

Dear Faculty, Staff and Students,

For the past 25 years, Midwestern University has always embraced a culture of innovation. Over this time period, Midwestern University grew from one campus, two academic programs with approximately 950 students, to where we are today with over 7000 students on two campuses, enrolled in over 19 different health care professional degrees. A status quo attitude has never been part of our culture. As I reflect on the past eight weeks, I am thankful that we have always challenged ourselves to be innovative and creative. While innovation is never easy, over the years it has provided us wonderful opportunities to begin new academic programs, expand our outreach into the broader community and provide much needed clinical services to many patients. We have successfully accomplished our sustained growth by challenging our faculty and staff to consider new ideas, embrace innovation and make meaningful decisions that enhance our academic programs. I am grateful that we have an energetic and dedicated academic community that is willing help shape the future.

As we face the challenges and new standards established by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the state public health departments, and other state and federal agencies, we have new opportunities to shape our future. Each faculty, staff and student is working in uncharted waters. There are no “good old days” to reflect upon as we make critical decisions as to when and how we begin to safely begin to bring more of you back to campus. The COVID-19 Response Team met today, Tuesday, May 13, 2020 to discuss the coordination of our many committees into one complete and effective plan.

#### Announcements

- We are developing a purpose-driven strategy to gradually open the Glendale, Arizona campus to both clinic appointments and additional faculty and staff. We anticipate bringing a percentage of our faculty and staff back to campus around June 1, 2020, keeping in compliance with the newest Executive Order issued in Arizona on May 12, 2020. This is subject to change should the Executive Order be reissued or revised. We have heard from many patients who are anxious to return to their scheduled appointments since we limited our clinic operations to emergency care. The academic campus has also remained open but it will be so nice to see additional members of our community on campus.
- The Downers Grove, Illinois campus does not yet have an approximate date to bring additional faculty and staff back to campus. Please remember the campus never closed and our clinic operations remained open to emergency care during this public health crisis. While many faculty and staff have asked to return, we cannot yet bring additional members of the community onto the campus until the Executive Order is lifted or modified.
- New policies will be implemented when faculty and staff return to campus. We will maintain social distancing of at least six feet apart from each other, we will be wearing a face mask in common areas, and everyone will complete a personal health questionnaire at home prior to coming to campus. If you are a clinic faculty or staff member, you will be required to have your temperature taken, and respond to a questionnaire before you can walk through the clinic. Everyone will be asked to remain home if they are ill or running a fever.
- Not everyone will be returning at the same time. Any faculty, staff or student who is unable to return to campus due to illness or concern about their own safety, should reach out to Human

Resources or the Dean of Students; they will provide additional information and guidance when a return date is established.

After these past weeks, it is hard to remember the “good old days,” when you never saw a face mask, and you could hugged your friends, and sit in crowded theaters and sporting arenas, never worrying about those around you. While we may not gather around a salad bar, or attend major events for months to come, we will come through this pandemic with a greater understanding of the importance of the health care community, a deeper respect for those suffering from illness and injury, and a greater appreciation of our culture of innovation. We are truly weathering a difficult storm, always together.

Be well.

Dr. G.