Tanukis

Just a few updates.

**Pandemic-related Service Reductions**
I have cut and pasted two updates below — one from SHC and one from FMC. Both of these describe the current situation and some important information about service reductions (at SHC). While I don’t believe this will affect any of the clerkship rotations immediately, given the rapidly increasing case numbers in the community, we should expect that the number of hospitalizations for COVID patients will increase significantly over the next couple of weeks. When that happens, there are likely to be further service reductions in some clinical areas. This could impact your rotations: if you are on a rotation where part of the service shuts down, we may need to move you to a different location. Similarly, with more COVID patients in hospital and more positive cases in the community, the prospect of units being put on outbreak status becomes ever greater. When outbreaks on units occur, the medical site leaders will work with us to make a decision about whether clerks are allowed to remain on those affected units — depends on a number of factors. I will communicate with you when these situations arise. The clerkship directors and administrators have become all too familiar with this over the last year and will work to maintain the integrity of your education while keeping you, your preceptors and your patients safe.

Continue to observe all requirements for PPE, wash your hands frequently and please be very careful about your activities outside of the clinical context. In order to be safe, you must follow the public health measures in place to reduce transmission. Please be exemplars of these behaviours.

**Vaccines**
Please make sure to forward proof of your first shot (and second, when you get it) to Michelle (immune@ucalgary.ca). This helps us to keep track of where the numbers are for our students and also gives you a backup of your information.

**EPA Assessments**
You need to remember to continue to accumulate your EPA assessments. Please don’t leave these to the end of your clerkship. The details are in the clerkship handbook, appendix vi (https://cumming.ucalgary.ca/sites/default/files/teams/4/Student%20Handbooks/Clerkship%20Student%20Handbook%20Class%20of%202022_Apr%2021%202021.pdf).

**Core Documents**
Read the core document for your rotations before you start the rotation. I am well aware (based on student feedback) that many students do not use core docs in pre-clerkship. This is an unwise strategy for the clerkship: there is vital information in the clerkship core documents that will inform the beginning of your rotation (as well as the rest of it). Its important to start your rotation on the right foot, and the clerkship core docs will help you to do this.

**Clerkship Feedback**
We would really appreciate it if you would fill out your end of block surveys. We need the feedback to make the program better. We have adjusted our processes over the last year so that the feedback you provide can be divided up a little more finely to give more granular information about specific elements in clerkship. Your anonymous feedback helps us to work to improve the clerkship for your classmates.
and the classes to come. It is part of our duty as physicians to be part of the process of quality improvement for whatever systems we work in.

Clerkship is Awesome!
I have talked with many of you over the last couple of months and I have been overjoyed to hear about the great experiences that many of you have been having in clerkship. I would really encourage you to start your day reminding yourself of how fortunate you are to be at this point in your career, how great the future holds and to ask yourself: “what I am going to get to learn today” and “who am I going to get to help today”. Push yourself to move your mind into a positive space for learning.

Fly Away Limpkins
As I’m sure most of you are aware, tomorrow marks the final scheduled day of the Limpkins clerkship rotations. Just imagine: one year from now...you will be graduating with an MD. Use every minute of your clerkship to get ready for that day.

Take care of yourselves, take care of each other
KB
Kevin Busche MD BSc FRCPC
Assistant Professor
Department of Clinical Neurosciences

Assistant Dean