Dear PharmD Students,

Early in my Deanship, I was approached by students concerned that COVID could reduce the networking opportunities of our students with faculty and alumni. I agree that it could, so I am going to try an experiment where I will be bringing the networking directly to you. 'In the Interim' is a new interview series that I will host each week (I am interim Dean... get it?). My goal is to offer the student audience insight into the unique careers of U-M Pharmacy faculty and alumni with an opportunity for you to ask your own questions of the guests just like any other networking you might do. During each session, you have access to exclusive networking and career opportunities. My first guest on In the Interim will be our newest faculty member, Dr. Lydia Benitez, who works in hematology pharmacy. Do you have a question for Dr. Benitez that you want to submit ahead of time? Click HERE. The first program will be held Thursday evening September 10, 2020 at 5:30 PM in Eastern Time. I am aiming for a ~20 minute networking time, please join me Thursday night! If you would like to attend, click the yellow REGISTER button on the graphic in this section of this email.

**CLASS-SPECIFIC INFORMATION**

**P2 STUDENTS**

- Our goal has been to provide as much in-person teaching as possible to you, but attendance at live teaching has been at the student’s option. We are not noticing much attendance in your medicinal chemistry class. We will give this another week, but if there isn't going to be much attendance, we will reevaluate whether we should still offer this live.
COLLEGE INFORMATION

Grad Student Instructors (GSI) Availability:

The union that our grad students belong to has authorized a strike over issues related to COVID-19 and defunding police on campus. Link Not sure what the fallout will be in the College of Pharmacy, but GSIs in your classes may be absent. Classes will go on as scheduled. This is simply a head’s up for you. Your faculty are aware of the situation.

I want to be 100% transparent with you on how the College dealt with COVID and GSI / faculty teaching this semester. All GSIs and faculty members were surveyed about their preferences for in person teaching. We accommodated 100% of those preferences. No GSI or faculty member has been mandated to teach in person at the College of Pharmacy against their will. That has been my stance on day 1 of this pandemic and will be until pandemic is over.

Additionally, you already know that we are observing all COVID safety recommendations and are having as many faculty staff and students working at home as possible.

Reminder for Building Hours for Students: The College of Pharmacy building is open to students Monday through Friday 6am to 6pm (PhD students have increased access due to research activities). Please make sure to use your MCard when entering the building and make use of the ResponsiBLUE symptom checker tool to answer health screening questions before coming to campus.

Student Services Hours: The Student Affairs Office will be open 8am-5pm Monday through Friday for limited service to students in the building during the week. One member of the Students Services team and one Assistant Dean will be in the building each day. The Office may be closed during the lunch hour (12-1pm) on select days.

U-M Sampling and Testing Program: The University of Michigan will begin a Sampling and Testing Program of asymptomatic students, faculty and staff for the virus that causes COVID-19 next week as part of a free, opt-in, voluntary surveillance testing program on the Ann Arbor campus.

https://record.umich.edu/articles/university-to-test-3000-weekly-for-covid-19-on-campus/
There is an opportunity for you to volunteer to assist in this important work. This opportunity requires in-person participation at Palmer Commons on campus. The testing site opens Thurs, Sept 10. Shifts are available through the hours of 8am-5pm. Please see the description of the volunteer opportunity below and complete this registration form if you would like to volunteer. At the testing center, students will complete participant check-in and collection kit distribution, including verifying participant identity and labeling each swab kit. The on-site team will also be responsible for observing specimen self-collection, coordinating participant flow throughout the testing center, and delivering specimens to University Health Service for pickup by courier throughout the day. Personal Protective Equipment including surgical mask and face shield will be provided at each shift.

Interested in learning on how you can participate? Send questions to: Angela Beck, ajbeck@umich.edu.

Constructive Activism: I came across this petition on Change.org:


There is no room for sexism in our profession. I signed the petition, and if you are so inclined, consider doing the same.

YOUR WELLBEING

Wellness takes time, energy, and should be a priority for each and every one of us. You’ll be hearing more about future efforts to help ensure these conversations are occurring within our community. We are all here to support each other in our wellness journeys. Virtual appointments through The Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) on central campus and groups or appointments through Wolverine Wellness are available virtually. Are you already losing sleep getting adjusted to the new school year? Did you know Wolverine Wellness offers wellness coaching on topics such as sleep to make sure you’re functioning at your best? Our Student Services team is always available as well to support you and/or point you to other available resources!

Sincerely,
Bruce A. Mueller
Interim Dean and Professor of Clinical Pharmacy
Electronic Mail is not secure, may not be read every day, and should not be used for urgent or sensitive issues