



Upcoming Events

Click here for an at-a-glance view of our upcoming events for the next 3 months

Leading our Learners – Faculty educators as leaders in a time of crisis

Unprecedented and unpredictable times are upon us. However, our faculty have truly risen to the occasion as we quickly pivoted to online teaching, telemedicine visits in lieu of a live patient experience, and engaging with our teams in a variety of new and unfamiliar ways as necessitated by COVID-19.

While the pandemic has necessitated drastic changes in the world of health professions education, the role of our faculty members as educational leaders has not waived. It is paramount that learners continue to receive quality and meaningful educational opportunities and our faculty are leading the charge to identify how best we can ensure this continues to happen.

- Stay connected: Seek the advice and support of your colleagues and other faculty members who are facing similar challenges. Look for an online community that might provide an opportunity for sharing best practices in areas specific to your needs and don't hesitate to contribute in areas in which you could share your own best practices to help others.
• Communicate: Ensure that your learners are aware of changing experiences and the potentially new expectations and objectives that come with these changes. Continuous and open communication and updates help to create a sense of trust and ease anxiety.
• Attend to the Interpersonal Needs of Learners: Continue to coach and engage in meaningful dialogue with your learners. Role model positive interprofessional communication skills and demonstrate emotional intelligence as learners struggle to adapt to the changes and challenges that they encounter.
• Adapt & Evolve: Show flexibility, understanding, and compassion during these difficult times. Learners may struggle to adapt to what may be the new normal, but you can help to ease the pain by demonstrating flexibility and looking for innovative solutions.
• Look Forward: Use this time as an opportunity to rebuild, enhance, rejuvenate, and even redesign your educational environment if you reach a point at which you feel comfortable doing so.
• Care for Yourself: Last, but far from least, do not neglect your own needs. While our learners grapple to adjust, we all are doing the same. There are few concepts that will be more meaningful to model for the well-being of our future practicing healthcare providers than self-care.

During a time of crisis, the span of leadership responsibilities continues to grow as we work to create quality learning experiences while ensuring the safety of our learners. Not all faculty members hold formal educational leadership titles, but each play a critical role in providing leadership to our learners.

Mariah Rudd

References:

Fernandez, A. A., & Shaw, G. P. (2020). Academic Leadership in a Time of Crisis: The Coronavirus and COVID-19. Journal of Leadership Studies, 14(1), 39-45.

Why Doctors Need Leadership Training - Harvard Business Review. (n.d.). Retrieved May 28, 2020, from https://hbr.org/2018/10/why-doctors-need-leadership-training

Dean's Corner

At VTCSOM, preparing future leaders in medicine requires us to teach the fundamentals of how health care is delivered and how systems can work to optimize the health of patients and communities. Health Systems Science (HSS) comprises 12 different content domains that are relevant for physicians to understand.

Deaths from COVID-19 in the US have nearly doubled over the past month and now approach 100,000. In April I shared national data pointing out how social determinants of health and chronic health disparities set the stage for COVID-19 to disproportionately impact African-American communities.

Most of Virginia is now in Phase 1 of the Governor's plan to cautiously relax social distancing rules and carefully monitor for an increase in COVID-19 cases, hospitalizations, and deaths to decide whether to relax the rules further in Phase 2. It is timely to discuss how much public health efforts require community engagement to achieve shared goals.

Public Health competencies in Health Systems Science include the ability to identify methods to ensure that public health initiatives and programs achieve desired goals, and collaboration with local and state organizations, healthcare providers, and policymakers responsible for the development of public health initiatives.

According to the CDC, "Contact tracing, a core disease control measure employed by local and state health department personnel for decades, is a key strategy for preventing further spread of COVID-19. Immediate action is needed. Communities must scale up and train a large contact tracer workforce and work collaboratively across public and private agencies to stop the transmission of COVID-19"

In a recent conversation with Dr. Molly O'Dell, our region's public health official, she confirmed that we do not currently have enough people trained in contact tracing to respond to a surge in COVID-19 cases. Each new case generates the important work of identifying contacts who have also been infected and facilitating precautions against further spread.

Only by identifying, tracing, and isolating COVID-19 cases will our community be able to adequately contain the pandemic and move successfully from Phase 1 to Phase 2 of our recovery. Citizens who would like to help VDH manage a surge in cases can register for the VDH Medical Reserve Corps

Now that testing is on the rise, the most important way we can partner with our public health colleagues, other than following hand-washing, social distancing, and PPE guidelines, is to become part of the VDH contact tracing workforce. At VTCSOM, our students and faculty have started signing up for the Medical Reserve Corps and completing the contact tracing module. I encourage all who read this to join us!

Lee A. Learman, MD, PhD

Dean and Professor

Office of Continuing Professional Development (OCPD)
Shari Whicker, EdD, MEd
Senior Director, Office of Continuing Professional Development
Assistant Dean, Faculty Development
Director, TEACH (Teaching Excellence Academy for Collaborative Healthcare)
Associate Professor, Departments of Pediatrics and Interprofessionalism
Carilion Clinic
Virginia Tech Carilion School of Medicine
Professional Development
Mariah Rudd, BS, Manager
Sandra DeHart, Curriculum and Media Coordinator
Deborah Ferron, Secretary
Continuing Medical Education
Paul Dallas, MD, Medical Director
Linda Wells, CHCP, Manager
Paula Robertson, CHCP, Senior CME Program Specialist
Carol Gibson, CME Program Specialist
Susan Curtiss, Secretary

"Leadership and learning are indispensable to each other." John F. Kennedy



Send us an email



Give us a call @ 540-855-6861

OCPD Website

TEACH Website

Manage your preferences | Opt out using TrueRemove™
Got this as a forward? Sign up to receive our future emails.
View this email online.

15 Old Woods Ave
Roanoke, VA | 24016 US

This email was sent to .
To continue receiving our emails, add us to your address book.



Subscribe to our email list.