

Dear SOM Graduate Students,

This is obviously a very challenging time for School of Medicine graduate students and faculty members alike. On behalf of the School of Medicine, I thank you for your commitment to your graduate training and for your patience as we as an institution respond and adapt to the COVID-19 situation. Here, I highlight several key points regarding your training:

- SOM graduate courses subject to spring break March 9-13 will resume on March 16 as originally scheduled.
- SOM lecture-based graduate courses will migrate to on-line formats by March 23.
- SOM graduate students should not physically be on the MCV Campus for the sole purpose of participating in courses while courses are being delivered via remote format.
- SOM graduate students performing research should continue work in their labs or other research settings and remain in communication with their research supervisors/advisors. Importantly, graduate students participating in research and their research advisors are expected to explore options for students to work remotely—to the greatest extent possible—without majorly disrupting research programs.
- Ultimately, each of us have to assess our own level of perceived risk and concern and make our decisions accordingly. If you consider your training activities as non-essential and/or overly risky at this time, then, of course, please do decide accordingly. We respect that and we will support you through this challenging time.
- Key resources available to SOM graduate students include [VCU Student Health Services](#), [VCU Counseling Services](#), their advisors, their graduate program directors, and the [Graduate Education Office](#).
- SOM graduate students should see the websites for [VCU](#), the [VCU Health System](#) and the [CDC](#) for more information about COVID-19.

The School of Medicine supports you at all times, never more so than now. Please use the resources noted above, including my office, as we navigate through this time together.

Sincerely yours,

Mike Grotewiel, Ph.D.
Associate Dean for Graduate Education
School of Medicine
Virginia Commonwealth University