Message from Mary to OR Staff FINAL

Send 4/3/2020

Dear Office of Research Staff,

As many of us anticipated, Governor Inslee has extended the, "Stay Home, Stay Healthy" order through May 4. The good news is that it appears our social distancing efforts are having a positive impact. We are beginning to turn the tide, although in order to beat the pandemic we need to persevere. I recognize this extension may raise concerns for some of you. Please be sure to work with your supervisor to address any issues this creates for you. We will do our best to keep each of you informed of the resources and information you need, especially HR policies such as leave and telecommuting. I know how much harder it is to get your work done now, many of you are also dealing with child care and home schooling issues, and I understand that you may not be able to do everything as well as you wish to. These are challenges, we can work our way through them. Most of all, I care about your health and safety. I want to be sure we are all doing everything possible to protect ourselves and our loved ones.

I applaud all of you for the grace and professionalism with which you are handling this difficult situation. All of the input I have received from campus is highly appreciative of how you have stepped up and supported researchers. Kudos to all of you! Research will be vital when we start to move towards recovery, and your efforts ensure that we will be ready. I have also heard from our directors about the creative ways you have developed to keep in touch with each other. Some are having staff meetings or “standups” via Zoom; some are having virtual happy hours or sharing helpful links such as to free music or exercise activities. These illustrate the importance of the connections we have with each other, and they are great examples of how teams can stay in touch. I know each unit has developed an approach that works best for them, and I urge you to continue these and build upon them. Most of all, this is a time to have patience with others. In difficult times like this, we all need to help each other out.

Thank you again for your hard work and dedication, your great ideas and creativity, and your indomitable spirit. I have said it before, but I can’t say it enough: I am so grateful to have all of you as part of my team.

Sincerely,

Mary