

5/1/2020 – Hello and Checking In! (Message from Dr. Chin)

Dear COM Students,

I hope this finds you well, and I want to let you know how proud I am of you! Despite the challenges of this pandemic, you have kept an open mind and adapted to new ways of learning and interacting with your faculty and fellow students. This has been extremely helpful to all of us trying to maintain continuity and educational excellence. Thank you for your partnership and hard work.

First Year Students: In about two weeks, you will have completed your first year of medical school. CONGRATULATIONS! Thank you for your cooperative spirit as we moved your classes on-line. I also am grateful to the faculty and staff for their commitment, creativity and swift action. I've participated in a number of classes and was impressed by how well you are learning and the positive interactions.

Second Year Students: I know you are frustrated about Step 1. We are too. Please know that we are advocating, at every level, to accelerate the USMLE and Prometric timeline. USMLE is examining options, including the administration of Step 1 at medical schools. I have a weekly call with the other medical school deans across the country and the number one issue is opening new testing sites for Step 1. We will continue to press for quick resolution on this. Drs. Lesperance and Mason have worked hard to adjust the clerkship schedule to provide maximum flexibility when the timeline for Step 1 and the full return to clinical rotations remains uncertain. Know that everything we are doing is based on our commitment to your success and safety.

Third Year Students: An exciting time is beginning for you! You are now making appointments with your MSPE writers/advisors in preparation for the residency application process. The availability of away electives must weigh heavy on your minds and that is understandable. We are monitoring the situation daily, and whether or not away rotations become possible, we will make sure you are prepared for your chosen specialty. Again, Drs. Lesperance and Mason have been speaking with the clinical departments, and they are working on adapting your AIs and electives to the changes in healthcare delivery during a pandemic. Like your MS2 colleagues, many of you may be concerned about the scheduling of your Step 2 exams. Program directors are aware of the challenges created by this crisis and they will respond appropriately. We will continue to advocate and monitor and communicate with you.

While it may provide little comfort, know that all medical schools are dealing with the same difficulties right now. So far, I'm pleased with our progress, and I am impressed with your perseverance. Together we will survive, and we will be stronger and more resilient as a result.

I will be joining you on the town hall WebX next Wednesday at 5pm. I look forward to seeing you then!

Dr. Chin