Limpkins

I hope everyone is holding up through the pandemic. Things continue to evolve and change on a day-to-day basis.

I have attached a document that outlines, in a general sense, what we are going to start providing you in terms of online learning. We are essentially moving some of the teaching that would normally be done during clerkships (called ‘academic half days’ by many clerkships) into the time between now and our planned return to clerkship. As you will see from the attached schedule, we’ll have 4-5 half days per week of educational time from the clerkships and course 8. This is material that would normally be taught during the time you are in clerkship. By front-loading some of this, it will mean more clinical time when we get you back into the clinical environment and will allow us one option for some flexibility when it comes to adjustments to the schedule for the rest of the clerkship year.

As noted in the document, a more detailed, week-by-week schedule will be coming in the near future; each clerkship is working on the final details of this at present. As soon as that is available, we’ll forward that on to you. We’ll get out the group assignments later this week.

As of today, I don’t have any further information about what the return to clerkship will look like. Still working with a return date of June 15 at this time. Further conversations are ongoing about moving the CaRMS process back substantially and compressing the timelines within that schedule. I’m optimistic that those discussions will result in a very fair process for our students. Right now, assuming that all goes according to plan, I do believe that we will be able to have your clerkship completed with a fair match process and a residency start date of July 1, 2021. I will update you as I know more. As I have said before, there are many, many external factors that bear on this.

I realize that this is incredibly frustrating. Its hard being a student at the best of times. As human beings, we find it very difficult to not be in control, and our students often feel a lack of control: schedules are given to you to follow, the nature of learning and working in a clinical environment is unpredictable and challenging and sometimes, things don’t go well. That’s all really difficult for our minds to deal with. Then, when something completely unexpected appears from out of the blue to throw an even bigger spanner in the works…that can be overwhelming. We're trying hard to provide you with accurate information. At this point, however, I simply can’t give you a perfect answer on what the rest of clerkship is going to look like. I don’t like that, because I’m not in control, so I know that its even harder on all of you.

I get a weekly email from a group called Farnam Street (https://fs.blog). Lots of interesting essays, articles and podcasts. This was a quotation in one of those recently that I thought explains this well (the most important part, I’ve bolded):

Generally, the people who know the most about something talk in terms that involve uncertainty (e.g., generally, if, but, yet, possible, unlikely).
People that know the least, tend to talk in absolutes (e.g., always, will, never). The language you read and hear, be it online or in person, is a proxy for quality. **While we have a tendency to seek out certainty, nuance is generally more accurate.**

Shane Parrish

Our brains would prefer it if we could say with certainty what was going to happen to our clerkship, but, at this time, it would be an oversimplification. I’d like to make some iron-clad guarantees about how things are going to work, but its not possible.

I’m going to try to find a time next week to do another Q and A. I’m back into a more regular clinical schedule (doing almost 100% phone consults: who needs the neurological exam???), so it may have to be less than a two-hour session but I think there will be time to make it work.

Take care,
KB
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**Class of 2021 – Clerkship Teaching**
Block 1: April 20 – May 15
Block 2: May 18 – June 12

**Group A: Emergency Medicine; Psychiatry; Obs/Gyne; Surgery**

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AM | Obs-Gyne teaching | | ER grand rounds ER key concepts | Course 8

PM | Surgery teaching | Psychiatry Academic Half-Day | ER Bedside teaching (two of four weeks) | |

Group B: Family Medicine; Internal Medicine; Pediatrics

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<td>Pediatrics academic half day</td>
<td>Internal Medicine academic half-day</td>
<td>Family Medicine teaching</td>
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- Students will be divided into two groups
  - Group 1 will do Group A clerkships for four weeks, then Group B for four weeks
  - Group 2 will start with Group B, then switch to group A after four weeks
  - Students will be divided into groups by UME; students will be notified of their assignment by email

- The general schedule is outlined above
  - Detailed schedules with exact start/stop times will be provided by the individual clerkships prior to the start of the curriculum on April 20
- It is possible that sessions may have to be cancelled if preceptors are unavailable due to clinical activities
- Not all clerkships will have teaching sessions on each of the four weeks
- UME program coordinators will forward students Zoom links/phone numbers

- The sessions will include combinations of ‘live’ online lectures via Zoom, interactive Zoom sessions, online clinical teaching, guided self-study of online learning materials and pre-recorded material

- We will be recording as many sessions as possible
  - Sessions will not be recorded if patients are involved
  - Some other sessions may not be appropriate for recording, depending on the content; this will be at the discretion of the clerkship/course 8 leaders
  - The goal of recording these sessions is:
    - To have resources for students who cannot attend at the time of the session
    - To have resources that students can access later when they are on the clerkship rotations
    - To allow for the fact that during the worst of the pandemic, there may not be preceptors available to provide teaching and the recorded sessions may be substituted
  - Recorded sessions will be uploaded as podcasts in the OSLER system which will be available to be viewed online (but not downloaded)

- Students are required to attend the teaching sessions (as would be the case if these were being offered during the rotations in a more typical clerkship year)
  - However, given the situation that students are experiencing during the pandemic, it is readily acknowledged that students may not be able to attend at the time that the sessions are scheduled
  - Students who cannot attend will need to submit a request for an excused absence through OSLER
  - Looking after families, being ill, doing volunteer work are acceptable reasons for an excused absence; the expectation would be that students attempt to schedule other activities to allow them to attend if possible
  - Attendance will be kept during the teaching event
  - Students who do not attend the sessions when provided will be expected to review the teaching material at a later date

- UCLIC students will be offered the opportunity to do some other online content with their local preceptors; communication about this will come directly from the UCLIC program leaders