The COVID-19 pandemic has had profound impact on graduate medical education. To safely prepare for an influx of COVID-19 patients, CUSOM shifted to virtual learning, telehealth visits, and clinical reassignment of duties when needed. We aimed to explore the impact of the pandemic and resultant changes on trainees in the following areas:

- Clinical responsibilities
- Education
- Well-being

Residents and fellows were surveyed May 21st through June 18th, 2020. Questions targeted clinical activities, education, and well-being. 7-item Physicians Well-Being Index (PWBI) and a single item burnout scale were used.

Clinical Changes:
- 61% began telehealth visits of which 86% felt positively
- 74% were asked to prepare for clinical reassignment; only 24% were reassigned

Educational Changes:
- 99% used distance learning platforms
- Most noted a positive impact or no change; 68% interested in continuing these options

Results

Clinical Changes (cont.):
- The vast majority were comfortable with reassignment decisions (Figure 1)

Educational Changes:
- 99% used distance learning platforms
- Most noted a positive impact or no change; 68% interested in continuing these options (Figure 2)

Well-being:
- 27% experienced loss of income
- 7.5% reported difficulty paying expenses of which 20% applied for assistance
- 15% scored high risk on the PWBI; 33% scored positive for burnout
- Top coping mechanisms included physical activity (75%), time with loved ones (73%), and solitary activities (54%) (Figure 3)

Results

Conclusions

- Telehealth and distance learning platforms have had a positive response
- Further interventions to address financial and mental health may be needed to improve trainee wellness