

The one thing we are all learning through this public health crisis is to expect change. Since we began planning and preparing for the possible stay-at-home guidelines in early March, we have received numerous Executive Orders from the State of Arizona and the State of Illinois. They have not come all at once, but rather seem to trickle in one at a time, leaving questions with no answers and causing some of us to wonder what's next. Do you remember playing the board game Clue? Always trying to decide the best move while collecting clues to find the correct room, weapon, and who was the guilty party? I remember playing this for hours with my children as everyone loved a good mystery. In managing us through this difficult time...I am still looking for the right clues.

Today we received a few more clues as to how we will plan and operate in the upcoming month. We know that the Governor of Illinois is mandating the Shelter-in-Place regulations for another month; however, on May 1<sup>st</sup> it appears that elective surgeries, some health care facilities and state parks will reopen, along with selected retail stores and other businesses. A face mask will be required for all employees and students who are within six-feet of each other. Social distancing will be enforced under laws of the State.

The State of Arizona has announced through Executive Order, health care facilities can reopen as of May 1, 2020, along with elective surgeries being allowed in surgery centers and all hospitals. This includes Veterinary Surgical procedures. Midwestern University has reached out to the Department of Public Health and the Governor's Office to get guidance on how soon we can bring our some of our patients back to our clinics while enforcing strict social distancing rules. We do not yet know if the Arizona Stay-at-Home order will be lifted. This will not be announced until later next week.

The COVID-19 Response Team met today, April 23, 2020 and discussed the many contingency plans we have established that include summer class curriculums, staged reopening of the clinic operations, and reaching out to all the accreditation agencies to get approval for online course materials in the summer quarter. This may be premature, but being proactive will give our students the best information and help our faculty plan the next few months of education.

#### Announcements:

- I am happy to report that our faculty, staff, students, cafeteria, bookstore, cleaning crews and construction personnel have no new cases of COVID-19.
- As a reminder, if you or your loved one are being tested for COVID-19, please contact either Ms. Amy Gibson, Director of Human Resources or Dr. Ross Kosinski, Dean of Students with this information. It will be kept confidential, but allows us to establish your recent contacts should we have to notify them of a positive case.
- We are carefully studying when our clinics can begin taking limited patient appointments, to fulfill clinic experience hours for our students. Faculty, staff and students will be notified as soon as we have clear directions from our states.

### Special Announcement for Students

- The Higher Education Emergency Relief Act applications are available to all registered Midwestern University students.
- Students are eligible to request funds if they are currently eligible for Federal Title IV Financial Aid.
- Students need to complete the application and include all additional expenses related to technology, moving to remote online learning, additional course materials and childcare related costs.
- The application can be found on the Midwestern University Financial Aid website. It needs to be completed and submitted. You are asked to write a personal statement and be available for a virtual consultation with a Financial Aid Team member.
- The Financial Aid office will notify students of their award within five business days and the aid will be received within seven days.
- While Midwestern University was granted \$2.25 million, we have determined the entire amount will be provided to our students and Midwestern is not retaining the 50% allowed under the federal law.

I wish to thank all of you for your patience and understanding as we look for additional clues. I know many of you are becoming anxious and finding the news of another 30 days of sheltering-in-place to be discouraging. However, let's remember that the health and welfare of everyone is more important than sitting in a crowded restaurant or getting a haircut...we are in this together. We will survive this and look back at how we helped each other. Let's remember that the wise person does not grieve for the things they do not have but rejoices for all that they have: family, friends, health and each other.

Be well.

Dr. G.