Hey Tanukis!

First off, thanks again for the jersey! Please see the photo attached, and never forget...you know. I did turn it around and I am currently wearing it correctly. Thanks very much to Laura for the very kind words at the event last week.

Vaccines
As you will have seen in the news, vaccinations are slowing down at this point because of supply limitations. Not much we can do about it. We continue to follow up with the leadership at AHS so that we are kept in the loop around further decisions about when medical students can expect to get vaccinated and any other updates. I will of course fill you in when I know more. I can understand that it can be upsetting to not know when you’ll get vaccinated as you move into full time work in the clinical environment. Please keep in mind that your risk of getting infected with COVID in the workplace is exceptionally low when you follow proper precautions and use appropriate PPE.

Clerkship Handbook and Core Documents
I finished up editing the Clerkship Handbook last week and I’m just awaiting further feedback from the Clerkship Committee; I hope to release it in the next few days. It pains me to ask you to read it: its an ugly document in a lot of ways. I’m not sure when it was first drafted, but it is clearly a document that has suffered through many edits (and editors). It needs a ground-up rewrite, which was part of my grand plan for 2020, but somehow, other things (pretty sure I know what they were) got in the way. All of the information that you need is in there, and I would implore you to read through it, so you know how things work in clerkship.

Information about the changes for the class of 2022 clerkship are summarized in a series of appendices at the end of the clerkship handbook.

Similarly, all of the clerkships are finalizing their class of 2022 versions of their clerkship core docs. There is generally little change from year to year, so if you do want to read ahead, the 2021 version will be pretty close for most clerkships. I’ve said it before and I’ll say it again now: you must read the core doc before you start on any given clerkship rotation. The core docs contain crucial information about how each clerkship functions. I know from reading student survey data for more than a decade that many students in the pre-clerkship don’t use the core docs. You will need to change that approach to be successful in the clerkship!

EPAs
As I’ve mentioned previously, you will be expected to complete EPA (entrustable professional activity) evaluations over the clerkship. These are not difficult to complete and you will have lots of time to get them done. One of the appendices in the Clerkship Handbook covers the EPA assessments in great detail, and should serve to get you ready to have these completed once you start your elective and core rotations. These EPA assessments shouldn’t be completed in Bootcamp, Junior Clerkship or CEL/IPE elective weeks. Don’t worry — you still have more than enough time to get them done!

Elective Cancellation
Don’t sweat the details around cancelling electives. I know there is some heavy language around professionalism concerns if electives are cancelled at the last minute. We’ve given the elective coordinators in all the departments a heads up that this year (for the first elective blocks in the next few months) that students are on a shorter timeline than usual because of our decision to delay the clerkship lottery (for excellent reasons) and so there may be some later cancellations. If you get some flack from a department about a late cancellation, just let us know and we can go to bat for you (assuming that you can explain to me honestly why the cancellation occurred and how it related to the short time lines that we set up for you).

Have fun with the last bits of your pre-clerkship! Rest assured that despite everything that has happened over the last year, we still genuinely feel that you are ready to start your clerkship ready to learn and perform!

Take care

KB