

Students, trainees, faculty and staff,

I hope you were able to find some time to relax this weekend. I know it's difficult to unwind these days, but it's even more important to do so given how stressful these last two weeks have been.

I didn't send an update on Friday because I felt after sharing the difficult news about the loss of Dr. Glenda MacQueen, we all needed a break. We've set up a [message board in Glenda's memory](#) and I encourage anyone wishing to contribute to do so.

Here are today's COVID-19 updates.

Building access

- The University of Calgary continues to plan for increased facility access restrictions. If you're in a role which will require you to maintain building access in the event of a university closure and have not yet completed the building access form, please do so at cumming.ucalgary.ca/access.
- For more information, faculty and staff are asked to refer to the [building access email dated Mar. 25](#).

Learning and working

- On Mar. 26, the university updated the [information for faculty and staff](#) section on the COVID-19 website to outline temporary guidelines to address your questions and concerns. If you have any questions about the guidelines, please talk to your supervisor or contact the [Integrated Support Centre](#).
- The Cumming School of Medicine's (CSM) leadership team understands that many geographic full-time faculty members are worried about Academic Medicine and Health Services Program (AMHSP) annual assessments. We understand that you'll mainly be doing clinical work over the next few months and want to reassure everyone in an AMHSP arrangement that we're working with Alberta Health Services and Alberta Health on solutions that include a deferment of the annual reporting requirements. Tricouncil funding agencies also strongly support the need to adjust evaluation and reporting requirements in light of the pandemic.
- Thank you to those of you who are working the front line during this busy and challenging time, and to our staff who are working from home to keep the university functioning. Your hard work is truly appreciated.

Research operations

- Effective Mar. 27, onsite monitoring visits are no longer permitted for pharma sponsored or investigator-initiated trials. Monitoring visits can either be deferred, or remote monitoring can be arranged. For more information, refer to the [remote monitoring message dated Mar. 19](#).
- For important information about research operations during COVID-19, visit the [guidance for researchers web page](#).

Mental health during COVID-19

- Are you feeling worried, lonely, sad or stressed? You're not alone. OWL POD Mental Health Clinics is offering free online assistance to Albertans. No referral is required. For more information, visit [owlpod.ca](#) or contact info@owlpod.ca.

Volunteer opportunities

- If you're interested in helping Alberta Health Services with COVID-19 response efforts, please submit a volunteer form at cumming.ucalgary.ca/volunteer.
- For those who wish to volunteer for front-line clinical duties, please speak with your department head or visit the [Department of Medicine's COVID-19 web page](#). Please note that you don't need to be a member of the Department of Medicine to sign up. The department is simply acting as the co-ordinating centre for the multidisciplinary COVID-units.
- The university has also created a [volunteer support portal](#), which is open to all UCalgary community members who have the capacity and skills to provide support during the COVID-19 crisis.

COVID-19 educational resources

- On Mar. 25, our Continuing Medical Education and Professional Development (CME&PD) team hosted a COVID-19 webinar with more than 860 attendees. Well done!
- These talks, along with many other education materials and resources, are available on the [CME&PD's e-Learning courses web page](#).

Please continue to send your questions, ideas and concerns to csmdean@ucalgary.ca. I appreciate hearing from you.

Stay safe and healthy.

Sincerely,

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