



March 23, 2020

Dear Alumni and Friends of the University of Maryland School of Medicine,

I sincerely hope that you and your loved ones are healthy during this unprecedented time of global uncertainty as the 2019 Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) has now entered each U.S. state, disrupting all our lives.

The University of Maryland School of Maryland (UMSOM) continues to work to ensure the safety of our students, faculty, and staff.

We are also here for you, our greater community. It is for this reason, we have dedicated research teams to work on a vaccine and therapeutics, and have created a section on the School's website to provide comprehensive information and resources you can trust.

I encourage you to check our website daily for updates from our COVID-19 Response Team at:
medschool.umaryland.edu/news/coronavirus/Daily-Situation--Case-Report

UMSOM faculty are providing their expertise in this fight against the pandemic. Among the faculty representing UMSOM on the front lines are:

- Kathleen Neuzil, MD, MPH, the Myron M. Levine, MD, DTPH Professor in Vaccinology and Director, Center for Vaccine Development and Global Health, is leading the infectious disease consortium across the U.S. to begin Phase I COVID-19 vaccine trials, and she is a consultant/advisor to the WHO.
- Wilbur Chen, MD, MS, Associate Professor of Medicine, and David Marcozzi, MD, MHS-CL, FACEP, Associate Professor and Associate Chair of Population Health, Department of Emergency Medicine, are serving as top advisors to Maryland Governor Larry Hogan's COVID-19 response team.
- Matthew Frieman, PhD, Associate Professor in Microbiology and Immunology, heads the UMSOM laboratory that is currently studying new treatments for COVID-19.
- Karen Kotloff, MD, Professor in Pediatrics, and Justin Ortiz, MD, Associate Professor in Medicine, are principal investigators for the COVID-19 trial for therapy drug Remdesivir.
- Samba Sow, MD, MSc, FASTMH, Director General of the Center for Vaccine Development in Mali (CVD-Mali), and Adjunct Professor of Medicine, was appointed by the World Health Organization (WHO) to serve as a special envoy on issues related to coronavirus COVID-19.



In addition, I want to provide you with information that is important to our UMSOM community:

- We have now transitioned all our students to distance learning for the remainder of this semester.
- In-person commencement and school graduations are suspended for this year. The UMB campus and the SOM are looking for ways to acknowledge these tremendous accomplishments, which they hope to do as a part of this fall's Founder's Week celebrations.
- As we previously announced, the UMSOM Gala and Reunion are cancelled for this year. We will miss this opportunity to share the work of our faculty, researchers, and their teams that helps so many.

We are very fortunate to have a strong, unified system for preparedness and response across the campus. As this situation progresses and impacts us all, it is our priority to act responsibly and compassionately to protect our students, our faculty and staff, and the local, regional, and global communities. Please view my most recent video message to the UMSOM community about this unprecedented time at <https://youtu.be/4oZ7cooDzYE>.

In concert with Governor Hogan, I strongly advise everyone to employ the recommendations of the CDC, including self-quarantining, when appropriate, practicing social distancing when in public places, and washing your hands frequently. When you take care of yourself, you are taking care of your loved ones and your community too.

Please stay connected with us at UMSOM, and let us know if there is anything, we can do to be helpful in any way. Never hesitate to ask anything! I know we will all get through this together.

Warmest Personal Regards.

Sincerely,



E. Albert Reece, MD, PhD, MBA

Executive Vice President for Medical Affairs, UM Baltimore

John Z. and Akiko K. Bowers Distinguished Professor and

Dean, University of Maryland School of Medicine