

Dear Faculty, Staff, Fellows, Residents and Students,

We know you are receiving many emails and later today you will receive the Dean Announce about our new weekday communication on pandemic operations at WU/BJH/SLCH/BJC. But we also feel compelled to reach out with a more personal message and so hope you will indulge one more email.

Walking through the medical campus these past few days, we have never felt so inspired by the work that is going on and the people who do it. This is a frightening time for our city, our country, and our world. There are days when it seems as though our collective emotional register is limited to dismissiveness, panic, and despair. But what we see while walking the passages of the medical center is something else entirely. We see our faculty and our staff coming to work. We see them putting their heads down, doing their jobs, and managing this crisis with courage and with good cheer. Everywhere we go, we witness amazing acts of kindness and compassion. We feel the passion of our research teams across the campus as they engage day and night in their laboratories to better understand the coronavirus and make it possible to discover new drugs, antibodies and vaccines. It is no different when we connect to meetings on Zoom with faculty, staff, and students working remotely and playing an integral role in keeping things on the ground running smoothly. This remote work is so important because it helping to slow the spread of virus. We are in meetings with your department heads and leaders. All of us are awed by your continuing commitment and dedication.

It is clear that we are a long way from business as usual on the medical campus but our strengths remain the same. We are home to many of the brightest minds and the strongest spirits in medicine. We are rising to this unprecedented occasion with the same qualities we bring to every challenge: courage, intelligence, expertise, and compassion.

It is extraordinary to see how everything we have been working on at the medical campus has been put to the side as we prioritize the measures we must take to face this grave challenge. We have every confidence that we will return to those world-changing projects before long. In the meantime, we are focusing on our small corner of the world and it is inspiring beyond words to see our providers, our trainees, and our support staff come together in service to our community here in St. Louis.

Speaking also on behalf of our partners at BJC, thank you for everything you are doing to keep our community healthy and safe, today and every day.

Sincerely,

David H. Perlmutter, MD  
Executive Vice Chancellor for Medical Affairs and Dean

Andrew D. Martin, PhD  
Chancellor