



Dear Student Colleagues:

As we draw toward the close of an unprecedented week in your training and in our nation at large, I want to write briefly to convey one message: **Thank you.**

I am always proud of VCU SOM students, though never more so than this week. You have demonstrated remarkable responsiveness and professionalism in enduring ambiguity, a rapid shift to online training and curricular revisions, the ramping down of research, and amidst all these changes, the unprecedented societal curtailments and the spread of COVID-19.

Please know that the School of Medicine including in particular our Graduate Education team recognizes the stress this might place on students and that we are committed to helping you now as always. Our faculty have worked tirelessly to move effectively to a virtual learning platform. We can be proud of their efforts, so ably led by Dr. Grotewiel and your Graduate Program Directors.

We are proud, and grateful, for your many suggestions and your partnership as we have implemented together these changes.

There is also, amidst this crisis, much else to be proud of: your professionalism, both in words and deeds; your selfless giving; your volunteerism in many ways to our local community and your donation of blood that is so needed at this moment and your support of one another. I urge each of you to keep yourselves informed to the best of your ability and to continue following the direction put forth by local, state and federal authorities.

Please remain diligent to the CDC's social distancing guidelines and encourage your friends and family to do the same—we are in this together. More details and resources are available at [VCU's COVID-19 website](#).

Challenging times can bring out the best in us and they can build our resilience. When this public health crisis is long gone, you will emerge stronger and we are confident that the resilience demonstrated now will be an asset to you throughout your careers. We will get through this together. Again, as I close, my thanks to each of you. You are training at a medical school of great legacy and your leadership now becomes part of our future legacy.

With admiration and gratitude,



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