

Students, trainees, faculty and staff,

On behalf of the Cumming School of Medicine (CSM) community, I'd like to extend a warm welcome to our incoming class of medical students who started their virtual orientation on Monday. Included in the Class of 2023 is the first cohort of students from our [Pathways to Medicine Scholarship program](#). We introduced this program in 2016 to support the enrolment and success of future medical students from under-represented groups throughout Alberta and it's so exciting to see the first group of students who are a part of this program begin their medical school journey. I wish you all a very successful year at the CSM.

Return to campus

- Although the university's phased return to campus strategy is moving forward to support expanded operations in teaching, learning and research, you are asked to continue working from home wherever possible.
- Information for managers and leaders, including a planning guide, guidelines and FAQs, is [available on SharePoint](#). Please use your University of Calgary credentials to log in.
- Visit the [return to campus web page](#) for updates, return to campus protocols, frequently asked questions and more.

Learning and working

- 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](#) by **Monday, July 13**.
- Calgary Stampede events may be cancelled this year, but UCalgary employees are still entitled to a half-day off to celebrate Stampede week, July 3-12. Please use your normal department or unit processes to submit time-off requests.
- If you're having difficulties with your unique work situation while working from home, [register for a webinar on ergonomics](#). The session will review available resources related to working from home, provide recommendations to help manage work and life demands and offer solutions for your workstation setup.
- The Bachelor of Health Sciences (BHSc) program has positions available for Graduate Teaching Assistantships for the Fall 2020 and Winter 2021 terms. I encourage interested graduate students to visit cumming.ucalgary.ca/bhsc/ta for more information and to apply.

- Our Health Sciences Library is offering several online workshops. Visit the [library's events calendar](#) for more information and to register. If you have any questions, please contact hslibr@ucalgary.ca.

Research operations

- The month of June has seen many researchers return to their workspaces under the [Expanded Research Designation \(ERD\)](#). [Undergraduate summer students](#) are now eligible for consideration under the ERD and it's anticipated that undergraduate research projects will be able to resume in the fall. With lab occupancy increasing, principal investigators (PIs) need to consider the following.
 - Anyone who can work from home should continue to do so.
 - The safety of our students, trainees, faculty and staff is a top priority. You must maintain physical distancing of two metres, and adhere to UCalgary's [Re-entry Protocols](#) and all items outlined in your [Workplace Safety Plan](#).
 - You must always follow these personnel number limitations. PIs with:
 - Up to two staff: Everyone can work at any given time.
 - Three to seven staff: Three people can work at any given time.
 - Eight or more staff: You may operate at 50 per cent occupancy at any given time.
 - Due to the personnel limitations, staff are encouraged to work in shifts in order to maximize productivity. When scheduling these shifts, please consider the AUPE collective agreement with regards to compensation.
 - If you're requesting a new or revised critical or ERD, please include a specific plan within your application outlining how you'll meet the new occupancy guidelines.
 - For more information, please visit the [guidance to researchers web page](#).
- Campus Alberta Neuroscience wants to learn more about how the COVID-19 pandemic and the reopening of research activities is impacting postdoctoral fellows and your ability to apply for their [Innovation and Translation Fellowship competition](#). [Register for the Q&A session](#), scheduled for **Thursday, July 9, at 3 p.m.**

Taking action against systemic racism

- On June 15, the [Calgary Black Medical Students' Association \(BMSA\)](#) released its [Calls to Action](#) to address institutionalized racism in medical education and health care. In response to one of the Calls to Action — increase diversity in student body and admissions committee — the CSM, in collaboration with the Calgary BMSA, has established a [Black Applicant Admissions Process](#) as an optional opportunity for those who apply to our Undergraduate Medical Education program.
- On behalf of the CSM's leadership team, thank you to the members of the Calgary BMSA for developing thoughtful Calls to Action, collaborating to affect change and holding the CSM accountable to establishing a just culture. By working together, I'm confident that we'll be able to achieve equity, diversity and inclusion within our CSM community.
- Please continue to share your thoughts by submitting an [anonymous online form](#). Your input will contribute to the CSM's overall action plan.

Mental health and wellness

- Visit the CSM's [physician wellness resource web page](#) for 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.
- The CSM's Working Our Way to Wellness (WOWW) Committee is offering virtual daytime and evening total body strength fitness classes. For more information or to sign up for a class, [click here](#). To receive weekly online class notifications, please email woww@ucalgary.ca.

CSM in the news

- Hana and Zainab Osman have established a scholarship to help northeast high school students pursue an education in the CSM's BHSc program. [Read more](#).
- Dr. Malcolm Eaton just completed his PhD and instead of taking it easy, he's biking every day in July to raise funds to support the neonatal intensive care unit at the Alberta Children's Hospital. [Read more](#).
- Dr. Stephen Freedman, MD, is leading a study that will test children in 20 emergency room sites across North America for COVID-19 and follow them to investigate transmission of the virus. [Read more](#).
- A team of UCalgary researchers, including Dr. Matthew James, MD, PhD, has received a \$3 million grant from the Canadian Institutes of Health Research to conduct three innovative, patient-oriented trials. [Read more](#).

I hope you have a great week!

Sincerely,

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