University of Massachusetts Medical School Collective
Student Response To COVID19

04.14.2020
Overview

The University of Massachusetts Medical School COVID-19 Student Task Force (UMMS CSTF) was established in response to the needs of the healthcare system in light of the COVID-19 Pandemic. The goal is to provide students the opportunity to engage in community-based service while promoting social distancing and addressing health concerns brought on by the COVID19 pandemic.

UMMS CSTF was started by a group of students and administrators at the University of Massachusetts Worcester. Currently students and administrators from every school (University of Massachusetts School of Medicine (SOM), University of Massachusetts Graduate School of Nursing (GSN), and University of Massachusetts Graduate School of Biomedical Science (GSBS)) are participating. In addition, students enrolled in the UMMS Population, Urban, Rural and Community Health (PURCH) Pathway have also implemented these efforts in the Hampden County community through their partnership with Baystate Health.

Members of the UMMS CSTF have successfully implemented and are currently expanding 17 community-based learning and service projects with multiple other projects currently in development. Within three weeks of organizing, the UMMS CSTF facilitated and contributed to: the delivery and procurement of over 20,000 pairs of gloves and 1000 N95 mask, respiratory fit testing of over 1000 UMass Memorial Medical Center employees, trained over 700 staff on tele-health technology, established community hotlines that support 30 community individuals, 130 gallons of sanitizer, and increased remote access to public resources to all 781 patients at the UMass Memorial Health Care. The success of these projects was led by a unified effort of students and faculty at Umass Medical School willing to overcome challenges and prioritize their community over themselves. In this document, we have described the goals of the task force, general principles of practice, and details about each project that was worked on in the first three weeks of its organization. We have made a special effort to include the challenges each project faced and the solutions used so that this may be a resource for any school or student working to solve urgent health needs in the future.

Task Force Mission

To provide and facilitate opportunities for the diverse skill sets of volunteer health professional students and faculty mentors to engage in community-based learning and service while promoting social distancing and addressing health concerns brought on by the COVID19 pandemic.

Task Force Principles

1. Needs are identified by students, administrators, physicians of local hospital systems, or any community member and brought to the attention of the UMMS CSTF.
2. Most activities prioritize a community-based service model in which students work towards positively impacting the community while also advancing the mission of the University of Massachusetts Medical School and its curriculum.

3. Opportunities for student volunteering prioritize social distancing when possible.

4. Every project requires strong leadership; therefore, when applicable, projects are assigned both a student and faculty leader.

5. Communication with the student body, the medical school community, and the involved hospital systems is the most essential thing a task force like this can do to facilitate and grow community service opportunities. We were very fortunate to have Emma Cammann (SOM ’23), Elizaveta Reznichenko (SOM ’22), Justine Cameron, and Mark Miceli, PhD manage our communications with the school, within the task force, and with the external community.
Projects

As of April 12th, there have been more than 2,000 COVID-19 cases in Worcester County, MA and over 1,500 in Hampden County, MA. The number of cases is increasing by the minute. Countless healthcare providers have risked their lives and health to care for those in need and many more individuals have been affected by the social and structural implications of the virus. The efforts listed below have been successfully implemented as a way to contribute to the global fight against COVID-19 and as a way to show gratitude to those caregivers working on the front-lines. We have divided these initiatives into five categories: Hospital Staff Support, Community Outreach, Material Collection/Production, Non-Clinical Support For Local Patients, and Gratitude/Self-Care Projects.
Hospital Staff Support Projects

Out-Patient Physician Telehealth Training
Faculty/Staff Leaders: Mark Manning, MD
Student Leaders: Patrick Lowe, MD/PhD (UMMS ’20), Olivia Sears (SOM ’23), Elizaveta Reznichenko (SOM ’22), Calvin Schaffer (SOM ’23), Emma Cammann (SOM ’23)
Need: In light of current social distancing recommendations, UMass Memorial Healthcare outpatient clinics and ambulatory care centers have been forced to limit daily patient visits. However, implementation of a system-wide telehealth platform would allow physicians to see a large number of non-emergent patients, allowing for continuity of care.
Project: In order to facilitate rollout of the American Wellness (AmWell) Telehealth platform, UMass enlisted the help of medical student volunteers, who were trained as “Superusers” of the AW Touchpoint Telehealth Platform. Over 70 “Superuser” medical student volunteers then dedicated over 35 hours consulting with physicians and clinical care teams on how to properly use the technology and help patients, creating Physician/Clinical Staff “Superusers” in each outpatient/ambulatory department.
Results: Over the course of two weeks, UMass students successfully trained over 800 staff members from over 60 UMass Memorial outpatient clinics/ambulatory care centers. Similar Telehealth technology implementation --across an entire Hospital Network -- would normally take 6-18 months; as a result of the flexibility and dedication of student volunteers we were able to accomplish this in 2 weeks!
Challenges: The AmWell platform itself is still undergoing development. This includes server modifications in order to be able to support the influx in volume of users and accessibility updates to accommodate users on a variety of devices (apple/android/pC etc).
Solutions: Working guides and FAQ documents have been disseminated to all UMass staff as part of their telehealth training. Student “Superusers” also developed a number of successful workarounds for providers to employ while they wait for implementation of platform updates.

Respirator Fit Checking
Faculty/Staff Leaders: Nicole Nelson (UMMHC)
Student Leaders: Timothy Winn (SOM ’22)
Need: As the need for proper usage of N95 respirators while fighting COVID19 grew, so too did the demand to properly fit individuals to respirators. As the demand for fit checking increased, the hospital was in need of additional personnel to ensure all clinicians were adequately protected.
Project: To ensure that all individuals who required the use of an N95 respirator in order to safely treat patients were fit checked, 30 student volunteers staffed the respirator fit check center for two weeks. At these locations on both the University and Memorial campuses, students in conjunction with hospital employees fit N95 respirators from a variety of manufacturers to each clinician while providing education on their safe use and re-use. In addition, clinicians were trained on the use of the powered air-purifying respirator (PAPR) as required by their role or lack of an appropriately fitting N95 respirator.
Results: These 30 students worked 130 hours over two weeks to ensure that more than 1000 employees at UMass Memorial Health Care University and Memorial campuses were properly fit checked to N95 respirators while receiving PAPR training as needed.
Challenge 1: The guidelines for the appropriate use of a tightly controlled supply of N95 respirators required frequent, and sometimes daily, updates to protocols for whom required N95 respirators, during what types of
care and interventions were different levels of protection required, which manufacturers respirators were available, how many times a respirator could be UV decontaminated, etc.

**Solution 1:** Project leaders set the expectation to student volunteers that changes to scheduling, process, and talking points should be expected often, as the pandemic required sometimes daily adjustments by the clinical system. Regular communication from our clinical partner, Nicole Nelson, as well as flexibility on the part of student volunteers ensured that volunteers were always present where and when they were needed, and informed of the most recent changes to guidelines regarding the appropriate and safe use of N95 respirators. This included having a central repository of these guidelines on the clinical intranet, as well as appropriate contacts in the Command Center for more specific questions about the use of N95 respirators and other PPE.

**Snack4Staff**

**Faculty/Staff Leaders:** N/A  
**Student Leaders:** Elizaveta Reznichenko (SOM ’22), Joe LiCausi (SOM ’22), Annie McClements (SOM ’22)  

**Need:** As front-line workers are working increasingly long hours to fight the pandemic, there are basic needs such as energy bars and Gatorades that they should not have to supply themselves.  

**Project:** After realizing this issue, students quickly acted to start a Venmo account (@snacks4staff) and fundraise using social media and personal connections.  

**Results:** In about two weeks, the students raised $2,406.92 and delivered the snacks to the hospital for distribution to multiple departments including the ED as well as the ICU. As of 4/7/20 they plan to continue to supply snacks for distribution to both the main UMass University Campus as well as the other UMass Affiliated hospitals.
Community Outreach Projects

**Worcester Senior Center Hotline**

**Faculty/Staff Leaders:** Mike Hirsh, MD  
**Student Leaders:** Sara Carbone (SOM ’22), Kristina Jakobson (SOM ’23)  
**Need:** The Worcester Senior Center normally sees 100s of seniors/day for activities, classes etc. who are now quarantined at home and in need of company.  
**Project:** Students have volunteered as phone hotline companions for these seniors. They provide support through conversation and help to boost their morale during this difficult time. Students also help to identify any specific challenges that the seniors may be experiencing, such as food insecurity, medication refills needed, concerns for mental or physical health, etc. and report these to the WSC who has systems in place to resolve these issues.  
**Results:** 20 volunteers from UMMS have been partnered with seniors from the Worcester area and are making frequent phone calls.  
**Challenge 1:** Need for variety of languages to connect with seniors  
**Solution 1:** Reached out to UMass Medical Center interpreters and other UMass organizations specific to the languages needed  
**Challenge 2:** Maintaining confidentiality of seniors personal information  
**Solution 2:** All volunteers went through a CORI background check. Students are instructed to keep personal information confidential and no identifying information from the conversations is reported.

**Mental Health Outreach**

**Faculty/Staff Leaders:** Yael Dvir, MD  
**Student Leaders:** Abbi Hiller (SOM ’23)  
**Need:** As various communities experience the impact of social distancing, those struggling with mental health challenges are more susceptible to feelings of loneliness, and other negative emotions that can be associated with isolation.  
**Project:** Students at Umass Medical School are volunteering with the Genesis Club, which is part of Clubhouse International. The Genesis Club aims to help people struggling with mental health issues. Normally, the club focuses on face-to-face communication and support. As they transition to virtual, they realize that some people will benefit from additional phone support. Medical students have been called upon to do this, filling out this form if interested.  
**Results:** Currently there are 5 active volunteers making phone calls to local community members in need.

**Student Advocacy**

**Faculty/Staff Leaders:** N/A  
**Student Leaders:** Paula Whitmire (SOM ’23), Bennett Vogt (SOM ’23), Calvin Schaffer (SOM ’23), Colin Flannelly (SOM ’22)  
**Need:** There is an urgent need for state and federal policies that protect frontline workers and vulnerable populations in our communities from the health and economic impacts of COVID-19. These issues range from the need for more PPE and hazard pay for healthcare workers to the need for more food assistance and a moratorium on evictions and foreclosures for community members. We felt it was important to voice our concern to our legislators and advocate for policies on behalf of those that are most affected.  
**Project:** We created a document that is accessible to all our students that lays out the relevant federal, state, and local policy issues. This document has instructions and tips for effective advocacy, along with resources and scripts accompanying each advocacy point to help students support their positions. We also hosted a virtual
advocacy event, which included an advocacy training followed by a collective effort to call legislators to voice for our concerns.

**Results:** Five individuals joined us for our first advocacy training and calling session and we made a number of calls to elected officials voicing support for various initiatives. The volume of calls for one particular issue gained the attention of a staffer, who promised the issue was being brought up with the legislator. The document continues to be updated and available for any student to use to reach out to their representatives at any time.

**Challenge 1:** The constantly changing nature of policy needs as the crisis evolves and the legislature addresses various issues.

**Solution 1:** We use a publicly shared document that is maintained by our team to ensure that it is current to policy needs. We use the resources published by advocacy bodies (ex. Massachusetts Medical Society, American Medical Association) to stay up-to-date on current healthcare issues. Students with various advocacy interests have contacted us to inform us about new community needs, current policy pushes, and newly-passed legislation.

**Challenge 2:** Lack of student engagement and comfort with directly contacting elected officials

**Solution 2:** The training event and collaborative calling session made the students in attendance feel more confident about calling legislators. We continue to work to broaden our base of volunteers.

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**Cafe Zoom**

**Faculty/Staff Leaders:** Sonia Chimienti, MD

**Student Leaders:** The University of Massachusetts Medical School Student Body Committee

**Need:** As social distancing becomes the norm, a heavy sense of social isolation and loneliness has crept into the lives of many individuals.

**Project:** As a way to combat the loneliness that comes with social distancing and re-establish the community at the University of Massachusetts, the University of Massachusetts Student Body Committee (SBC) created Cafe Zoom. Cafe Zoom is SBC’s multipurpose online Zoom cafe that can function as a yoga studio, social space, arcade, home theater and much more! Anyone is able to join without host privileges. If you have an event in mind, simply add it to the Calendar and encourage others to log-on and join in by posting about your event in the Facebook group and/or inviting your friends.

**Results:** During our first week going live with Cafe Zoom, we hosted a Class of 2024 Q&A, yoga and strength training classes, anki and emailing sessions, study hours, and an open-mic night!

**Challenge 1:** Hosting a Zoom session that could be live 24/7

**Solution 1:** We were able to create a link to a Zoom “room” that works outside of a scheduled meeting or a host. Anyone with the link is able to enter the room and be a part of the community without a meeting host.

**Challenge 2:** Encouraging students to utilize Cafe Zoom

**Solution 2:** We created a [facebook group](#) to encourage social engagement where members of the UMass community can discuss events that they would like to see on Cafe Zoom and advertise for events they are hosting. In addition, we created a [calendar](#) that anyone can view to see when specific events are occuring.

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**UMMS “Zoomathon” Fundraiser for DCU Field Hospital**

**Faculty/Staff Leaders:** John Broach, MD; Sonia Chimienti, MD; Terence Flotte, MD

**Student Leaders:** Maimuna Ahmad (SOM ’22), Luke Arney (SOM ’23), Hans Erickson (SOM ’22), James Joseph (SOM ’22), Kian Samadian (SOM ’22)

**Need:** Our UMass community is tirelessly preparing for a critical mass in COVID-19 cases expected to surge in the coming weeks. In anticipation of this surge, the Field Hospital was recently constructed in the local DCU
Center and opened this past Thursday. Though prepared to provide care for 250 patients, the Field Hospital urgently needs the UMass community’s help to stock necessary supplies and support the staff and patients.

**Project:** To address this need, we are hosting UMass Zoomathon!, a 24-hour fundraising event supporting the local efforts of the DCU Center Field Hospital. The goal of our Zoomathon is to host a continuously running 24-hour Zoom session, during which members of the UMass and Greater Worcester Community will be able to log-on and participate in a series of events while enticing members of the community to pledge donations to the Field Hospital.

**Results:** In progress.

**Challenge 1:** Identifying specific needs of the DCU hospital community funds can support

**Solution 1:** Working directly with Dr. Broach to identify areas for which the funds would directly be utilized

**Challenge 2:** Encouraging greater community, student, and faculty involvement

**Solution 2:** We are creating incentives that aim to increase awareness and support based on participation

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**Worcester Public School System Read Aloud Program**

**Faculty/Staff Leaders:** Mike Hirsh, MD

**Student Leaders:** Eugenia Asipenko (SOM ’23), Kimberly Burke (SOM ’23)

**Need:** Students in Worcester Public Schools (WPS) have been out of school for many weeks and will not return to class until at least May 4th. Online assignments and classes have made learning less personal and engaging. In an effort to connect with students and encourage their excitement for reading and learning, WPS teachers and UMMS students have begun recording videos of themselves reading books. By doing so, we hope to ensure that students continue to learn in a fun way.

**Project:** In collaboration with representatives from WPS, we have asked for UMMS students willing to record videos of themselves reading books. Volunteers filled out a Google Form after which they were contacted with instructions. Videos will be sent to the WPS project coordinator who will distribute them directly to WPS students. Currently, the project is focused on books for students in elementary school.

**Results:** Some students are currently in the process of recording videos.

**Challenge 1:** Most UMMS students do not have access to picture books.

**Solution 1:** The WPS project coordinator has offered to lend books to students. We are planning on distributing these books in a way that does not violate social distancing rules. Digital versions of books are also being considered as alternatives.
Material Collection/Production Projects

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Collection
Faculty/Staff Leaders: Provost/Dean Terence Flotte, MD
Student Leaders: Sara Carbone (SOM ’22), Sean Teebagy SOM ’23), Joseph Licausi (SOM ’22), Wendy Ma (SOM ’21), Calvin Schaffer (SOM ’23)

Need: Throughout the country, front-line workers are massively low on basic personal protective gear such as N95 mask and gloves.

Project: Over the course of 10 days, students came together to collect PPE from on-campus labs, local biotech companies, local colleges, and other community stakeholders. For more information about reaching out to community members, see [this](#) or [this](#) spreadsheet and/or [this](#) sample language.

Results: In total, students were able to collect around $85,000 of supplies (an estimated 20,000 pairs of gloves and over 1000 n95 masks). The collection effort was then successfully transitioned to the hospital and students were still encouraged to reach out to local businesses to inquire about donations.

Challenge 1: Multiple students were reaching out to the same institutions and biotech companies about donations. This was ineffective and sometimes unwelcomed by the potential community partner
Solution 1: [This](#) and [this](#) (PURCH) spreadsheet were sent along with all our communications to students and the students were encouraged to use the spreadsheets as a guide when considering which companies to reach out to.

Challenge 2: An enormous amount of students wanted to help in this effort but they were not exactly sure what language was appropriate when reaching out to companies.
Solution 2: As a way to ease the anxiety that comes with cold-emailing, a group of Task Force members provided [this](#) sample language.

Challenge 3: At the time of collection, PPE was in extremely short supply and there was concern that it may not be distributed in the correct manner.
Solution 3: Thankfully, Provost Flotte allowed students to use his locked office as a collection site and storage facility for the PPE.

Challenge 4: The need for PPE was extremely great as seemingly every clinician needed additional PPE to protect themselves and their loved ones. This presented a unique ethical challenge to students as they were not in a position to determine who received what supply.
Solution 4: The students decided to allow the inventory and procurement specialist at the hospital take the PPE and distribute as they deemed appropriate.

Ethanol-based Sanitizer Production
Faculty/Staff Leaders: Dean Mary Ellen Lane, PhD; Assistant Dean Morgan Thompson, PhD; Dean Sonia Chimienti, MD; Charleen Sotolongo (Environmental Health & Safety) and JoAnn Ranslow (Environmental Health & Safety)
Student Leaders: Peter Cruz-Gordillo (MD|PhD-Medical Scientist Training Program (MSTP)), Tomás Rodriguez (MD|PhD-MSTP)

Need: While soap & water are especially important in the prevention of spread of the COVID-19 (SARS-CoV2) virus, this is not readily available. The CDC has recommended alcohol-based sanitizer as a suitable method for the maintenance of proper hygiene. However, there is an enormous shortage of hand sanitizer in the fight against COVID-19.
**Project:** MD|PhD and Graduate students from the University of Massachusetts Medical School were granted essential status in on-campus research labs to formulate 80% Ethanol-based sanitizer, according to the World Health Organization (WHO) and Food & Drug Administration (FDA) guidelines. The group is partnering with environmental health and safety services at local healthcare centers to ensure proper distribution.

**Results:** Over 500 liters (132 gallons) of high quality, ethanol-based sanitizer was produced and distributed to areas of the healthcare community with the most urgent need, including the UMass Memorial Health Care Center and the DCU Center Field Hospital in Worcester, MA. The sanitizer is being used to clean PPE and hands of patients and providers. All lab materials, chemical reagents, and dispensers were donated by the faculty and administration of UMass Medical School.

**Challenge 1:** Magnitude of need, coupled with urgent timeline

**Solution 1:** Partnered with UMass Medical School administration and UMass Memorial executive leadership to determine points of contact at the medical center, local hospitals, and the DCU Center Field hospital to assess need and distribution logistics

**Challenge 2:** Safety of students and prevention of spread of COVID-19 during procurement of reagents and production of sanitizer

**Solution 2:** Partnered with UMass Medical School’s Environmental Health & Safety department to ensure proper precautions (e.g., PPE worn at all times on-campus, production work complete individually in separate bays following social distancing rules at all times, chemical fume hood used for bottling sanitizer, storage in flammable-proof cabinets awaiting packaging/distribution) were taken maintain the safety of our students

**Blood Donations**

**Faculty/Staff Leaders:** N/A

**Student Leaders:** Umass Medical School Gold Humanism Honor Society, Anna Klouda (SOM '20), Elizaveta Reznichenko (SOM '22), Bennett Vogt (SOM '23), Timothy Winn (SOM '22)

**Need:** In the face of this pandemic, the United States is currently experiencing a severe blood and platelet shortage and donors are urgently needed.

**Project:** The Gold Humanism Honor Society is sponsoring a RAFFLE for members of the UMMS/UMMHC community that have donated ANY blood product. The drawings are every Friday for $25 gift certificates to the local Worcester venues!

**Results:** x number of people entered the raffle, and y winners were selected.

**Challenge 1:** The local American Red Cross donation center in Worcester has few appointments available for whole blood donation, and was quickly overwhelmed by walk-ins.

**Solution 1:** Participants were encouraged to donate any type of blood product that they were eligible to give, and the raffle was expanded to include these products. Furthermore, discussions were had with the Red Cross of MA in an attempt to set up a blood drive at UMMS, but logistical issues within the Red Cross of MA have prevented such drives from taking place in Central and Western MA at this time.

**Challenge 2:** School groups contacted to sponsor an intramural learning community house cup event were concerned about the ethics of reducing social distancing and encouraging donation of a body-product

**Solution 2:** Incentives were offered in the form of gift cards for healthy and willing volunteers that were not intended to encourage competition between learning communities
Non-Clinical Support For Patients Projects

**Letters and Artwork for Patients**
*Faculty/Staff Leaders: N/A*
*Student Leaders: University of Massachusetts Medical School Gold Humanism Honor Society, Alice Lu (UMMS ’20)*

**Need:** Although the no-visitor policy is in place, we can still provide support to patients through handwritten notes and artwork.

**Project:** Students from the Gold Humanism Honor Society partnered with the Office of Patient Advocacy and is currently collecting messages to be delivered to patients. Students are able to mail in their artwork or submit messages through a Google Form. The students also built a team of student volunteers who would take *virtual submission* and copy them onto paper to be dropped off to patients.

**Public Library Patient Outreach**
*Faculty/Staff Leaders: N/A*
*Student Leaders: Hillary Mullan (SOM ’22)*

**Need:** With wide-spread and strict visitor limitations at hospital, many local patients are stuck in the hospital without visitors or many sources of entertainment.

**Project:** Hillary worked with local city leaders, including librarians, to coordinate with our local libraries and provide patients access to online library materials.

**Results:** Online library access was granted to over 700 patients at the hospital. The attached documents were passed out by patient advocacy office to notify patients.
Gratitude/Self-Care Projects

Office of Student Affairs & Office of Undergraduate Medical Education Appreciation

Faculty/Staff Leaders: N/A
Student Leaders: University of Massachusetts Medical School Gold Humanism Honor Society, Dr. Pietro Miozzo (UMMS ’20), Dr. Anna Klouda (UMMS ’20), and Dr. Emma Materne (UMMS ’20).

Need: Administrators and staff in the Office of Undergraduate Medical Education (OUME) and Office of Student Affairs (OSA) worked tirelessly to ensure that the educational mission of UMMS continued, while also prioritizing student health, safety, and wellbeing. Many students wanted to express gratitude, and this initiative allowed for the streamlined collection and distribution of messages.

Project: Students from the Gold Humanism Honor Society solicited and collected brief messages of gratitude to an administrator or staff at UMass Medical School and produced a digital poster for the faculty and staff.

Results: The Gold Humanism Honor Society was able to share this presentation with all members of the UMMS community.

Challenge 1: Collecting messages from student body
Solution 1: An online form was set up for students to write a message and select the intended recipient (e.g., individual administrator/staff member or a whole office).

Challenge 2: Creating a visual display in order to distribute to a decentralized medical school community, as the initial idea of a large display posted outside administrative offices was not possible due to physical distancing and work-from-home directives.
Solution 2: An interactive digital display was created using Prezi (free for students and educators), and the link (see above) was distributed to the student body and members of the OUME/OSA.

Virtual Self-Care Resources

Faculty/Staff Leaders: N/A
Student Leaders: University of Massachusetts Medical School Gold Humanism Honor Society, Anna Klouda (UMMS ’20)

Need: As students, physicians, and other members of the Umass Med Community begin virtual living, self-care is becoming an ever more needed practice.

Project: Anna and her colleagues from GHHS published this crowd sourced document to keep people aware of community activities that can add to self-care while maintaining social distancing.

Results: Over 300 students have access to the mental health resources listed in the spreadsheet.

Challenge 1: As social situations and retail/restaurant availability quickly change, it can be difficult to keep this spreadsheet up to date.
Solution 1: The best way to mitigate the natural lag between decisions and updates is to manage expectations. We have done our best to clearly communicate with the student body that this is a crowd-source document and is kept as up to date as possible. If this continues to be a problem throughout the pandemic, we may assign one student lead to be constantly updating the spreadsheet.

Acts of Kindness from UMMS Community

Faculty/Staff Leaders: N/A
Student Leaders: Kelsey Jones (SOM ’21), Maimuna Ahmad (SOM ’22)

Need: The CDC acknowledges that the outbreak of COVID-19 is stressful for many people. Fear and anxiety can be overwhelming and cause strong negative emotions in both adults and children.
Project: Like many late night hosts and influencers alike, our students are working to promote positivity during these trying times. This group of students is collecting acts of kindness witnessed or experienced by any member of the UMMS community inside outside of the hospital related to the pandemic. From this collection, the students will create a weekly positivity “newsletter” that will showcase the acts of kindness and successes in our community in addition to uplifting stories from around the world.

Results: So far, we have received 24 documented acts of kindness and are working on sending out our first newsletter.

Challenges: Sharing the acts of kindness with the community

Solutions: We are creating a newsletter to showcase the acts of kindness in addition to other positive news stories from around the world. Students and members of the community who sign-up to be included on our listserv will receive the newsletter, and the newsletter will be available via the Task Force website.

Projects In Development

Worcester Public School System Science Curriculum Outreach
Telephone Rounds With Patients
Patient-Visitor Screening
Contributors

**Faculty & Staff:** Sonia Chimienti, MD; Terrance Flotte, MD; Mark Miceli, PhD; Morgan Thompson, PhD, Justine Cameron

**Executive Board:** Emma Cammann (SOM ’23), Peter Cruz-Gordillo (SOM/GSBS ’22), Patrick Lowe MD, PhD (SOM/GSBS ’20), Elizaveta Reznichenko (SOM ’22), Calvin Schaffer (SOM ’23), Sean Teebagy (SOM ’23), Timothy Winn (SOM ’22)

**Project Leaders:** UMMS School of Medicine Student Body Committee, Umass Medical School Gold Humanism Honor Society, Patrick Lowe, MD/PhD (UMMS ’20), Olivia Sears (SOM ’23), Elizaveta Reznichenko (SOM ’22), Calvin Schaffer (SOM ’23), Emma Cammann (SOM ’23), Timothy Winn (SOM ’22), Joe LiCausi (SOM ’22), Annie McClements (SOM ’22), Sara Carbone (SOM ’22), Kristina Jakobson (SOM ’23), Abbi Hiller (SOM ’23), Paula Whitmire (SOM ’23), Bennett Vogt (SOM ’23), Colin Flannelly (SOM ’22), Maimuna Ahmad (SOM ’22), Luke Arney (SOM ’23), Hans Erickson (SOM ’22), James Joseph (SOM ’22), Kian Samadian (SOM ’22), Eugenia Asipenko (SOM ’23), Kimberly Burke (SOM ’23), Sean Teebagy SOM ’23), Wendy Ma (SOM ’21), Peter Cruz-Gordillo (MD|PhD-MSTP), Tomás Rodriguez (MD|PhD-MSTP), Alice Lu (UMMS ’20), Hillary Mullan (SOM ’22), Dr. Pietro Miozzo (UMMS ’20), Dr. Anna Klouda (UMMS ’20), and Dr. Emma Materne (UMMS ’20),