Boops Boops, Limpkins

I’ll try to get another ‘general update’ message out either late today or tomorrow; however, I didn’t want this to wait.

I have been approached by Dr. Michelle Grinman, who is leading the rapid development of a new command centre to monitor patients remotely as a part of the Complex Care Hub. The Complex Care program has been working for some time to provide care at home for patients. They use a model of community paramedics working with patients in their home, with that work overseen by internists and hospitalists using a virtual hospital model.

In the midst of the COVID crisis, what Dr. Grinman and her team are developing is a remote monitoring site where volunteers will monitor patients at home, including watching vitals, getting test results and having phone contact with the patients. Students will bring any concerns to a supervising member of the Complex Care Hub team. They are going to need shift workers to work the monitoring site — and would love our medical students to be part of that program. I’ve attached a slide that shows in a general sense how this will work (you can ignore slides 2 and 3).

They are developing a program to educate volunteers on how to do the work and developing algorithms to approach the problems that patients may have. The command centre has been developed with the principle of having people spread out as much as possible on site to reduce the risk of infection to volunteers. There will not be any face to face contact between volunteers and patients.

The focus of this program is to try to keep these patients out of the hospital so that the health care system can continue to function as COVID cases increase.

Some of the patients are going to be very ill. This may be difficult work at times. I have approached SAW and they have assured me that they will have the capacity to debrief with students if they find the work challenging. PFSP of the AMA is also always there for you https://www.albertadoctors.org/services/pfsp.

Our UME manager, Shannon Leskosky has spoken with U of C risk management, who have told us that people who are volunteering for AHS programs will have liability coverage through the AHS.

Dr. Grinman has approached two of our students, Gemma Percival and Rachel Ward, who have agreed to quarterback the organization of this volunteer project. I’m really appreciative of Gemma and Rachel taking this on. I think that students can probably do a better job of organizing things than I can. Please don’t email me directly with questions (I’ve put everything I know about this in this note). Please also don’t email Dr. Grinman — as you can imagine setting this up is taking all of her time right now. Questions can be directed to Rachel and Gemma who can collect them for the Complex Care Hub team to answer.

If you are interested, please click on this link: https://forms.gle/CzSwN8XbC28RjnVu6.

I know that some of you have emailed me in the last few days about contact tracing work. I haven’t replied, as the next contact training session will not likely come until next week; I’ll send out emails to
alert the classes to this when it is scheduled. My ‘system’ of using email and keeping a list manually has broken down as I’ve become overwhelmed with other work and so I have definitely missed some of you who have contacted me. I am sorry. I can imagine how painful it is to your (predominantly) millennial brains to think of how inefficient my process was! From here on in for any further opportunities, I will outsource the organization to either an admin here in UME or to student leaders!

As per my prior emails, please remember:
1. Anything you can do to help out is great. No one is comparing the relative ‘value’ of doing this sort of work, contact tracing or looking after the kids of healthcare workers! It is all vital. I have explained to all of the groups that are looking for student volunteers that we may hit a point where we run out of volunteer time: you are a limited resource!

2. There are as many different personal situations as there are students, and some students can’t volunteer for this work. That’s ok — remember: ‘no shame, no blame’.

3. 2020s — you do still have academic work to do. I still want you to be preparing for your knowledge exams and attending virtual teaching in your clerkships. Remember, I still have a responsibility to you, to your residency program and the public to demonstrate that we have turned out graduates who are safe and entrustable.

4. Everyone in UME is behind you.

KB
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