

Subject: April 10 update to the GSDM community on coronavirus
Date: Friday, April 10, 2020 at 3:56:30 PM Eastern Daylight Time
From: GSDM Office of the Dean
To: GSDM Office of the Dean
CC: Hutter, Jeffrey W
Priority: High
Attachments: image001.png

Boston University Henry M. Goldman School of Dental Medicine
Office of the Dean

Dear colleagues,

I continue to be so proud of every member of the Henry M. Goldman School of Dental Medicine community for the poise, commitment, and creativity you have demonstrated as we continue to work together to navigate the “new normal” of our daily reality.

Many of our operational areas – including clinical, academic, business, and research – have settled into a smooth and efficient flow, so I do not have many updates to share on those fronts. However, there have been exciting developments with regards to our plans to celebrate the Class of 2020 as well as a few other updates, and I have included more details on those below.

Before you read on, however, I did want to thank everyone who submitted questions via [the web form](#), through our social media channels, or through Zoom calls. We are currently at work gathering information to answer these questions, and will be publishing an FAQs document on our website next week. In the meantime, please continue to submit any questions you might have, as we will be updating our FAQs list on a continuous basis.

Commencement

I am very pleased to announce that the Class of 2020 has spoken, and we will be holding a postponed in-person convocation ceremony later this year.

As you may remember from [the April 3 update](#), we presented the Class of 2020 with two options for commencement: a postponed in-person convocation, to be held in conjunction with the university’s postponed commencement weekend, or a virtual celebration during the original commencement weekend in May.

We asked members of the Class of 2020 to vote for their choice – and nearly every graduating student and resident took the time to complete a ballot. When all the votes were tallied, the choice was clear – 80 percent of respondents voted for a postponed in-person convocation ceremony.

Our postponed convocation will be held the same weekend as the University’s Commencement Weekend; President Brown has yet to make a final decision on the postponed date, but he is considering either August (8/22-23) or October (10/3-4, to coincide with Alumni Weekend). We anticipate that he will announce his decision by May 1.

I am sure that I speak for the entire Henry M. Goldman School of Dental Medicine community when I say that I think it is wonderful that so many of our students and residents expressed an interest in returning to Boston for their 2020 convocation. We are already hard at work on planning a very special celebration of their hard work and accomplishments, and will share more information as it becomes available.

Senior Awards Dinner

We will not postpone the Predoctoral Senior Awards Dinner, but instead will hold a virtual celebration in mid-May at which we will announce all award winners, including the 2020 inductees into the Lambda Mu Chapter of Omicron Kappa Upsilon National Dental Honor Society (OKU).

While we will certainly miss the opportunity to gather together in person for this event, we know that our virtual gathering will be an excellent celebration of the many accomplishments of the DMD and DMD Advanced Standing Class of 2020. We are still in the early planning stages, and will share more information as it becomes available.

Graduation Requirements

The Graduation Requirements Task Force submitted its preliminary report to me on Thursday, April 9, 2020. I will be reviewing the report with the Task Force co-chairs, Dr. Celeste Kong and Dr. Cataldo Leone, and anticipate that the Task Force will submit a final report by mid-April.

Research Operations

While our school's research operations continue to focus on basic maintenance only, I am very pleased to announce yet another significant research grant award. Dr. Elizabeth Kaye, professor of health policy & health services research, received notification that her NIH R03 grant has been funded; the study represents a novel collaboration with the school's Center for Clinical Research and makes use of data resources that Dr. Marianne Jurasic and colleagues have worked hard to develop over several years. Please join me in congratulating Dr. Kaye on this accomplishment.

Newton Pavilion

I shared last week that the state is reopening the Newton Pavilion facility, and will be using it to provide additional services to the Boston homeless population, particularly those individuals affected by the coronavirus. I can now report that patients have begun to move into the facility. I am in active conversations with Medical Campus and University leadership and public safety officials to monitor the situation, and will keep you apprised as we continue to learn more about how this facility will be used throughout the coronavirus pandemic.

Additional Resources

In closing, I urge you again to bookmark the following sites and visit them frequently as they are excellent resources for the latest information about the university and the school's response to COVID-19.

[Boston University COVID-19 Information](#) – The university created this website to gather together frequently asked questions about the coronavirus as well as to share resources and information that will help students, residents, faculty, and staff continue to be safe, comfortable, and productive.

[BUMC COVID-19 Information](#) – This BUMC website provides links to information concerning the BU Medical Campus preparedness and response as well as to important resources for faculty, staff, students, and residents.

[GSDM COVID-19 Information](#) – This webpage will serve as a repository for all communications that go out from GSDM leadership to the school community. It also contains links to the BU and BUMC COVID-19 websites.

Additionally, please do follow GSDM on social media ([Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [LinkedIn](#)) as we are frequently sharing information and resources on these platforms as well.

In closing, thank you again for everything you do on a daily basis to support each other and our school community. Mrs. Hutter and I continue to keep all of you in our thoughts and prayers and to send our best wishes for your continued health and safety.

Sincerely,

Dean Hutter

