Tanukis

As you are all well aware, we have been holding off on completing the clerkship lottery in the hope that the picture for your clerkship would be clearer if we had a timeline for both CaRMS and the availability of visiting electives.

Unfortunately, in a meeting with the national UME Deans group this week, the decision was made that Canadian medical schools will not be allowing the resumption of visiting electives in January of 2021. There may be some visiting electives available later in 2021; no specific date is available for that now, as there are many variables at play.

While this is obviously not the decision we were hoping for, knowing this will allow us to consider how we can change the schedule for your clerkship in order to try to hold on to some elective blocks for later in the year, so that you can use that time for electives at other schools (assuming that becomes possible). There will undoubtedly be an early portion of your clerkship where there will be electives that will only be done in Calgary.

We have some time to work on a revamped schedule. The (admittedly not very shiny) silver lining to this dark cloud is that we now don’t have to have many months of lead time before the start of clerkship for you to book visiting electives. Therefore we can delay the clerkship lottery (in fact we have to, at least a little bit, until we have a schedule blocked out).

We know that everyone is going to have a lot of questions and concerns. Entirely justified.

Dr. Busche is going to be away for the next week so will not be available to answer questions by email or in person for that period. Dr. Weeks and Dr. Naugler can be contacted by email; the SAW team is also available. Important to know that right now, we probably won’t have great answers for a lot of your questions. We’re at the beginning of dealing with this new reality.

That being said, Dr. Weeks and Jo Holm from SAW will make themselves available for a Zoom Q and A on Tuesday July 21, 1600-1700.

We’ve all been hearing that COVID is going to be around for a long time. It certainly appears that its going to continue to torment our program in many ways.

Kevin Busche
Assistant Dean, Clerkship

Sarah Weeks
Assistant Dean, Pre-clerkship

Christopher Naugler
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