

**SCHOOL OF MEDICINE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE  
TUESDAY, APRIL 21, 2020  
10:00 AM  
VIA ZOOM TELECONFERENCE**

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Members present indicated in **bold**; guests present indicated below.

A total of 64 were in attendance today.

**MEMBERS:**

**John J. Reilly, Jr., MD, Dean, School of Medicine and Chair;**

**Venu Akuthota, MD; Jamie Arruda, MD; Leslie Berg, PhD; Evalina Burger, MD; Julia Cooper, PhD; Stephen Daniels, MD, PhD; Frank deGruy, MD; Mark Dell'Acqua, PhD; Donald Elliman, Chancellor; Gerald Dodd, MD; Nicole Draper, MD; C. Neill Epperson, MD; Christopher Gessner; Jena Hausmann; Herman Jenkins, MD; Alma Juels, MD; Brian Kavanagh, MD, MPH; Michael Kilmer; Kevin Lillehei, MD; Wendy Macklin, PhD; Naresh Mandava, MD; David Norris, MD; Connie Savor Price, MD; David Raben, MD; Angie Ribera, PhD; Nanette Santoro, MD; Richard Schulick, MD, MBA; David Schwartz, MD; Ron Sokol, MD; Ann Thor, MD; Andrew Thorburn, DPhil; Vesna Todorovic, MD, PhD, MBA; Erik Wallace, MD; Ken Tyler, MD; Richard Zane, MD**

**GUESTS:**

Phil Asamoah, MD, MBA; Scott Arthur; Suzanne Brandenburg, MD; Peter Buttrick, MD; Heather Cassidy, MD; Karen Chacko, MD; Jessica Cordova; Mark Couch; Genet D'Arcy, MD; Jeff Druck, MD; Brian Dwinnell; Christina Finlayson, MD; Thomas Flaig, MD; Anne Fuhlbrigge, MD, MS; Carolyn Goble; Michael Harris-Love, PT, MPT, DSc; Heather Hume; Allison Kempe, MD; Allison Krebs; Steven Lowenstein, MD, MBA; Sarah Miller; Chanthy Na; Michael Narkewicz, MD; Abraham Nussbaum, MD; Christie Osborne, MD; John Repine, MD; Marian Rewers, MD, PhD; Suzann Ruedeman; Carol Rumack, MD; Brian T. Smith; Christopher Smith; Jeffrey Soo Hoo, MD; Alexander Stein; Robert Stiner; Cheryl Welch; Shanta Zimmer, MD

**Campus Updates: Dean John Reilly, Jr., MD:**

There is no executive session for today's executive committee meeting. Cheryl Welch, director of Faculty Affairs, will be circulating faculty promotional updates via email to department chairs.

The Tuesday, May 19, 2020 School of Medicine Executive Committee meeting will a vote to formally approve the 2020 School of Medicine graduate candidates.

Colorado Governor Jared Polis announced that stay-at-home order will be lifted effective April 26, 2020. Campus leadership is working on plans to open up the campus as well.

Current and proposed legislation could have an impact on the campus, including the \$30 billion distributed to healthcare providers as part of \$100 billion from the Cares Act Provider Relief Fund, as well as discussion of how the remaining \$60 billion of the fund will be distributed.

Additional funding is targeted towards higher education and students and institutions experiencing financial stress. Dr. Reilly said officials have not determined whether the School will receive funds or how any funds would be used.

Many groups, including the research community and small businesses, are lobbying to be included in any subsequent federal aid funding. Congresswoman Diana DeGette is also seeking to increase research funding.

### **Discussion Items:**

**1. Finance Updates-** *Brian T. Smith, Senior Associate Dean for Administration and Finance, and Executive Director, CU Medicine:*

Mr. Smith provided an update on stimulus funds that CU Medicine is tracking from a clinical perspective.

The University announced it has delayed budget decisions for the fiscal year 2020-2021 until there is a clearer understanding of how the pandemic will impact the economy, as well as what support the University will receive.

The School is working with clinical directors of finance and administration to determine how to ramp up their clinical enterprise.

**2. Clinical Updates-** *Anne Fuhlbrigge, Senior Associate Dean for Clinical Affairs:*

Dr. Fuhlbrigge discussed the ambulatory reopening process. There have been detailed discussions ongoing with hospital partners about what the process will look like. There are many issues, including how many patients are allowed in the clinics at one time, how many staff are needed in clinics, and how to restructure ambulatory care. Those who have questions about adult health should contact Tina Finlayson, MD, associate dean for adult practice, [Christina.finlayson@cuanschutz.edu](mailto:Christina.finlayson@cuanschutz.edu). Those who have questions about child health should contact Adel Younoszai, MD, associate dean for pediatric practice, [adel.younoszai@cuanschutz.edu](mailto:adel.younoszai@cuanschutz.edu).

**3. Educational Updates-** *Shanta Zimmer, MD, Senior Associate Dean for Education, and Associate Dean for Diversity and Inclusion:*

Dr. Zimmer provided updates on Graduate Medical Education (GME). Carol Rumack, MD, associate dean for GME, has been working with residency and fellowship program directors and has been in regular communication with the ACGME. Due to a declaration of Stage 3, residents are focused solely on providing clinical care. Residents will resume educational activities in addition to clinical care with the return to Stage 2.

Dr. Zimmer acknowledged those who have contributed to the resident relief fund.

Dr. Zimmer discussed housing options available for residents and fellows, including the apartments at the 21 Fitzsimons complex, which is providing free temporary accommodations for residents and fellows who are concerned about exposing their families and children at home.

Regarding Undergraduate Medical Education (UME), Dr. Zimmer said that over 750 medical students have been volunteering during the pandemic. Students are hoping to take Step 1 tests by May 1, 2020. UME is working to return students to clinical rotations by the end of May or early June. There are concerns about providing students with PPE to allow them in clinical rotations.

The school also made the decision to cancel clinical summer electives that usually would take place for first year medical students. Students will be doing virtual electives and other research electives instead.

There will also be changes to the basic science curriculum, as courses go virtual. The school will use the summer to transition to virtual courses by fall 2020.

Rich Zane, MD, chair of Emergency Medicine, asked if residents been shifted across departments or other institutions. Dr. Zimmer said that yes, residents have shifted across departments/specialties, including anesthesia, surgery, medicine, and pulmonary critical care units. Those who are in fellowship programs have also shifted to other levels of care including acting as attending physicians. Residents have not been moved from individual hospital locations because of funding. Hospital partners are continuing to pay for residents who were working prior to the pandemic.

#### **4. Research Updates-** *Peter Buttrick, MD, Senior Associate Dean for Academic Affairs:*

As Colorado Governor Polis announced the stay-at-home orders will be lifted effective April 26, 2020, a committee has also been working on reopening research endeavors on the campus. The committee consists of a number of department chairs, research leaders, as well as representation from environmental health services. The committee is establishing a timeline and procedures to follow to re-open certain facilities on the campus.

There will be a 'soft' rollout of some research activities by next week. Dr. Buttrick emphasized this will be a very soft rollout and the engagement of research activities on the campus will be phased back very carefully since there are so many risks involved.

The process of opening back the research facilities and other parts of the campus cannot be initiated until there is a system in place for cleaning and maintenance of research facilities.

Researchers will be required to complete an online Skillsoft training course before being allowed back in their labs. Every research unit will also be asked to identify a COVID officer who will be responsible for maintaining and monitoring the standards of their labs. The research committee determined that social distancing requirements will be 120 sq. ft. per person, with appropriate distance between each person in the lab. People in labs will be required to wear masks at all times. There will also be strategies for limiting access to common equipment. Research units will need to identify a COVID officer in the next couple of days.

There will also be a check-in process required before people are allowed in labs, including temperature checks and screenings/questionnaires. Those who have a fever, have been exposed to someone with a fever, or have a cough, will not be allowed in buildings.

There also needs to be process for incident tracking. If someone is asymptomatic but becomes symptomatic, there will need to be a rigorous process for tracking and isolating those people.

The research reopening-committee will be providing more specific guidance as they begin the process of a soft rollout by next week. The areas that will roll out first will be the research cores, vivarium, and labs focusing on viral diseases/those conducting COVID research.

Dr. Reilly said there has been a difference of opinion about controlling access to buildings. Screening and limited access will be required for a return to campus.

Question-what does a COVID officer do? Dr. Reilly said coronavirus has not been eradicated, so it is not realistic to assume there will not be people who are infected in the coming months. When that happens, it will be critical to document the infection, trace their contacts, and when appropriate, quarantine their contacts. Procedures need to be in place in the research buildings. COVID officers will ensure that people are not gathering in breakrooms, are wearing masks, and following social distancing guidelines. If spot checks conducted by environmental health services/COVID officers demonstrate that researchers are not following procedures, those labs will be shut down. The coronavirus necessitates a change in normal building operations. The alternative is to remain closed. Re-opening requires a combination of social distancing, symptom monitoring, and contact tracing.

Brian Smith said that office/administrative buildings and clinical space on the campus will be following similar procedures.

Tom Flaig, MD, Vice Chancellor for Research, said COVID officers will play an important role in the process of reopening research facilities. The research committee will be asking for plans from each floor in research buildings. All researchers will be required to complete online Skillsoft training, which should be available online in the next week. The research committee is also working with other leaders on the campus to get a clear plan for what happens if someone is sick on campus.

Dr. Zane asked to describe the COVID-19 biobank steering committee and what part they play in COVID-19 related research. Dr. Flaig said several groups on campus are interested in obtaining COVID-19 samples from patients. A unified process for collecting samples will protect the clinical and research endeavors on campus. The biobank steering committee received a survey last night which will determine what types of samples and the volume of samples can be handled.

A question was asked about the timing and type of experiments that require growing colonies or cell lines. Dr. Reilly said that the research committee is working on this issue and will have a timeline to rollout to researchers in the next week. Department chairs/leadership need to think critically about who needs to work on campus versus who can continue telecommuting.