Dear Colleagues,

I hope you, your family, friends, and colleagues are staying healthy and safe during these challenging times. I recognize, appreciate and am thankful for the hard work each of you have contributed so far. The amazing resilience of our PGME community never ceases to amaze me.

I am writing to update you on key developments relating to residency education and the current COVID-19 pandemic.

**Direction and Supports for the 2019-20 Academic Year**

**Remote Learning**

We, at PGME, are asking programs to anticipate and plan for the continuation of online/remote learning and social distancing measures for the remainder of the 2019-20 academic year. We are here to support this planning in any way possible so please do not hesitate to reach out if assistance is needed.

**Program Educational and Assessment Expectations re: CBME plans**

Residency Program Committees (RPCs), Program Directors and Competence Committees (CCs) have the authority to make adjustments to their Residency Program’s education and assessment requirements (e.g. pausing/deferring some or all educational activities, reducing EPA target requirements, allowing flexibility for project deadlines) in consideration of the current clinical climate and wellness needs of their residents, fellows and faculty.

Where possible, any adjustments made to a Residency Program’s education and/or assessment plan requirements should be documented and approved by the RPC. We highly encourage broad communications with your residents and faculty about any changes that are made.
Competence Committees need to be aware and consider the RPC's decision to relax the current expectations for EPA completion. Given the current circumstances, where assessment volume may be impacted, Competence Committees have and should exercise their authority to Progress and Promote Residents and Fellows based on whatever assessment data is available at that time. This process should involve a triangulation of data collected from past EPAs, ITARs and supervisor and academic advisor (if applicable) input.

The CBME Leads and the Royal College are working jointly to review the options for COVID-19 guidelines for both the 'traditional' and Competence By Design (CBD) cohorts and will provide more information as it becomes available in the upcoming weeks. However, we have been reassured that flexibility will be tolerated at the program level.

**Redeployment**

Programs are reminded to reflect redeployment scheduling changes in POWER, and also to identify to PGME any pool of residents who can be redeployed further from underutilized services to other departments or sites if need be as per my March 31st memorandum found here [Redeployment Memo](#).

PGME Leaders have collated and curated clinical resources for residents undergoing deployment. All resources can be found at the PGME website [here](#).

Resources to support learning, teaching and assessment in redeployment will continue to be developed and shared broadly.

If Programs or their faculty need assistance with any of the educational or technical aspects to remote learning and teaching, please contact Dr. Susan Glover Takahashi at cbme.facdev@utoronto.ca.

**Note:** It's important that you remind clinicians to follow the protocols for their respective clinical site.

**Looking Ahead to 2020-21**

Over the upcoming weeks, PGME will be focusing on planning for the next academic year, inventorying and understanding the anticipated plans for each learner (i.e. CARMS, Fellowships, international / domestic) and their ‘next steps’ after June 30th (i.e. leaving, continuing, starting). This will be the focus of several PGME communications and activities in the near future.

Please let us know if you have any questions or concerns.

The Postgraduate Wellness Office remains available to provide support to all residents and
fellows pgwellness@utoronto.ca or 416-946-3074.

Sincerely,

Get the most recent updates from the Faculty of Medicine on COVID19

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