Electives

All visiting (within Canada) PGME electives (coming and going) have resumed except for Internal Medicine, which is clarified by the Department of Medicine as follows:

1. IM PGY3s entering CaRMS subspecialty match. As per a nationwide agreement of Program Directors in Internal Medicine, the current pause in electives will be extended through Block 4 and will apply to all IM PGY3s in the CaRMS Subspecialty Match. This does not apply to IM PGY3s who are not in the CaRMS MSM match.
2. For all other residents, non-UofT electives are permitted starting in Block 4
   a. Should the situation change, and a surge appear imminent, then residents must be aware that they may need to cancel the rotations if necessary.

For those who do travel for electives:
   a. Travel restrictions may change within Canada as the pandemic evolves so always have a backup plan and be prepared to accept self-isolation requirements should they be needed; at the present time there are NO self-isolation requirements in place for those returning to Toronto from elsewhere in Canada.
   b. For residents going to a school where self-isolation is required, this will need to be planned for and cannot impact the time of the prior UofT rotation (i.e., personal time off must be scheduled such that a 2-week quarantine does not impact the UofT rotation before the elective).
   c. Please be reminded that those returning from travel OUTSIDE OF CANADA for any reason must self-isolate for 14 days prior to re-entering clinical environments here as per our agreement with our TAHSN hospital partners.

Upcoming Return to School

We are aware that many of you have children and other family commitments that will impact your schedules come this fall and that many unanswered questions remain particularly around school schedules and self-isolation requirements. We expect that programs will demonstrate as much flexibility as possible in accommodating scheduling needs including creative use of vacation/professional leaves, part-time options, work-from-home options, etc. I have been communicating with PARO about any further provisions within the contract to support disruptions due to family care issues and/or self-isolation related thereto. For now, we will use what options exist in the current contract to create as much flexibility as we can, knowing that we will all likely have urgent and/or unexpected demands occur during the fall.
Upcoming CaRMS Cycles

The altered UG schedule has necessitated a revised PGY1 CaRMS timeline and virtual interviews. This will apply to all CaRMS matches this year, including new ones (Family Medicine Enhanced skills, Pediatrics and Medicine Subspecialties). Thanks to all who participated in CaRMS selections activities for this important work and being flexible in adapting to a new model for selection. We will be communicating an updated conflict of interest guideline soon; I wish to remind all that paid consulting work for prep courses is discouraged by the faculty and will disqualify individuals from participating in selection activities.

Vacation Pay

We are grateful that PARO reached an agreement with the OHA and MOH to cover vacation pay in lieu of vacation for academic year 2019-2020. Thanks to those who have submitted their requests; we are working with programs to verify the data. Regrettably, other professional leave was not included. We are working with the other PGME offices in Ontario to advocate for similar lieu pay for our non-MOH funded residents and fellows.

Accreditation

This will also take place virtually for the first time in Canada! I am personally excited at the prospect of testing out new platforms and processes for accreditation and am confident our programs and PGME in general will be able to demonstrate what we do accurately and convincingly to the survey teams who will ‘visit’ us in November. We know we have work to do and the resident voice is critical in informing this. You will have contributed to the RDoC survey and will also be called upon to participate in your program’s review in November. We will be providing further outreach in time, and all chief residents have been invited to a workshop being hosted by the accrediting Colleges on September 24th to aid in your preparation. For those of you serving on our committees, you will again be asked to participate as a committee member, and I thank you again for all of your important contributions to education at UofT.

Redeployment/PPE

Thanks to all who completed their PPE training and attestations, we can confidently state that 98% of residents have had the basic training. Thankfully, redeployment activity is minimal at present and with a sound provincial and municipal oversight hopefully we will not have a situation where the disruptions seen in the first wave recur. Thanks to all for indicating your preference for a redeployment month – let’s all hope it won’t be needed! We have identified some capacity at sites to provide ‘drop-in’ or ‘refresher’ PPE training; if you feel a need to access this, please contact us at postgrad.med@utoronto.ca.