

Students, trainees, faculty and staff,

Last week, I took a break from my weekly COVID-19 update to talk about anti-Black racism and violence. I want to reiterate that our Cumming School of Medicine (CSM) leadership team is committed to working as allies and in solidarity with Black, Indigenous and People of Colour (BIPOC) students and colleagues to truly achieve equity, diversity and inclusion within our CSM community.

In order to learn, reflect and act, we must first listen. We are committed to working as authentic allies and want to hear what you have to say about systematic racism at the CSM. Thank you to those of you who have sent me your questions and concerns. Based on your feedback, we've developed an [online form](#), which allows you to **anonymously submit** your questions, concerns, ideas and personal stories. Only members of our [Office of Professionalism, Equity and Diversity](#) team will see what you have written. They will share your input with members of the leadership team for the purpose of influencing change.

To those of you that are feeling overwhelmed in this moment, you're not alone. The University of Calgary has resources available to help our [students, faculty and staff](#) and I encourage you to reach out.

Learning and working

- I'm pleased to announce the appointment of Dr. Jayna Holroyd-Leduc, MD, as head of the Department of Medicine, effective Jul. 1, 2020. [Read more.](#)
- An [FAQ page](#) has been created to help answer any questions you may have about classes during the fall 2020 term. Please submit any questions or feedback to covid19comms@ucalgary.ca.

Research operations

- Only those with Critical Research Designation may continue to operate on campus.
 - Applications for Expanded Research Designation are open, but approvals will not be issued until the university determines it is safe to do so.
 - Submitting your application for Expanded Research Designation will support UCalgary's planning for a phased return and will facilitate a quicker return to campus for your team.
 - For more information, please visit the [guidance for researchers web page](#).
- On May 25, UCalgary's Office of the Vice-President (Research) and Alberta Health Services held a Town Hall to discuss considerations for a phased return to clinical research activities. For more

information, please review the [slide deck](#) and [Q&A](#). If you'd like to listen to the session recording, please request the link by emailing vprcomms@ucalgary.ca.

- The tri-agencies have increased support for students, trainees and research support personnel funded through research grants. [Read the full email from Jun. 4.](#)
- The Canadian Institutes of Health Research Spring 2020 competition applications will proceed this summer and the agency advised that the Fall 2020 Project Grant competition remains on track to be delivered. [Read more.](#)

UCalgary resources

- [COVID-19 and the Internet — hoaxes, misinformation and fake news](#): Join the O'Brien Institute for Public Health on **Thursday, Jun. 11, from noon to 1 p.m.**, for a digital forum on how the Internet has been used to further the spread of misinformation about the COVID-19 virus. [Register now.](#)
- [COVIDcast Episode 24: Protecting our seniors](#): In this episode, Dr. Jacqueline McMillan, MD, talks about how and why older people are more vulnerable to COVID-19 and what we can learn from this pandemic so we're better prepared for next time. [Listen and subscribe.](#)

Mental health and wellness during COVID-19

- Dr. Linda Carlson, PhD, shares [seven mental health coping tips](#) for life during COVID-19.

CSM in the news

- Congratulations to Dr. Ebba Kurz, PhD, on the receipt of a 2020 University of Calgary Teaching Award. Ebba received an Award for Educational Leadership. [Read more.](#)
- Dr. Doug Mahoney, PhD, is studying whether one of the cancer treatments he works with can be [modified and repurposed as a vaccine for COVID-19](#).
- Scientists at the Hotchkiss Brain Institute, Alberta Children's Hospital Research Institute, and Owerko Centre have made a breakthrough discovery that could lead to [treatment of Fragile X syndrome](#), the leading genetic cause of Autism Spectrum Disorder.
- Dr. Jim Kellner, MD, is leading a team of child health and wellness scientists and physicians to [study the genes and immune response of Alberta children with COVID-19](#).
- Dr. Sofia Ahmed, MD, is leading a study to learn how [COVID-19 affects health-care workers](#).
- Drs. Veronica Guadagni, PhD, and Giuseppe Iaria, PhD, are conducting a study to find out [what happens to empathy when we aren't sleeping properly](#).

As always, thank you for everything you do. Have a great week!

Sincerely,

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