

It is my pleasure to serve as the Committee on Student Affairs (COSA) chair through November 2023 and to support the work you all do every day to produce the finest of physicians, educators, scientists and patient advocates.

The COSA sits at the intersection of so many other important roles played by our colleagues in student records, financial assistance, wellness, diversity and inclusion, admissions, health and mental health and the other services that support our students from application to graduation, and beyond. We also work incredibly closely with our teaching faculty, curricular and assessment teams to ensure our learning environment is creating a thriving, not just surviving, experience for our diverse student body. Turning our focus forward, our community negotiates relationships with graduate medical education leaders and academic societies to advantage the best possible outcome for our soon-to-be-physicians. And of course we counsel and carry the emotions when life throws another curve ball to students that may lead to time away, decompression, or simply a hug. And when needed, we hold our students accountable to the academic and behavioral standards set forth for the safety of others.

Student Affairs is a tough job and just when you think you have the memory muscle to manage the next crisis, your playbook pages are empty and you are back at the drawing table. This work requires the same attributes we build in our students: resilience, compassion, professionalism, and through it all, we must protect ourselves from the burnout that comes with restless nights, weekend worries and fears about the safety of our students when they are not in our watch.

Of course you all know this if you are currently in the work and if you are transitioning into this work, welcome to a fulfilling career with many joyful celebrations as you walk alongside your medical students. Over the next few years, I look forward to building a community of practice with you to assist in your own professional development as much of that of our staff and students.

Wishing you the best,

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