To Semmelweis University’s students of Medicine

Dear Students,

On 12th March 2020, the Government of Hungary declared a state of emergency that significantly transformed our lives. In the emergency caused by the coronavirus, medical and healthcare professions have become increasingly valuable, which also gives you special responsibilities and opportunities. Please allow me, as head of the medical education at Semmelweis University, to advise you on some aspects to consider when making important decisions.

6th-year students of medicine are definitely encouraged to participate in volunteer work. Detailed information on volunteer work is available on the university’s website. Volunteer work is worth credit points that are transferred directly to the remaining 6th-year practical courses based on the certifications issued by the host clinic or hospital. Please send the certificates to me to the Dean’s Office for future evaluation and approval. For 6th year students who have not been able to get involved in volunteer work for some reason, we offer optional enrolment in the distance learning programme of their remaining subject. They will have to make up for the missed practical courses though. The theoretical part of the last comprehensive exams can be conducted via the distance learning system, however the practical part needs to be performed live. Thesis defences can be completed by distance learning. To alleviate problems due to missing final exams, we suspended the deadline of absolutorium. We strive to minimize the delay caused by the state of emergency, therefore we expect to organise the state exams with four weeks of delay. It is our common interest that 6th-year students receive their medical degrees on time and be able to start post-graduate education effectively and without delay.

For all the other students from year 1 to 5, their first and foremost duty is the continuation of their studies through the distance learning system according to the current schedule and the amended Study and Exam Regulations. You are also encouraged to do voluntary work following the noble rules of volunteering and keeping your duties in mind. Voluntary work can be taken into account in the summer practices following Years 1, 3 and 4 based on the certifications issued by the host clinic or hospital. Please send the certificates to me to the Dean’s Office for future evaluation and approval. Making up for the missed practical lessons will be possible within 72 hours of the scheduled practical lesson in line with the regulations of
the given department and by fulfilling the participation requirements of the given subject. We expect to cover the major part of the academic year through distance learning (100% theory, <75% practice), therefore the exam period will start without delay. We plan to conduct the majority of the exams, except for the practical components, through the distance education system; preparations have started to organise them. Given the dynamics of the state of emergency, please check the university website regularly and follow the dean’s information.

Dear Students! You are preparing to become practitioners of one of the most sacred vocations. Please, keep in mind the beauty and greatness of your future vocation, be patient and indispensable. Rest assured that your teachers, the leaders of the faculty and the university are all determined in providing you with the most valuable knowledge and practical skills. I would like to ask you to support your own and your teachers’ work by making constructive suggestions.

Sincerely,

Budapest, 8th April 2020

Dr. Miklós Kellermayer
Dean