



## **PGME Covid-19 Update**

**May 26, 2020**

### **RCPS Certification Exams**

A brief update was provided to PG Deans earlier today. The RCPS continues to work with universities and other venues to secure facilities for the spring exams that were moved to the fall. They have promised a minimum of 6 weeks notice to candidates with regard to dates and location of exam. They are targeting a date in mid-June if possible.

RCPS is expecting to offer additional Canadian exam sites in Thunder Bay, Sudbury, Kelowna and Victoria. U.S. sites will include Boston, Atlanta and Dallas while international sites are expected to include London, Paris, Sydney Australia and Auckland NZ.

### **Reimbursement of Fees from MRA's for Cancelled Electives**

CPSO issued a statement indicating that fees submitted for electives would be retained and that residents would be credited for this when the elective is re-scheduled. It was subsequently brought to attention that some residents would not be able to, or necessarily need to reschedule electives so the credit could not be used.

The PG Deans in Ontario report that residents who would like a refund should contact CPSO to indicate that there is no intention to reorganize the cancelled elective, in which case the payment should be refunded.

If there are other jurisdictions with similar scenarios please let me know so I can enquire on your behalf.

### **Electives**

I received a fair number of questions with regard to resumption of electives beginning July 1 2020. I circulated some draft guidelines to your Program Directors and also a list of requirements for isolation requirements per province with links to information that is being continually updated. These documents are attached here as well.

The Program Directors for Internal Medicine made a decision on Friday to suspend incoming and outgoing electives for their trainees. There are some exceptions to this position and the PG Deans have asked for clarification around these and some other related issues. There is ongoing discussion about the impact of this decision on the CaRMS application process for MSM match.

At this point, the decision applies only to residents in the core IM program. Residents in other programs and Departments may proceed with plans so long as all other requirements are met. This item will be on agenda for discussion at the next PGME committee meeting.

### **PGY1 Orientation**

Orientations for all incoming residents and fellows will be delivered in a virtual format using D2L platform. A series of modules has been created using Powerpoint presentations with voiceover feature. In the next few weeks incoming trainees will receive instructions to access this orientation and deadlines for completion.

### **Chief Resident Town Hall**

As many of you are aware, I have been meeting with the Chief Residents for Town Hall discussions every 2 weeks. I want to thank this group for their input and willingness to serve as “program ambassadors” by bringing forward concerns from their resident cohort and relaying information back to their colleagues after each meeting. Appreciate your patience and thoughtful feedback as we work through many unprecedented issues.

Hope everyone is able to enjoy some of the nicer weather that is now drifting into Calgary.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lisa Welikovitch". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "L" and "W".

Lisa Welikovitch  
Associate Dean, PGME