Dear Students,

Welcome to the School of Medicine, Trinity College Dublin. Many of you will have received the School of Medicine e-brochure on its many and varied activities in relation to the Covid-19 crisis. The articles in it reflect the energy, ingenuity and resilience of School of Medicine staff, colleagues, and students in our educational responses to the crisis, the broad range of adapted research projects, and in our cutting-edge clinical activities. We hope you enjoyed reading it and that it inspired you as new members of our School and College community.

We are keen to provide you with as much information as we can, with respect to the next academic year and outlined below are the latest plans, bearing in mind that some of these plans are dependent on the progress in containing Covid-19 in Ireland and throughout the world.

The good news is that the public health measures in Ireland have resulted in a clear suppression of the virus, with the number of new cases being consistently low. As many of you will be aware, Ireland has completed phase I of its 5 planned reduction of restrictions and entered phase II on Monday 8th June and the progress in opening up the country has been somewhat accelerated. While this is all very promising, there is no doubt that we will be living with the virus for some time to come, and it will have a considerable influence on the coming academic year. Trinity College is planning a blended teaching model, with some components delivered online and other face to face. As a professional course, students require face to face experiences, with teachers, fellow students, and of course, with patients. We are now planning to deliver this model and working closely with each Discipline and our Hospital and clinical partners to provide an educationally robust, but safe curriculum. This month and in July, some students will complete clinical placements as electives, and we will be returning students to clinical placements as soon as the Medical School term starts for the clinical years in late August.

International flights are beginning to open up and by August, it should be feasible to make bookings. Currently, there is a requirement for incoming passengers to Ireland to register with the authorities and self-isolate in their accommodation for a 2-week period. This may be relaxed for all incoming passengers, or for certain cohorts, but that will be dependent on advice from the health authorities and the government. So if you are looking to book flights at an early time, please take this into account and check for the latest information on the HSE and other Government websites. The Trinity accommodations office are aware of this requirement and will assist where they can.

We look forward to meeting you in September and we hope that you all stay safe and enjoy the summer break.

With best wishes to you all and to your families.

Prof. Joe Harbison
Director of Undergraduate Teaching and Learning

Prof. Michael Gill
Head of School

Ms. Aine Wade
Programme Manager