

I am very aware of the physical and mental health challenges residents are facing, and I am absolutely committed to addressing all of your concerns. Faculty and hospital administrators have detailed the excellent level of medical care and professionalism demonstrated by our residents, which is both gratifying and not surprising.

We have been sending residents, faculty, and program staff weekly or twice-weekly email updates about GME current policies and resources related to the pandemic. This information has also been archived on the New Innovations Notice Board. This special edition of *Residency Times* also details events that have been cancelled, postponed, or moved into the virtual learning environment.

In the midst of what seems a barrage of unsettling news, I would like to note some bright spots:

- We are preparing to welcome our incoming residents for 2020-21. We'll be initiating the second class (4 residents) to the Family Medicine-Urban Track and our inaugural class (2 residents) to the new Preventive Medicine program, both under the auspices of [MIDOCs](#). This would seem a difficult time to begin residency training. However, it may be helpful to keep in mind that the current situation also offers opportunities to develop clinical expertise in the realities of treating infectious disease in the 21st century
- Going forward, residents may wish to consider how their quality improvement or patient safety projects may be informed by the features of a healthcare crisis. WSUGME staff can offer suggestions in this regard. WSUGME continues its support of research and QIPS initiatives through our [Seed Grant program](#).
- WSUGME's ongoing wellness initiative is especially relevant in the current moment. Our Resident Wellness Scale has provided us with much useful data on wellness indicators and outcomes, and the 2020 survey distribution will contain questions specific to the coronavirus situation and its impact on residents' well-being. We encourage respondents to offer firsthand perspectives on the pandemic that will be valuable now and in the years to come.

Again, let me express my admiration and appreciation of your dedication during this trying time.

*Tsveti Markova, MD, FAAFP*