

Dear Faculty, Staff and Students,

Attitude is everything. This has been evident every day this week when we meet our patients, faculty and staff in the newly opened Midwestern University Vaccination Center on the Glendale Campus. I have witnessed first-hand how our patients feel they are seeing a light at the end of the long public health crisis. The phrase, "attitude is everything" has been so very evident over the past year. I know for many that when times are good, having a great outlook on things is easy. It is only when we are in the midst of working through difficult situations do we find ourselves challenged with keeping a positive attitude.

By now, I think many of us have experienced several emotional ups and downs, wondering how things were going to turn out, worrying about our families and friends who live by us or are far away. Each day we have marched to the beat of that drum to wear a mask, maintain appropriate social distancing with one another, and keep washing our hands. Because of our collective efforts, we have been able to really keep our positive cases to remarkably low numbers. This week from the Downers Grove campus, we only had 1 new positive faculty and staff case to report and 1 new student case. From the Glendale campus, we didn't have any faculty and staff cases and only 2 positive student cases.

Vaccination Centers

Glendale Campus

- I am very pleased to share that after only being open since Monday, February 15th, we have administered 604 vaccines, with today being our busiest day.
- Our Vaccination Center in Glendale has been successful due to the hard work of many faculty, student and staff volunteers from our colleges and clinics who worked together as a team each day.
- The patients we served have been very appreciative of receiving the vaccine and positively commented on the care they received. The feedback from our volunteers has truly helped us refine our processes throughout this week so we could deliver the wonderful patient care that our clinics are known for delivering here in our community.

Downers Grove Campus

- Our colleagues in Downers Grove have been working closely with our Glendale colleagues in order to ensure similar and efficient operations at our Multispecialty Clinic, even conducting a few mock runs to identify any issues that might need to be addressed.
- Unfortunately there continues to be a shortage of the vaccine in Illinois. However, we still place our vaccination order with DuPage County should their supplies turn around and our request can be fulfilled.
- We will be ready to start up our Vaccination Center once we receive our first shipment and look forward to serving our patients, faculty, staff and students when the time comes.

5 Point Plan for Diversity and Inclusion

Our College of Veterinary Medicine Diversity Task Force and CVM Voice are holding their First Annual Diversity Art Competition. Voting opened on February 3rd and continues through February 26th. Please visit https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfrmI1dUuEJueNd7_o-RzgOzCQzVHTJKP-ZeWQOfQxIDVd69w/viewform to cast your vote. As you will see, we have very talented faculty, staff and students who have contributed their work for us to enjoy in this competition. The two entries with highest votes will be featured as stickers you can purchase as part of a fundraiser.

The College of Graduate Studies and College of Dental Medicine – Illinois have created a new Bridges program for students who are members of an underrepresented minority population or a member of an economically, culturally or environmentally disadvantaged population as defined by the Health Resources and Service Administration (HRSA). This program highlights our efforts to continue to expand our diversity and inclusion commitment. It is a well-designed program in collaboration of two of our colleges. Other colleges are also establishing a Bridges program.

Let's collectively celebrate the decrease in positive COVID-19 cases and continue to be diligent in caring for our health and the well-being of our family, friends and colleagues. The light at the end of this public health crisis is getting brighter.

Be well.

Dr. G.