a global pandemic.

Challenging times such as these require actions that emphasize the greater good of the community over self-interest. Toward this end, I am grateful to the leadership of the Board of Governors of the State University System of Florida for their proactive decision to move from classroom courses to remote instruction at all State University campuses for at least 2 weeks beginning Monday, March 16, 2020. The goal of this policy is to minimize large group gatherings, consistent with recommendations of leading health officials on how to limit the spread of COVID-19. Following this same principle, we will also be canceling and postponing several College events in the coming weeks.

As we are a tight-knit and student-focused community that thrives on personal connection, these changes will be especially challenging for us – particularly when they affect beloved rituals such as our annual Match Day event. I have no doubt, however, that our collective resilience and outward focus on the health of our community will help us to weather these disruptions.

I am grateful to our talented cadre of educators and IT team at the College of Medicine for transitioning swiftly toward remote learning while maintaining key elements of personal and group interaction, which are critical to our innovative educational curriculum. In keeping with current AAMC guidelines, students in their clinical years will continue to serve as members of the health care team at their respective clinical sites, while limiting their direct care of known or suspected cases of COVID-19. Similarly, in accordance with ACGME guidelines, our residents and fellows are continuing to train at their clinical sites to meet their program requirements. We are working closely with the AAMC, ACGME, and our hospital partners to ensure the safety of our students, residents, fellows and hospital-based faculty.

Although we are moving to remote instruction, our campus and the FAU Medicine Practice will remain open so that our faculty and staff can continue their efforts at delivering innovative education, discovery and clinical care. Thus, our research and clinical operations are continuing uninterrupted at this 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.

Thank you all for your patience and resilience as we work together to successfully continue our College's mission while protecting the health of our broader community!

Sincerely,

Phil Boiselle, MD
Dean and Professor, Schmidt College of Medicine