Hope you had a great weekend.

**P1, P2, P3:** Interesting feedback from Dr. Beleh on how you are doing with Open Book Exams: Exam scores very similar to previous years. Some students not finishing exams, suggesting they are trying to look everything up and running out of time. Open book exam does not mean “don’t study ahead of time!” If you don’t study sufficiently such that you can answer most questions without looking them up, you won’t finish on time.

**P3s:** You can get Financial Aid for upcoming Spring/Summer semester. How you apply depends on what type of assistance you are currently receiving. I will try and clarify the steps below as it applies to your personal situation:

- If you applied for aid with the FAFSA for the 2019-2020 academic year, you do not need to resubmit a FAFSA for the summer term. You will need to complete a “Spring/Summer Request for Funds” form with the Office of Financial Aid. Note, this form will not be available until February 7, 2020. If you did not apply for aid with the FAFSA for the 2019-2020 academic year but you now want to apply for aid for the summer term, you will need to complete a FAFSA for consideration of summer assistance. After you submit your FAFSA you will still need to complete a “Spring/Summer Request for Funds” form with the Office of Financial Aid, but I strongly encourage you to contact them to let you know you plan to apply for summer assistance. [Here is the link to the relevant Financial Aid website](https://finaid.umich.edu/springsummer-aid/)

**P4s especially:** Commencement at Michigan is not just another event. Commencement is a major milestone acknowledging the four years of hard work, training and the start of your professional life. We need to celebrate this accomplishment with you. Due to the COVID-19 situation we are forced to make some decisions to be sure that commencement is safe – for our students, our faculty and staff, and your families. Bringing people together is not safe right now, so we cannot ask your family and friends to travel to Ann Arbor over the next few weeks to celebrate Commencement in person.

We are pleased to announce that the College of Pharmacy will hold an online celebration of the Class of 2020 on Saturday, April 25, 2020. More information will be sent soon to share with your family and friends. This will not be a live event, rather a showcase of graduates, selected remarks, faculty well wishes, and images to celebrate each of you and your accomplishments.

In addition, the Class of 2020 will be invited and encouraged to return to Ann Arbor for the April 2021 Commencement Exercises to officially gather together with family, friends, and faculty. At next year’s event, you will be able to walk in the processional in your cap and gown, experience the formal hooding ceremony, and be photographed with all the pomp and circumstance that you deserve. We will send a Graduation Package to each of our PharmD graduates this spring, including a mini composite, honor cords/service cords/student organization cords as appropriate, a
Graduation Book celebrating you and your classmates (watch for an email about this sent separately), a 2020 tassel, and more to officially acknowledge this milestone. Thanks to the PharmD Commencement Committee for their work to make this happen (Hilda McDonald, Susan Fitzpatrick, Mark Nelson, Jolene Bostwick and our P4 representatives Alexis Hamelink, Crystal Lee, and Makenzie Thelen). We look forward to celebrating this special day with you on April 25 and again at next year’s commencement ceremony.

**Everyone**: Really interesting Michigan Medicine Town Hall Meeting on their COVID response. There are a lot of moving parts at a hospital! See for yourself: [view the video here](#).

**Me?** What did I do this weekend? Those smoked ribs were delicious. We also cleaned out the garage and found a 20 year old badminton set!! It is in the backyard so I can do some socially distant exercise!

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Professor and Senior Associate Dean

University of Michigan College of Pharmacy

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