



April 15, 2020

Dear PSOM Program Directors and Clinical Course Directors:

The purpose of this memo is to share updates with you about the ability for you to offer clinical rotations/electives to visiting medical students.

As you know, PSOM medical student clinical rotations were suspended on March 13, 2020. Students are not anticipated to return to the clinical setting until July 6, 2020 at the earliest. It is possible, that it might be later. Once Penn students are able to return to the clinical setting, we will need to prioritize their ability to participate in required and elective clinical rotations. Given the number of Penn students who will need clinical rotations, we do not foresee that our medical school will be able to accommodate visiting students earlier than October. Additionally, we expect that we will need to identify additional clinical sites and rotations to accommodate our students.

We are not alone. Medical schools all over the country are confronted with a similar situation. As such, national discussions are being held to address whether the Visiting Student Program and away electives will be suspended this year. Yesterday April 14th, the AAMC put into place a short-term two week suspension on applications to away rotations from April 15th -April 28th, as stakeholders across the medical education community discuss how to approach away rotations in the current and next academic year. We will notify you as we learn more. If there is a national recommendation to suspend Visiting Student Programs, we will comply with that recommendation, and our institution will not offer visiting student rotations. We will keep you updated on the national discussion. Visiting Student updates also can be found on the [AAMC's Coronavirus Resource Hub](#) and in the [VSLO Coronavirus FAQs](#).

Over the upcoming month we will carefully look at the scheduling needs our students. As mentioned above, we do not expect there will be capacity for visiting students before October. Additionally, if the suspension of clinical activities extends past July, or if restrictions go back into place after we have returned to clinical activities, our ability to offer rotations to visiting students may be further limited. However, if it turns out that there is clinical capacity, visiting students can be taken off a waitlist and offered a rotation prior to October.

We appreciate that this is an uncertain time, and we know that the visiting student programs are an important pipeline for our institution. However, we also need to prioritize and ensure the clinical training of our students.

Please contact us with questions.

Jon B. Morris, M.D.
Associate Dean for Student Affairs
The Ernest F. Rosato-William Maul Measey
Professor in Surgical Education
Department of Surgery

Jennifer R. Kogan MD
Associate Dean for Student Success/Professional
Development
Professor of Medicine
Department of Medicine