

Students, trainees, faculty and staff,

Since my initial [statement on June 4](#), which called for collective action against anti-Black racism and violence, more than 90 of you have shared your open and honest feedback about systemic racism within our Cumming School of Medicine (CSM) community.

Last week, members of our [Office of Professionalism, Equity and Diversity](#) met with our senior leadership team to share an anonymized summary of your thoughts, personal stories, questions and concerns. I acknowledge how difficult it may have been for you to voice your thoughts and want you to know that we sincerely appreciate learning from you. Your feedback has reaffirmed how much work still needs to be done and has further strengthened our commitment to continue on this journey together. Your input has and will continue to contribute to the CSM's overall action plan.

Here are the strides we've made so far.

- **Black Applicant Admissions Process (BAAP)** – On June 7, I announced the [new BAAP](#) as an optional opportunity for those who apply to our Undergraduate Medical Education program. For more information about the BAAP, please review the [frequently asked questions](#). Introducing the BAAP is one step in the right direction in our commitment to equity at the CSM. Our Office of Admissions and leadership team is working with members of traditionally marginalized groups to define the scope of the issues and find solutions to address them.
- **Community of Support program** – The CSM, in collaboration with the University of Alberta's Faculty of Medicine & Dentistry, and other partners, is investigating a provincial Community of Support program to provide support for underrepresented groups in medicine in Alberta.
- **Diversity census** – This fall, the CSM will launch a voluntary, confidential diversity census. The outcome of the census will provide a picture of students, faculty and staff, and will help identify further steps to enhance diversity and inclusion across our medical school.

If you have questions about the actions our faculty is taking, please email [CSMDean@ucalgary.ca](mailto:CSMDean@ucalgary.ca). If you would like to help influence the changes we make, please share your thoughts by submitting an [anonymous online form](#).

## Return to campus

- Last week, we were notified of a confirmed case of COVID-19 at the Foothills Campus. As per the university's [COVID-19 Procedure for Sick Employees](#), the employee's supervisor, Alberta Health Services, Staff Wellness and those who had been in close contact with the employee who tested

positive have been notified, and caretaking has thoroughly cleaned the spaces that the individual is known to have been in.

- As more people return to work on campus, we expect to see additional positive cases within our faculty and across the university. This emphasizes the importance of hand washing and social distancing.
- While details of each positive case will not be shared broadly, there's a process in place to handle these cases that involves notifying those who work in the affected workspace or may have been in contact with the person with the virus, as well as enhanced cleaning procedures.
- Those returning to campus will find that public spaces such as office kitchens, washrooms and elevator areas look different. Please familiarize yourself with [some of the changes](#).
- Review our [July 15 update](#) for information on building access, return to campus planning, parking and more.

### **Education**

- A [new FAQ page](#) is available for academic staff engaged in teaching and learning.
- Applications are now being accepted for the Life Sciences Fellowship, a full-time, two-year program that provides experiential learning in research and development commercialization/start-up creation for life sciences entrepreneurs. [Learn more](#).

### **Research operations**

- On May 15, the federal government announced the Canada Research Continuity Emergency Fund (CRCEF), with a budget of \$450M. If you receive non-governmental funds and have staff who've worked or will work any days between March 15 and August 29, 2020, you may be eligible to receive CRCEF funding. [Read more](#) and [apply by July 24](#).
- If you have an approved Critical or Expanded Research Designation, and you have not yet completed a Workspace Safety Plan (either online or word document), please [complete this plan now](#).

### **CSM in the news**

- Perseverance and strength of character are key to Kate Bourne's success. Kate is a PhD candidate at the CSM and the recipient of a prestigious 2020 Vanier Scholarship. [Read more](#).

Have a great week!

Sincerely,

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