



NYCPM has not only adapted to the requirements and demands of our new environment, but it's fair to say that in important ways, the College continues to thrive.

NYCPM's faculty and staff have risen to meet the challenges posed by the pandemic. Many conference calls and Zoom meetings have resulted in a new 'business as usual.' A new kind of normal. A new virtual normal, if you will.

Before I discuss the institutional health of the College, I want to first acknowledge members of the NYCPM family who have been personally affected by COVID-19. I express my sympathy to those who have lost loved ones, wish those who are ill a speedy recovery, and send happiness to colleagues who have recovered from their illness.

No area of the school is unaffected. **All instruction is online.** Our inventive faculty reports that classes are going smoothly, and that students are using all of the online lectures, chatrooms, webinars and other resources, including outside lectures that supplement our own materials. Thanks to Eugenia Villalona and Belinda Nichols and the IT team, **online testing** also goes on smoothly and in a timely fashion.

Speaking of exams, the **Capstone** exam for the Class of 2021 has been reimaged to include a remote Standardized Patient component, again with the work of IT, and the national Boards are adjusting to our new environment as well.

Our world is digital and virtual. **Student Association elections** were held online successfully using campaign videos; **commencement** for the Class of 2020 will be virtual; **open houses** for prospective students are virtual, as are interviews; the **Residency Fair** will be adapted as well.

As our building is closed and distance learning and remote administration rule the day, **our residents are on the front lines.** According to our chief resident Dr. David Ehrlich, the residents "are helping out in the ICU. We are working alongside our general surgery colleagues" ... they work to "lessen the burden on the other residents that manage the ICU. And of course we tend to our own podiatry inpatients and clinic patients while this is going on."

Maintenance and security make sure everything inside the buildings is well- and deeply cleaned. The **FCNY** is operating under reduced hours, and checks the vitals of every patient who walks through the door. Conference calls, zoom meetings, email keep faculty and staff in sync, solving problems and moving forward.

This entire adaptation, the operation of the College and Clinic, rests on the (virtual) shoulders of our **crackerjack IT department**. Under the leadership of CIO Aman Safaei, nearly everything I've mentioned is due to the talent, diligence and very hard and long work of the entire IT team. The team has the school's gratitude.

What comes next? Planning is underway for the much-anticipated **reopening** of the College for in-person instruction and full operation for the FCNY. We don't know exactly when that day will come, but it will come and we will be ready, joyfully.

My best wishes to all.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Louis L. Levine". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Louis L. Levine