

Students, trainees, faculty and staff,

What a week it has been. Simply put, we have built the best community here at the Cumming School of Medicine (CSM). I'm so proud of how you're adapting to a new way of learning and working during this challenging time. By leaning on and supporting one another, we will get through this. Keep up the great work!

Learning and working

- Watch this [video message](#) from our vice dean, Dr. Todd Anderson, MD.
- Refer to UCalgary's [guidelines and resources for working remotely](#). Social distancing will help slow the spread of COVID-19, which gives our health-care system time to prepare and react. Watch my [video message](#) on the days to come.
- Working from home while caring for your children? Take a look at these great [resources for parents](#) from the Alberta Children's Hospital Research Institute.

Research operations

- Laboratories and key core facilities remain open. We're recommending a rotating schedule to encourage social distancing.
- Researchers will receive a questionnaire about the current status of their research programs and laboratories.
- The Calgary Centre for Clinical Research has developed [guidelines](#) for investigators and study staff.
- Research Services is in regular contact with funders about grant deadlines.
- Any changes to deadlines will be communicated via email and updated on the [funding deadline calendar](#).
- For more information on grant application deadlines and grant end dates, refer to the grant and contracts FAQ on the [research website](#).
- If you have concerns about a specific program or competition, contact rsogrants@ucalgary.ca.

Community support

- UCalgary has launched a new [COVID-19 Community Support site](#) to provide helpful information to the campus and wider community.
- The site will provide podcasts, webinars and tips for coping with isolation, opportunities for online learning, and more.
- If you'd like to participate as an expert or have topic ideas, email csmdean@ucalgary.ca.

Health Sciences Library and Bookstore

- Although UCalgary campuses are open, the Health Sciences Library is closed.
- Lending and borrowing of physical items have been suspended at this time.
- Study spaces and services continue to be offered virtually and in the Taylor Family Digital Library. The university has arranged for complimentary parking in Lot 10 and McMahon Stadium for those of you who make your way to main campus.
- The Medical Bookstore, located inside the Health Sciences Centre, remains open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, to support you.

Information technologies

- UCalgary is experiencing an increase in email phishing attacks.
- Please be vigilant when managing your email by exercising caution when opening email links or providing your user ID or password.
- If you believe you've been targeted, please alert IT at reportphishing@ucalgary.ca.
- There's also additional information in the email sent on Mar. 19, from the Office of the Chief Information Officer.

Facilities

- In light of the COVID-19 situation, the practice of propping open doors within a building should be avoided.
- Doing so can lead to unbalanced airflow — some spaces will receive too much ventilation while others won't receive enough.
- This is particularly important for laboratory spaces where negative pressure is needed to avoid cross-contamination of air flows.

I'll distribute the next COVID-19 update on Monday, Mar. 23. However, I'll be in touch should any critical information develop over the weekend.

I know this week has been filled with a lot of stress, fear and worry. All members of our CSM community are affected in some way, whether it is financially, emotionally or from a health perspective. Please remember there are a number of [mental health resources](#) available to you. I encourage you to take some time to recharge this weekend, and look forward to reconnecting next week.

Sincerely,

Jon Meddings, MD
Dean, Cumming School of Medicine
University of Calgary