Please note that we have a webpage for our new students. Please bookmark this page and check back often. It will be continually updated as details for the fall semester are finalized. https://www.sc.edu/study/colleges_schools/medicine/internal/academic_programs/md_program/new_student_information/index.php.

Here are most of the questions and answers from the meeting.

Q: What research opportunities are available?
A: Dr. Frank Spinale and the Department of Research and Graduate Education will help guide you through those opportunities once you start as a student.

Q: How will USC prepare students for residency if Step 1 becomes pass/fail?
A: We will continue to provide excellence with education and clinical reasoning.

Q: According to health reports, SC residents haven’t been following the guidelines, causing an increase in COVID cases and deaths. I am really looking forward to starting medical school, but I do have a few concerns.
A: We appreciate those concerns, and we have them too. We are taking all necessary precautions and implementing strict, safety protocols that all who are at the School of Medicine Columbia are expected to follow. If someone does not wear the appropriate PPE (for example, mask), they will not be allowed in the classroom or other settings and asked to leave. They may enter when the appropriate PPE is donned. For additional information, please refer to the SOM Columbia Coronavirus landing page.

Q: How will Anatomy Lab work?
A: Please make sure you read the material posted online for incoming students regarding your new Foundational Medical Anatomy course: MCBA D603 information. Your gross anatomy faculty will make the schedule live closer to orientation as they continue to monitor and make adjustments. One thing to remember is your first exam is scheduled for Wednesday, August 19th.

You all will still have a positive learning experience in the gross anatomy lab with your first patients and the gross anatomy faculty and teaching assistants. Our gross anatomy team has been diligently working to provide you all with the best case scenario, keeping you active with dissections, providing you with approximations when you are not in the lab (virtual labs and the Complete Anatomy App), and strict safety measures to mitigate risks to all: students, faculty, and staff.

The amount of dissections each student is responsible for performing has been reduced as has been the number of students allowed in the gross anatomy lab at one time. In your Foundational Medical Anatomy course, there are a total of five blocks or sections. The first block (section) does not contain any gross anatomy, it is composed of cell biology, histology, and embryology. The remaining four blocks of the Foundational Medical
Anatomy course do contain gross anatomy with dissections. Students will be assigned to a table and subdivided into specific dissection groups within that table. Within that dissection group, students will perform one dissection per block. So in total, all students will perform four full dissections on their patient.

The gross anatomy team will provide you with disposable masks and a visor with face shield that you are expected to store and keep clean. You are expected to provide your own scrubs, lab coat, and gloves. In order to enter the gross lab, all will need to be in their mask, visor with face shield, scrubs, lab coat and gloves. Anyone not wearing the appropriate gear will be asked to leave immediately and allowed entry once they don the correct attire and PPE.

The gross anatomy team is still working out the fine details, but as noted above, you will have dissecting experiences and ability to work as a team. There will be structured out of class time where you may study / dissect in the gross anatomy lab, but as professionals, students must abide by the rules (not exceed number, wear appropriate attire and PPE, etc.).

Q: Will lectures be live-streamed and recorded?
A: Yes and Yes. For Foundational Medical Anatomy, we are adopting a hybrid model, and we are planning for live lectures to be streamed or given over specific conferencing tools like Blackboard Collaborative Ultra, Zoom, or Echo. In using Blackboard Collaborative Ultra, you will be able interact live with the presenters and others in the course and have the ability to go back and watch the presentations later.

Q: Moving forward, will we have the opportunity to attend lecture virtually or in-person?
A: Yes and Yes. For Foundational Medical Anatomy, you are expected to attend any and all lectures be it in person or virtual. There will be scheduled times where you are expected to attend in person and in the M-I classroom. This will be more apparent when the schedule is released, but here is an example. If you are an “A” dissector and have dissection lab scheduled from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm and there is lecture preceding lab from 8:00 am to 10:00 am, you are expected to attend lecture in person in the M-I classroom. We are still working out the logistics and will keep you posted, so that you know when you are expected to be in the classroom or may attend live but remotely.

Q: Will we have a virtual white coat ceremony or an in-person ceremony?
A: We are currently looking at September 25th for the White Coat Ceremony. We do not know yet if family will be able to attend, but as of now, we’re hoping it will be in person.

Q: How will orientation be implemented?
A: Everyone will be together at a site off campus on July 27th, the first day. After that, people will be in one of eight groups that will rotate for different orientation experiences for the next two weeks.

Q: How is COVID-19 impacting our M1 year?
A: The University of South Carolina is working diligently to prepare for the safe return of our Gamecock family. The School of Medicine Columbia will continue to follow the protocols of the University of South Carolina.

Q: What materials, supplies and books do we need and where do we get them? Is there a comprehensive list? (Updated information is being added to the New Student Information Page as it is received.)
A: New Student Information

Foundational Medical Anatomy Information

M-I Study Guides through USC-SOM-C Library

NOTE: You will need to make sure your laptop has a webcam built-in or an external webcam plugged into your laptop.

Q: Do our official transcripts have to be received before we begin classes or as long as they are received before the end of our first semester all is good?
A: Please visit New Student Information for the answer to that question.

Q: When do we get a schedule of classes?
A: We are working with our faculty to get the logistics and schedule ready for you. Here is some basic information for you to help plan.

Essentially, you will be in class every weekday from 8:00 am to 12:00 pm. On Tuesdays, you will also have class in the afternoon. There are times you will have scheduled sessions in the afternoon to accommodate for rotational group work. There will also be scheduled sessions that are optional for you to attend, for example open labs and review sessions.

All incoming students have been registered except those that currently have a registration hold and have been notified by the Office of Admissions. You will be able to view your courses in my.sc.edu. If a student has not met the immunization requirements, the student will be removed prior to orientation and will not be able to attend orientation or begin classes. This information is found on the New Student Information.