

From: Mueller, Bruce
Sent: Tuesday, September 15, 2020 1:47 PM
Cc: Ringold, Vicki (vellingr@med.umich.edu) <vellingr@med.umich.edu>
Subject: Update from the COP Dean's Office for Grad Students



Office of the Dean
428 Church Street, Ann Arbor, MI 48109-1065

Bruce A. Mueller, PharmD, FCCP FASN, FNKF
Interim Dean and Professor of Clinical Pharmacy
734-764-7144 • Fax: 734-763-2022
Email: muellerb@med.umich.edu

September 15, 2020

Dear Grad Students,

It is starting to feel like a real semester. Student organizations have lots of activity going on and we have a flu shot clinic in our building on Saturday. Below I describe a few other new activities designed to get you away from your computer/phone screen (Walk with Us program) and also to get you ready to crush those upcoming job interviews (In the Interim on Friday afternoon). Take advantage of these great College of Pharmacy activities!

GRAD STUDENT INFORMATION

❖ **TODAY! Conversation with President Mark S. Schlissel and Susan M. Collins:** I wanted to make sure that you were aware that this afternoon, President Schlissel and Provost Collins have invited the entire University of Michigan community to engage in their discussion regarding COVID-19 campus planning, its effect on our community. This conversation will take place today, Tuesday September 15, 1:45-2:30pm. The live stream will be available at umich.edu/watch and they will post the recording after the event. I encourage you to listen in.

❖ **Congratulations:** Despite the pandemic and research labs closing in March then slowly reopening throughout the summer, we are thrilled to see that our PhD students are still able to successfully defend their dissertations and move forward! Congrats to the following students for completing their PhD during this time:

- ★ Shuai Hu (Med Chem) defended May 2020
- ★ Brian Thompson (PharmSci) defended July 2020
- ★ Katie Cavanagh (PharmSci) defended August 2020
- ★ Jenna Walker (PharmSci) defended August 2020
- ★ Alireza Hassani Najafabadi (PharmSci) defending TODAY!

And kudos those of you who are continuing to make progress in the pursuit of your degree in all three departments!

❖ **Commendations:** Do you know any faculty, staff, or students who have gone above and beyond lately? If so consider submitting a commendation note to let them know they are appreciated. You can find the link through your MyCOP sign in under student business, PhD program, Professional Conduct. Or use this link https://apps.phar.umich.edu/prof_comm/index

- ❖ **Flu Clinic:** On Saturday September 19th, the College of Pharmacy will be holding our annual flu clinic. This means that for those of you working in the building, there will be extra people around the lobby and the 1st floor of North University. The conference rooms set aside for researchers lunches will be closed in these areas.
- ❖ **Close Contact Form:** Also if you are needing to do some work in the lab that requires close contact (<6 feet distance), talk to your mentor to make sure that they have filled out a close contact form. If you are in need of a form, contact Dean Ellingrod at vellingr@med.umich.edu to get a copy if you need one.
- ❖ **Grad Student FAQs:** Additionally, I wanted to remind you that if you have pharmacy specific questions, you can submit them [HERE](#). Nothing has been submitted since August 10th so please submit your questions as Dean Ellingrod is waiting to answer them.
- ❖ **“In the Interim” Program:** We had ~50 people in the audience for the very first “In the Interim” networking program last week! I was really happy with how the program went and that we were able to address the questions with our guest, Lydia Benitez. I really enjoyed talking with her and am looking for suggestions from you all regarding speakers that you as graduate students would be interested in hearing from. I’m already planning on having Dr. Tim Cernak and Dr. Anna Schwendeman as part of this program, but need more suggestions. So let me know who you want to hear from.
- ❖ **Wolverine Support Network:** I also hope you saw the email from the Wolverine Support Network announcing a virtual peer facilitated support group. [Wolverine Support Network](#) (WSN), a student organization -- sponsored by CAPS -- with a mission to create an inclusive and supportive community for all students on campus, undergraduate and graduate, regardless of department.
This network of support is accomplished through **weekly, peer-facilitated groups** that promote and address students’ emotional and mental well-being in a confidential and inclusive environment. **Graduate student participants are placed in groups led by graduate students and composed of other graduate students.** In light of COVID-19, **Fall 2020 groups will be conducted virtually.**

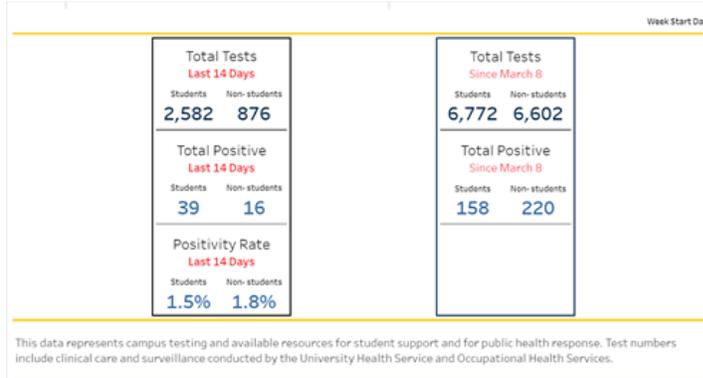
To Join the 2020 Fall Semester groups - please [sign up HERE](#) or reach out to the WSN Director Team (WSNDirectors@umich.edu) if you want more information.

COLLEGE INFORMATION

- **NEW Networking Program (“Zoom-free”):** Come “Walk with Us!” COP faculty and staff invite you to take a short 15-20 minute walk on campus so we can get to know you better, build our COP Community and promote wellness. Students who are interested can self-schedule on this [Google Sheet](#). Just select the tab of a faculty or staff member available and add your name and email address to a day and time that works best for you. You can find some bios for faculty and staff in our College of Pharmacy directory [HERE](#). In order to maintain safe social distancing practices, walks are limited to no more than 2 students per faculty/staff member. Don’t forget your mask! This is a great way to meet new faculty, staff, and students and practice your networking skills! Come join us! If you have other Zoom-free activity ideas, please share!
- **On Campus Study Spaces:** Some students have asked about finding a space on campus to study or attend classes remotely. Check out: <https://studyspaces.umich.edu/>
- **Imposter Syndrome Mini-Lecture and Panel Discussion:** Join us on Wednesday, October 7 at 12:00 p.m. for a brief student-led mini-lecture and small panel discussion on Imposter Syndrome. This event is part of our #WellnessWednesdays and #COPcares and is available for Professional and Career Development LLL credit. The event will take place via Zoom and can be accessed [HERE](#).

- **Concerns Raised by Pharmacy Students:**
 - ***Are undergraduate student cases on the rise? NO***

The [U-M COVID-19 Data Dashboard](#) is the go-to resource for tracking current and recent cases on campus. As of today at 8:45am there have been 39 UM students that have tested positive in the past 14 days.



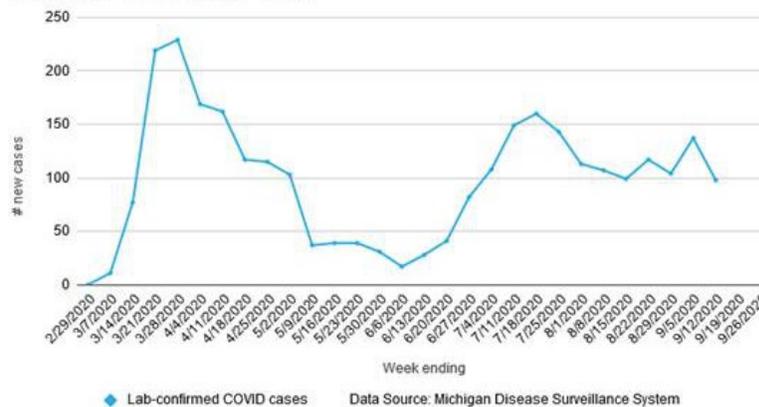
Also, check out the new [Public Health Community Notices](#) Link on the Dashboard where the University is sharing the communications that go out to affected students when a case is identified.

- ***Are COVID cases in Ann Arbor skyrocketing? NO***

Washtenaw County provides a [Confirmed COVID-19 Cases website](#) that is updated weekly on Thursdays (it was updated daily until this week). The number of new reported cases appears to be holding fairly steady since August 1, with a small spike at the beginning of September.

New Confirmed COVID-19 Cases in Washtenaw County Residents (by Symptom Onset Week)* (as of 9/14)

Washtenaw County 2020 (total N = 2853)



- ***Are in-person Pharmacy classes being canceled due to GSI strike? NO***

The big news on campus is that the graduate students are on strike. Some of you have wondered what that means to you. All College of Pharmacy classes and exams continue to go on as scheduled unless you hear otherwise from Dean Mueller. If you feel compelled to show some sign of support with the grad students, you may participate in whatever activities you like. If you will miss class for these activities, please complete an absence request form. These absences will be treated like any other personal day absence.

- ***Is food and drink allowed in the building? YES***

Food and drink are not prohibited in the College of Pharmacy buildings.

- ***Is it true that we can't bring water with us to an exam because we can't take off our masks? NO***

You must wear a mask at all times when on campus. You can, however, lift up your mask in order to take a drink of water and then immediately reposition your mask back over your mouth. It is important that you stay hydrated, especially when taking an exam. There is no rule or policy that suggests that water is not allowed during an exam because you must wear a mask.

YOUR WELL-BEING

You're off to the races this semester! This is a reminder that your well-being should be a priority every day! Make some time each day for activities that can help to enhance your mental and physical wellbeing. [HERE](#) are some ideas for safe outdoor activities and [HERE](#) are other ideas for planning something enjoyable! Challenge: Email or text a friend or someone you would like to get to know better to explore a new interest or hobby. Be well!

Sincerely,
Bruce A. Mueller
Interim Dean and Professor of Clinical Pharmacy
