

Dear Faculty, Staff and Students,

The current public health crisis has highlighted the importance of health care professionals. Today we see celebrations outside of hospitals, cheering from apartment balconies and parades of cars with honking horns and waving flags congratulating and thanking the health care community. As we prepare for our spring graduations, I reflected on the 1700 new graduates that will be joining our many alumni around the country in the months to come.

Midwestern University has over 25,000 health care alumni who are truly leaders in their professions. Many are working diligently to save lives and care for families impacted by COVID-19. This evening I wish to share a few highlights of our alumni who are making a significant difference in the health and well-being of others. These are only a few of the outstanding individuals who represent Midwestern University.

Amy L. Dzierba, Pharm.D., FCCM, FCCP, BCCCP is a clinical pharmacist directing a critical care residency program at New York Presbyterian Hospital. She was recently named to the United States Panel developing NIH Treatment Guidelines for COVID-19. She joins a group of physicians, statisticians and other experts to develop treatment guidelines for coronavirus disease. Dr. Dzierba graduated from the Chicago College of Pharmacy with a BA in Pharmacy in 1999 and completed her Pharm.D. in 2000. All of us remember her as a class leader, active in student governance, and participant in the DOCARE International missions to Guatemala. She continues to impress all of us with her national presence in health care.

Jonathan A. Goldner, D.O., FCCP, FCCM graduated in 1983 from the Chicago College of Osteopathic Medicine. Dr. Goldner practices medicine in northeast Pennsylvania, but was called upon by the Federal Government to Miramar, California to help repatriate the passengers from the Grand Princess cruise ship as they were put into Federal quarantine, many of them very ill with COVID-19. Dr. Goldner became part of an aeromedical evacuation team helping to fly sick patients back to their home states. He has returned home, now treating COVID-19 patients in the New York area. We are very proud to know Dr. Goldner is making a difference in the lives of those in need.

Sarah J. Jurkovic, Psy.D., HSP is a 2014 graduate of the Downers Grove College of Health Sciences, Clinical Psychology Program. Dr. Jurkovic is working with the State of Michigan Psychological Association in connecting mental health clinicians with front line health care professionals working in hospitals treating COVID-19. Mental health professionals like Dr. Jurkovic are needed more than ever to help manage the stress of their patients and the health care professionals treating COVID-19.

Josh Matlin, CRNA, graduated in 2016 from the Glendale College of Health Sciences, Nurse Anesthesia Program. His training is in both critical care and anesthesia, and as COVID-19 guidelines cancelled elective surgeries, his hospital repurposed his duties to become a Critical Care Nurse Anesthetist in the COVID-19 Intensive Care Unit. He writes, "While it is scary being on the front line, I have without question felt prepared to take on this role. My clinical experience at Midwestern University was outstanding." Josh is part of the team treating critically ill patients. We are fortunate that he is making a substantial contribution to the health of others.

And finally, I heard just today about Jonathan H. Perkins, D.O., CPT, USA who is a 2016 graduate from the Arizona College of Osteopathic Medicine. He is an Otolaryngology-Head & Neck Surgery Resident at the Walter Reed National Military Medical Center. He and a team of fellow physicians have designed a

device to protect hospital staff and ENT and Anesthesia physicians from COVID-19 infections. He and his colleagues have submitted a request to the FDA for emergency use authorization of this new equipment and they have a patent pending. He has granted me permission to share this news with all of you. I am grateful to him for his service to his country and profession.

The COVID-19 Response Team met today, April 24, 2020 and reviewed an extensive agenda focusing on our students, faculty and staff.

Announcements:

- Midwestern University has been notified that two Downers Grove students and one Glendale student has tested positive for COVID-19. None of these students have been on campus and they have not been in contact with fellow students. They are home and doing well. We have no new faculty or staff cases.
- Midwestern University has reached out to all health care accreditation agencies to obtain approval to continue to offer online education and coursework to keep every student advancing in their programs curriculum on schedule. The students' education is our top priority and we are seeking further approvals for the summer quarter.

Please join me in wishing our Muslim colleagues and students Ramadan Mubarak, which translates from Arabic to a "blessed" Ramadan. Ramadan is a holy month of fasting and prayer that began at sundown last evening. May all our Muslim colleagues feel supported and blessed.

We have come a long way in fighting the pandemic through the efforts of all our graduates who contribute greatly to the health and welfare of society. Let's together send them our thoughts and prayers as they care for others. This weekend I hope all of you find quality time with your family. Take walks, cook meals, play with your pets and count your blessings. We will get through this public health care crisis – together.

Be well.

Dr. G.