

Memo from Interim Dean Robert L. Johnson, MD, FAAP, RE: COVID-19 3/24/20

Tue 3/24/2020 4:42 PM



Dear Faculty, Staff, Residents, Fellows and Students:

I am not sure what made today different, but as the day progressed, I felt an air of confidence and resolve in my interactions with so many of you. I thought it important to take a few minutes to talk about that.

1. The day began with the daily 7:30 a.m. WebEx with the chairs. Each of them and resultantly, the faculty and staff, have accepted their role on the front line of defense against COVID-19. They communicated your resolve, professionalism and willingness to adapt and thrive on behalf of our patients, as this public health crisis continues to progress.
2. Later in the morning, another WebEx occurred with the executive leadership of both schools and we worked together to problem solve for our schools and to advocate for the stakeholders we serve: the students and patients and those who allow us to work in the service of others, the faculty and staff.
3. Not long after, an email from the students arrived offering to assist clinical faculty and staff at the medical school and hospital with life tasks such as grocery runs, pet care and virtual homework help. They will also become volunteers in the telehealth program.
4. And I would be remiss if I did not mention our hospital partners and their tireless hard work and dedication on the front lines alongside of us.

It has been my experience during any type of crisis, that we continue to look for that single ray of light that allows us to smile. Today, there were multiple bright lights for all of us to focus on and to reflect about.

I want to continually express my gratitude for your selfless dedication to others. I also want to recognize the entire organization, including those who support all of us each day and play a vital role in our ongoing efforts to fight this virus.

Sincerely,

Robert L. Johnson, MD, FAAP