

Students, trainees, faculty and staff,

Congratulations to our 2020 graduates! I want to recognize and congratulate you for the remarkable work that you've done.

When you started your program, I know that you had no idea the circumstances under which you'd be graduating. You've helped us flatten the curve, have done some incredible work to help others in our community, and have gone above and beyond in a way that makes our entire Cumming School of Medicine (CSM) community proud. The hard work, dedication and kindness that you've shown has been utterly amazing. You'll always be a member of the CSM, and I wish you all the best. I know that you'll see much success in your future.

Watch the opening remarks and congratulatory messages from the University of Calgary's June 25 celebrations [here](#).

## Return to campus

- UCalgary has updated its COVID-19 web page to feature information about the university's phased return to campus. Visit [ucalgary.ca/covid-19](https://ucalgary.ca/covid-19) for updates, return to campus protocols, frequently asked questions and more.

## Learning and working

- I'm pleased to announce the appointment of Dr. Sonya Lee, MD, as the department head for Family Medicine, effective July 1, 2020. [Read more](#).
- Effective Nov. 1, 2020, Dr. Tom Stelfox, MD, PhD, will step down from his position as head, Department of Critical Care Medicine, to pursue a new leadership role within the CSM. In the coming weeks, the CSM and Alberta Health Services will begin the search and selection for Tom's replacement, and more information will be provided on Tom's new role soon.
- Effective immediately, the CSM's Multimedia Services print shop is permanently closed. I know that many of you relied on the Multimedia Services team for your printing needs. Please email Peter Romeo, director of educational operations, at [pjromeo@ucalgary.ca](mailto:pjromeo@ucalgary.ca) for questions related to the services offered by our multimedia team, or contact the [Campus Print Shop](#) at [printshop@ucalgary.ca](mailto:printshop@ucalgary.ca) or 403-220-6000 for a full range of printing services.
- Today, Tuesday, June 30, marks a historic milestone for UCalgary and our community. Join the virtual celebration at 4 p.m. to mark the completion of UCalgary's ambitious Energize campaign. [Learn more](#) or [register now](#).

- On June 24, President Ed McCauley and the rest of UCalgary’s executive leadership team (ELT) released a proposal for the university entitled “[Growth through focus](#).” This proposal, built around a ten-year vision, would have the university focus on areas of strength and overall operations to incentivize entrepreneurial thinking, innovation, advanced technology and strong connections to industry and community. I encourage you to provide your feedback on the proposal by [completing this survey](#). The survey will be open until July 13.

### Research operations

- On May 15, the Government of Canada announced the [Canada Research Continuity Emergency Fund \(CRCEF\)](#), which is a temporary program that has been established to help sustain the research enterprise at Canadian universities and health research institutions that have been affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. I know that many of you are looking for clarification about the CRCEF. I expect to have more information soon and will share those details when they become available.

### Taking action against systemic racism

- On June 24, UCalgary’s ELT responded to an [open letter on anti-Black, anti-Indigenous and other forms of racism](#) from past and present students, faculty and staff, and members of the community. Read [ELT’s response](#) and President McCauley’s [message to our campus community](#).
- Please continue to share your thoughts by submitting an [anonymous online form](#). Your input will contribute to the CSM’s overall action plan.

### CSM in the news

- ‘A victory for our Black communities’: Four friends who met through the CSM’s Bachelor of Health Sciences (BHSc) program have each been accepted into medical school. [Read more](#).
- The Canadian Institutes of Health Research’s second round of rapid funding for COVID-19 research will fund eight CSM-led projects, which will help mitigate the impact of the pandemic and address the current COVID-19 context. [Read more](#).
- UCalgary, The City of Calgary and Alberta Health Services team up to [test Calgary wastewater for early signs of COVID-19 cases](#).
- Congratulations to Catharine Bowman, Ruth Legese and Hannah Rahim, recipients of the [2020 President’s Award for Excellence in Student Leadership](#).
- Fajer Hasan, BHSc’20, an award-winning Kuwaiti and biomedical sciences student, graduates from the CSM’s health sciences program and prepares to start her medical degree. [Read more](#).
- Congratulations to Dr. Sarah MacEachern, MD, PhD, who has received the Dr. Debbi Andrews Trainee Award from the Canadian Paediatric Society. This award recognizes Sarah’s research to improve autism diagnosis. [Read more](#).
- The CSM’s Office of Continuing Medical Education and Professional Development’s ability to adapt quickly has made an impact in the fight against COVID-19. [Read more](#).

I hope you have a great week and enjoy a safe, socially distanced Canada Day.

Sincerely,

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