

Dear Colleagues,

Welcome to CCME 2020: a virtual CCME.

On March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization declared the COVID-19 outbreak a pandemic. The Government of British Columbia, directed all event organizers to cancel any gatherings over 250 people on March 12. The safety of CCME delegates and Canada's health workforce is paramount and a high priority for the CCME partners, five national organizations including the Association of Faculties of Medicine of Canada, The Canadian Association of Medical Education, the College of Family Medicine of Canada, the Medical Council of Canada and the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada. The Scientific Program Committee represents all five organizations and carefully prepares a conference program.

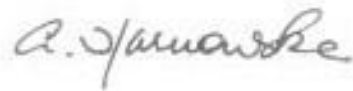
The program theme this year is "Weaving Humanism into the Fabric of Medical Education." Although our medical schools facilitate the acquisition of scientific expertise, this alone cannot help patients deal with the loss of health and find some sort of meaning in their illness. We must graduate physicians who can and will listen to their patients and sufficiently understand their narratives of illness to act on their patients' behalf. Any medical school that is serious about fostering a humanistic approach among its graduates must foster the development of supportive and collaborative learning environments that value mutual respect, professionalism and academic integrity. In these unprecedented times, with the stresses that are upon the entire healthcare system, this has never been more important.

We will leverage state of the art technology to bring you a virtual event with a condensed scientific program with Humanism as a focus. All original plenaries, as designed by the Scientific Program Committee, will be provided. These include the plenary sessions, the Education Innovation and Education Research symposia, the AFMC Learner Forum and AFMC Hot Topic. Abstracts for all posters, workshops and orals accepted to CCME 2020 will be published in the Canadian Medical Education Journal.

We look forward to seeing you, virtually, at the 2020 CCME.



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