



## SJSM Newsletter - April 2020



The health, safety, and well-being of our students, faculty, staff, and the communities in which we serve are of utmost importance to us. As we continue to monitor the rapidly evolving public health situation, please know that we are taking the necessary precautions to lower the risk of exposure and do our part to curb the spread of the virus. We have implemented various measures to ensure the continuity of the students' education while keeping their safety in mind. These measures are:

- In March 2020, students on the island campus were allowed to return home to complete the semester online.

& Block IV exams were administered for these courses.

- In place of NBME subject exams in the Basic Sciences, internal subject-comprehensive examination were administered in April 2020.
- Students in the Spring 2020 Basic Science Review Course (BSRC) have been asked to audit the Summer 2020 BSRC session until they are able to schedule the NBME CBSE exam at a US/Canadian Prometric center. There is no associate cost to audit the course online.
- For the Summer semester, students will start the semester online. The daily schedule has been adjusted to 10 am – 7 pm AST to account for our students residing on the west coast.
- Once travel restrictions have been lifted, students will have the option of traveling to the campus or attending classes online. The campus shall remain open barring any local government restrictions.
- All Summer 2020 block examinations will be administered through MySJSJ and proctored via online proctoring service, Proctorio (please ensure your home computer meets/exceeds minimum technical [requirements](#)).
- We are using internal exams for this semester until NBME can get their testing sites and capabilities up and running.
- We will make accommodations for various make-up lab sessions once students are on the campus.
- Through communications with the US embassy, SJSJ has helped facilitate several evacuation flights from the island campuses for both US and Canadian citizens.
- On Anguilla, a stay-at-home order has been in effect since March 27, and the current order runs through May 12. There have been 3 total cases on Anguilla, all of which have recovered.
- On St. Vincent, there have not been any island-wide closures. There have been 15 total cases on St. Vincent, 8 of which have recovered, and 0 deaths.
- For clinical students, we have advised them to follow hospital protocols. All of our partner hospitals have ceased student inpatient rotations.
- However, at this time, several of our preceptors are continuing limited outpatient rotations (for core subjects) as needed and available.
- Students who have completed more than 50% of their rotations are requested to do online coursework as guided by the Clinical Department. Students who have completed less than

50% will resume the same rotation at a later date.

In order to avoid any pauses in their education, students have the choice of doing a research elective.

Please visit <https://www.sjsm.org/coronavirus/> for further updates. If you have any questions, please feel free to send an email to [coronaupdate@mail.sjsm.org](mailto:coronaupdate@mail.sjsm.org)

### **NBME Exams and Prometric Centers:**

Due to COVID-19, Prometric has decided to limit the re-opening of testing centers on May 1, 2020 for essential services programs. USMLE has been deemed an essential program and special provisions will be made by Prometric in accordance with social distancing guidelines. On the other hand, NBME is NOT designated as an essential program at this time. However, the expectation is that Prometric will resume accommodating those exam appointments in June. This may be subject to change in the future, but we recommend that students check Prometric's [website](#) for updates.

For those students whose NBME exam appointments have been cancelled due to the Prometric closures, it is recommended that you re-register for a new exam window on the SJSM Prequalification page. Clinical Science students whose Core Subject exams have been cancelled will automatically be rescheduled for later dates. Refunds for cancelled exams will automatically be given to students who were impacted. If anyone has any questions or confusion about what to do, you can email [examsupport@mail.sjsm.org](mailto:examsupport@mail.sjsm.org).

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### **Saint James Fights COVID-19 on SVG**

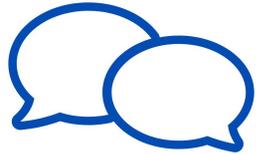
The island of St. Vincent, just like the rest of the world is affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. The hospitals and the government are fighting back vigilantly and have contained the spread to 15 cases of which 5 patients have fully recovered. During this pandemic, the Ministry of Health Wellness and the Environment reached out to Saint James School of Medicine for donating a few basic medical equipment to fight COVID-19 at the local hospitals and clinics. The administration was honored that they were able to procure and supply the required equipment right away. Currently the island of SVG is open for business as usual however they have taken all the necessary precautions to prevent the spread as much as possible.

Anguilla:

The government of Anguilla and the Honorable Evans McNiel Rogers, Minister of Health, and his

non-essential businesses, however some of SJSM staff and faculty members were given special permission to be on the campus as needed but the campus remains closed. SJSM students can take their classes online and many of them have returned to their homes in the US and Canada. During this time, most businesses were furloughing their employees without pay in Anguilla, however SJSM is one of the few businesses that had the means to continue the payroll without furloughing anyone. We like to thank Anguilla for all the precautions they have taken to protect their population and the island.

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## Support Helpdesk

### SJSM Helpdesk

Here is a gentle reminder for all our students to use the SJSM Helpdesk service which is a one stop service to address all your issues related to different departments like: Registrar, Finance, IT. This can be found on our website under “Resources” as [SJSM Helpdesk](#). Please submit a ticket for all issues. This ensures that your question is answered promptly and it will also maintain a record of your request.

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### Library Resource of the Month

Quick Medical Diagnosis & Treatment (QMDT) provides practical, expert information on diagnosis and management when you just have a few minutes. It is a single-source reference designed for quick and easy access to the information you need in the clinical setting. Structured alphabetically, each topic consists of just the right amount of information to give you the key diagnostic and treatment features of more than 930 disorders. The bulleted format promotes rapid comprehension so that you can immediately apply what you learn from this quick consult.

[Quick Medical Diagnosis & Treatment 2020](#)

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mentioned in the Annual report of IAFP. Their research and survey on “Vaping and E-Cigarette use” was printed as well as the update on joining the IAFP Public Health Committee as student externs. They also have plans to publish the full paper in the upcoming May and June Issue as well as present posters at some conferences.



[IAFP Annual Report](#)

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### **Informative Online Courses offered by Harvard University:**

We would like to encourage our students, faculty and staff to sign up for these free online courses offered by Harvard University on topics of their interest. Click here for the [Courses](#)



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### **Weekly Webinar:**

Our USMLE counselors, Dr. Erblin Qosaj and Dr. Alison Zheng, have started a weekly 1 hour webinar to discuss high yield cases that are likely to be asked on the NBME CBSE and USMLE Step 1 examination. These webinars are usually held every Friday at 4:00 PM (Central Time). The counselors select topics that students are collectively struggling with and set up a few cases and a presentation pertaining to the topic. The goal of these sessions is to generate a better understanding of the topic being covered, how to apply the knowledge gained from studies, and how to use it to tackle questions.

This is an interactive experience where students join confidentially and are able to participate in answering questions along with asking their own questions throughout the session. The counselors have created a comfortable learning environment and students who have attended have given overwhelmingly positive reviews. We welcome all students, in basic and clinical science to benefit from these webinars. Please email [usmle@mail.sjsm.org](mailto:usmle@mail.sjsm.org) to register for the webinar.

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