

Students, trainees, faculty and staff,

It has been more than a month since the University of Calgary issued the work from home directive for faculty and staff who are able to do so. The past month has been full of challenges and uncertainty, as we've adapted to a new way of learning and working. I'm so grateful for how our Cumming School of Medicine (CSM) community has adjusted to this new, temporary way of life.

Thank you to those of you who are working the frontline 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.

Building access

- Unfortunately, the first steps that were implemented as part of our transition to card only building access didn't go as smoothly as we had hoped. I know that building access has been very challenging for many of you this week and appreciate your patience as we work through the issues that have been identified, such as cards being denied access.
- If you participated in the critical research process with the Office of the Vice-President (Research) or have already completed the [building access form](#), you can assume that you have access and there are no other steps you need to take.
 - If your card has not been working, please continue to scan it. You should have access within the next few days and it's important that you know when access has been granted. Until your card begins to work, please show your ID card (UCalgary or Alberta Health Services) to a staff member at our check-in station. The staff member will check your name against our critical access list and then you may proceed.
- If you have any questions or concerns about building access, please email csmdean@ucalgary.ca.

Learning and working

- In the absence of face-to-face interaction, the Taylor Institute for Teaching and Learning has launched a [new resource website](#) to support online experiential learning in the spring and summer terms. Staff at the Taylor Institute are also offering [sessions to support academic staff](#) who are preparing to teach online.

Research operations

- Join Dr. Derek McKay, PhD, candidate for scientific director at the Snyder Institute for Chronic Diseases, on **Apr. 30 from noon to 1 p.m.**, for an online seminar, [Improving Digestive Health: Mitochondria, Helminth Parasites and Regulatory Macrophages](#).
- Prime Minister Justin Trudeau has announced a \$1.1 billion strategy for medical research to fight COVID-19. [Read more](#).

UCalgary resources

- The CSM has developed a [new physician wellness resource web page](#), which includes formal mental health and psychological resources, physician-to-physician peer support links, and education resources.
- [Remote mental health support](#) is available to students, faculty and staff who need it.
- AHS has [resources and services](#) available to help you or someone you know.

A reminder that Dr. Chris Mody, MD, a professor and head of our Department of Microbiology, Immunology & Infectious Diseases, has developed a [COVID-19 Q&A](#). If you have a question you'd like Chris to answer, please send it to csmdean@ucalgary.ca.

Stay safe and healthy.

Sincerely,

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