

Students, trainees, faculty and staff,

I want to thank those of you who have submitted your questions, ideas, concerns and personal stories about systemic racism within our CSM community. Your input is truly critical as it helps highlight the changes we need to make and influences how we will take action. I acknowledge how difficult it may be for you to voice your thoughts and want you to know that I sincerely appreciate hearing from you.

Based on what our leadership team has heard so far, there are many of you who have been impacted by systemic inequity and racism. Our leadership team has started to conduct a review of our policies, practices and procedures to ensure they promote a campus where all members of our community feel welcome and are given the tools and support to thrive.

The university-wide policies are very clear about inclusivity. However, our leadership team recognizes that there are faculty-wide, departmental and unit-specific practices that disadvantage some members of our Cumming School of Medicine (CSM) community.

Listening to what you have to say and learning from it will always be an essential component as we continue to take further action. If you'd like to help influence the changes our school makes, I encourage you to share your thoughts by submitting an [anonymous online form](#).

Again, I thank you for your open and honest feedback.

#### **Learning and working**

- A significant amount of work continues to happen behind the scenes to prepare a phased re-entry strategy for our university campuses. I will continue to update you as this planning is finalized.
- Students from across Canada, including a group of our second-year medical students, are participating in a blood donation initiative called 1000 Donors. The goal is to recruit 1,000 people to help address the current need for blood and stem cells, unite members of our community and provide clarification on donor eligibility during the COVID-19 pandemic. [Learn more](#) or [register](#).
- The [University of Calgary has launched UCeed](#), a new pre-seed and seed funding program that is funded through philanthropic support. UCeed will spur innovation, help commercialize new technologies, and accelerate UCalgary startup companies, starting with a focus on child health.

### Research operations

- For guidance on the use of masks during research activity in CSM building space, please review the [email from June 15](#).
- Only those with Expanded or Critical Research Designation may continue to operate on campus.
  - Researchers returning to campus must follow the [UCalgary Re-Entry Protocols](#), and complete a Workspace Safety Plan with their department.
  - For more information, please visit the [guidance for researchers web page](#).
- The submission deadline for the 2020 Carole May Yates Memorial Endowment for Cancer Research Competition is Tuesday, June 30. [Learn more](#) about this competition, which is open to all faculty members with primary appointments in the CSM.

### Mental health and wellness during COVID-19

- If you need help for your well-being, [remote mental health support](#) is available to students, faculty and staff who need it. There are also [flexible resources available for faculty, staff and postdoctoral scholars](#).
- Listen to Well Doc Alberta's new [podcast on sleep](#).

### UCalgary resources

- [COVIDcast Episode 28: Student mental health](#): Dr. Kevin Baird, MD, a psychiatrist in UCalgary's Student Wellness Centre, talks about the mental health supports available for students. [Listen and subscribe](#).

### CSM in the news

- Several UCalgary community members, including Dr. David Keegan, MD, are honoured with prestigious Calgary Awards. [Read more](#).
- Bikram Sekhon, BN'14, MN'19, a second-year medical student at the CSM, shares what it's like working at Calgary's only assisted self-isolation site that serves people in our city without a place to live during COVID-19. [Read more](#).
- A group of UCalgary researchers, including Dr. Katrina Milaney, PhD, are advising the City of Calgary's pandemic response by raising awareness about vulnerable Calgarians. [Read more](#).

Have a wonderful week!

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