



## PGME Covid – 19 Update

June 5 2020

### Virtual Interviews:

A decision was previously announced that interviews for all CaRMS matches will be delivered in a virtual format for all applicants, including local applicants. This requirement has now been extended to programs that don't participate in a CaRMS matching process.

Several working groups have been struck to address many aspects of the application and selection process. One of these committees will focus on virtual interviewing and will provide guidance to PGME and Program Directors around best practices.

### RCPS Exams:

Candidates for the spring exams that have been postponed to the fall will have received updated information from RCPS end of last week. To summarize, the RCPS advises the following:

- **Spring 2020 exams will take place between August 26 and September 30.**
- **Test sites have been expanded ---there are 11 new locations added across Canada, the US and internationally and a total of 25 sites.**
  - In Canada new sites include Victoria (BC), Kelowna (BC), Sudbury (ON), Sherbrooke (QC)
  - In the United States, sites include Atlanta (GA), Boston (MA), Dallas (TX)
  - International sites are Sydney (AU), Auckland (NZ), London (UK), Paris (FR)
  - All sites are outside university and hospital settings
- **RCPS has accelerated the move to online computer-based exams for late August/September**  
The communication indicates that this will apply to MCQ exams only.

### Orientation for New Trainees:

Work is complete on the joint PGME/AHS orientation for incoming residents and fellows. As you know, this will be delivered on the D2L platform and trainees are asked to complete all modules by July 1 start date (or prior to 1<sup>st</sup> day of training for those off-cycle). Instructions to access the modules and links to technical support will be circulated by PGME on June 8. The orientation will become available as of June 15.

PGME is also in the process of registering new trainees to participate in a screening and debrief of Greg's Wings. Information has already been circulated and sessions for residents are available June 24, 25, and 26 and June 29 for Fellows.

### A Message to CSM Residents and Fellows

These last few months have been challenging for the entire PGME community. The collaborative spirit demonstrated by all learners in tackling this pandemic has been remarkable. The impact on your training has varied between programs, but the emotional stress has been shared by all.

Many thanks to program leadership for the support provided to trainees and to the residents and fellows for the professional and collegial manner in which you navigated the current situation.

Over the last few months I have had the pleasure of meeting with the Chief Residents on a regular basis, and will continue to do so for the next while. A special thank you to this group for your leadership and thoughtful feedback. Some of you will be stepping into roles as independent consultants while others will be pursuing Fellowship training. I want to wish you every success in your future endeavors and look forward to hearing about your achievements in the coming years.

With best regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "L. Welikovitch". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "L" and a stylized "W".

Lisa Welikovitch MD FRCP  
Associate Dean, PGME