Dear MS1s,

We hope you all are staying healthy and well. We know this is such a difficult time to be a medical student, and wanted to take this opportunity to reiterate our commitment to your learning and connection to our school. Here is a summary of the plans for second semester curriculum. Please know that, like everything else right now, the plans are subject to change as per CDC, state and local government, and the University. We will share any changes as soon as we can.

- Due to COVID numbers, we will continue to have virtual classes in the spring semester. You will need to be back on campus by Jan 21. When you return, you will need to be tested as per University to have access to campus. We hope you will be able to rest during your Winter Break and help you recharge and return refreshed!
  - Dr. White has collaborated with students to make significant modifications to the first month of second semester to reduce additional activities, faculty changing their schedule to provide live zoom sessions in the afternoon to accommodate West Coast students, while still ensuring learning goals are met. We are hopeful this will reduce some of the stress and ease you back into learning upon your return.
  - All class sessions for the Body and Disease course, including Pathology, will be virtual to ensure the health of our faculty and students.

- CSF-1 will be a combination of VIRTUAL and IN PERSON! We are very excited to offer this so students can learn physical exam skills, while being safe. See Canvas updates for details from Dr. Weigle.
  - Jan 5 - CSF starts and remains virtual for month of January.
  - Week of Feb 2 - Begin in person physical exam training and wards visits. Half of the class will do physical exam training in TSCHE with masks/ face shields (more details to come about how we do this).

- Please know that as conditions evolve and COVID risks decrease, we will work to safely return to in-person classes if we can.

- You will have CSI right before starting your Clerkship year. If we can have this in-person, we most certainly will! If not, we will plan for a hybrid course like we did this past summer with physical exams, wards visits, and procedure training in person, and the remainder of the course virtually in large and small groups.

- You will then start your Clerkships off in August!
  - Your Clerkship Directors are well aware that your MS1 year has been mostly virtual - they are here to support you and teach you! The Clerkship Directors will collaborate with CSF and CSI Directors to know where you are in your clinical skills and how to help you grow them. We did this for the current MS2s and our students have done great.
  - **Grading will remain Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory.** We feel this strikes the balance of reducing stress and allow students to focus on learning. New grading schema developed by course directors to reflect this. Extensive faculty development materials produced and disseminated to support faculty in writing robust, objective evaluations to allow students to see how well they are meeting expectations in clinical care.
• Thank you for your incredible dedication to learning medicine during unprecedented times. Please know we care about you and your learning, and will continue to prioritize both. Please email Aditee Narayan if you have any questions and concerns about your curriculum, as well as contacting your course directors.

Best,
Your medical education team

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