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

GSDM Task Force for the Successful Planning of the 2020-2021 Academic Year

Dear colleagues,

As I mentioned in last Friday’s update, in addition to focusing on the successful completion of the current academic year, we are also planning for the 2020-21 academic year with the goal of being even better than we were before. To this end, I have established the Task Force for the Successful Planning of the Henry M. Goldman School of Dental Medicine 2020-2021 Academic Year. Please read on for more details about the charge to this task force, and the task force’s organization.

**Charge by the Dean:** The GSDM Task Force for the Successful Planning of the 2020-2021 Academic Year is charged with developing a comprehensive plan for the 2020-2021 Academic Year at the Henry M. Goldman School of Dental Medicine (GSDM) in response to the effects of COVID-19 on normal operations. This plan is to include changes due to the COVID-19 pandemic, integration of changes and, if necessary, options to this plan as additional changes occur. The
goal is to place GSDM in a better place than before the COVID-19 pandemic: “Better than what we were before.”

**Context:** I am very pleased to announce that Drs. Alexander Bendayan and Margaret Errante have accepted my appointment to co-chair the Task Force. In their capacity as co-chairs, they will be responsible for organizing seven working groups representing different areas of GSDM, and for overseeing, advising, and supporting the development of strategies from each of the respective working groups. The Working Groups will include Academic Affairs, Admissions, Clinical Affairs, Global & Population Health and Student Affairs, Innovation, Office of the Dean, and Research. As co-chairs, Drs. Errante and Bendayan will 1) work with the Chairs of each Working Group in identifying 6 (six) faculty / staff who will serve as members in each of the respective Working Groups and 2) be responsible for the scheduling of meetings with the Working Groups individually and/or as a whole to conduct the business of the Task Force. Once the members of the respective Working Groups have been identified, they will receive a message from me as Dean appointing them to the Task Force.

Please refer to the attached ‘Organizational Chart of the GSDM Task Force for the Successful Planning of the 2020-2021 Academic Year.’

**Primary Objective:** To prepare GSDM for its return to normal operations under new guidelines as put forth by Boston University, and by federal, state, and local authorities, and as result of ‘things learned’ from COVID-19.

**Secondary Objectives:** To continue improving upon operations in all areas of GSDM; again abiding by the guidelines as put forth by Boston University, and by federal, state, and local authorities, and as result of ‘things learned’ from COVID-19. To take from all things learned from the COVID-19 crisis, to create opportunities for continual improvement for GSDM to “be even better” and again realize our vision of GSDM being the premier academic institution promoting excellence in dental education, research, oral healthcare, and community service to improve the overall health of the global population.

**Co-Chairs:**
- Dr. Margaret Errante – Associate Dean for Quality Management,
Compliance and Continuing Education; Director Dental Health Center
• Dr. Alexander Bendayan – Associate Dean for Digital Development, Technology and Innovation; ad interim Chair, Restorative Sciences & Biomaterials

Project Manager:
• Richard Rabbett III – Director of Faculty Affairs and Operations, Office of the Dean

Consultant, GSDM Construction Project
• Christy Murphy – Senior Project Manager, Compass Project Management

Administrative Support:
• Jonathan Ramones – Faculty Affairs Coordinator, Office of the Dean
• Sarah Pettengill – Senior Administrative Assistant, Office of Quality Management & Compliance

Platform for Communication:
• Microsoft Teams / Microsoft Planner / Zoom / Excel / other software as needed

Working Groups: I am very pleased to announce that Dr. Cataldo Leone, Dr. John Guarente, Dr. Maria Kukuruzinska, Mr. Timothy McDonough, Dr. Michelle Henshaw, Dr. Joseph Calabrese, Dr. David Russell, Dr. Hesham Nouh, and Dr. Afsheen Lakhani have accepted my appointments to chair the following working groups of the Task Force:

1. Academic Working Group:
   a. Chair: Dr. Cataldo Leone - Associate Dean for Academic Affairs
   b. Objective: Determine and implement the necessary parameters for the education of students/residents with consideration of possible restrictions as dictated by federal, state, and local authorities in response to COVID-19. This may necessitate remote learning and/or hybrids of such.
2. **Clinical Working Group:**
   
a. **Chair:** Dr. John Guarente - Associate Dean for Clinical Affairs
   
b. **Objective:** Determine and implement the necessary parameters for patient care and clinical education of students/residents for academic year 2020-2021 in the GSDM Patient Treatment Centers (predoctoral, postdoctoral, and dental health centers) and Simulation Learning Center adhering to federal, state, and local directives and recommendations.

3. **Research Working Group:**
   
a. **Chair:** Dr. Maria Kukuruzinska – Associate Dean for Research
   
b. **Objective:** Determine and implement the necessary parameters for all clinical and laboratory research operations at GSDM. All research will need to adhere to any new restrictions from federal, state, and local Authorities.

   
a. **Chair:** Timothy McDonough – Executive Director of Finance and Operations
   
b. **Objective:** Work closely with all units of GSDM to approve and support changes in operations, finance, communications, IT, facilities, and events as needed.

4. **Global and Population Health/Student Affairs Working Group:**
   
a. **Chair:** Dr. Michelle Henshaw - Associate Dean for Global and Population Health, and Dr. Joseph Calabrese – Associate Dean of Students.
   
b. **Objective:** Develop and implement any necessary changes that have resulted due to COVID-19 in order to educate, communicate and support our students and residents.
5. **Admissions Working Group:**
   a. **Chair:** Dr. David Russell- Assistant Dean for Admissions
   b. **Objective:** Determine and implement methods to continue the robust operations of admissions for predoctoral DMD and DMD Advanced Standing students and postdoctoral residents enrolled in Advanced Education Programs in any environment that continues to result in the acceptance of the ‘best of the best’ students and residents into all programs at GSDM.

6. **Innovation Working Group:**
   a. **Co-Chairs:** Dr. Hesham Nouh - Associate Chair of General Dentistry, and Dr. Afsheen Lakhani – Group Practice Leader
   b. **Objective:** Determine areas of need that will continue to provide a focus of innovation at GSDM, and develop a plan of implementation to include any additional resources that may be necessary. Present a well thought out plan to the Associate Dean for Innovation that can be implemented within the academic year 2020-2021.

**Timeline:** Co-chairs Dr. Errante and Bendayan will provide me as Dean with a preliminary report with recommendations no later than **May 20, 2020**, and a final report with recommendations no later than **June 10, 2020**.

I am confident that the leadership of Drs. Errante and Bendayan, as well as the leadership and guidance put forth by each of the seven working groups, the hard work and support of the members of each working group, and the support of our BU Henry M. Goldman School of Dental Medicine community, will ensure that our school and our community will emerge from this challenging time even better and stronger than before. I will continue to share updates on the work of this task force with the GSDM community throughout the process, and will share highlights from the final report when they are available.
If you have any questions about the task force, please don’t hesitate to reach out to my office, or to Drs. Bendayan and Errante directly.

Please be safe, stay healthy and remain optimistic that GSDM will emerge from the COVID-19 pandemic ‘Better than what we were before.’

Sincerely,

Dean Hutter