

❖ Our Program's Response to COVID-19

- The safety of our people
 - Our residents:
 - We divided into 3 separate teams to minimize cross exposure barriers.
 - We limited patient visit types to urgent, vision threatening problems.
 - In situations when faculty alone could do the patient care, the faculty did it alone.
 - Our faculty:
 - Each paired down their clinic volumes to focus on urgent patient care needs.
 - In the situations when a resident could manage the in-clinic or in-hospital care without direct faculty involvement that was allowed. However, all clinic procedures and hospital procedures had our usual "pre-COVID" close faculty supervision.
- Strive for minimal disruption to our educational goals
 - For appropriate reasons, elective surgery was halted. In our program, our senior residents did no elective surgery for 2 months, yet, our resident centric ethos prevailed. Over the last 6 weeks of their residency, our senior residents returned to a busy surgical experience. Our 2020 graduates finished with an average of 200 phacos (range 216-192). Usually, our graduates average 210 phacos. To accomplish this, our faculty and resident surgical teams performed routine cases into the evening and night whenever we were given surgical time.
 - We learned to zoom lectures, grand rounds and conferences.
 - We discovered new and useful web-based resources.
- Maintain wellbeing and morale
 - This was an important priority separate from our safety and education.
 - We were transparent about what the residency and departmental leadership knew about the current and evolving COVID situation.
 - We listened to our residents' concerns and implemented many of their suggestions on how to best ensure their safety and optimize their education.
 - We kept in close contact with our residents. We had weekly competitions and projects. We shared our meaningful and favorite adventures, pictures, recipes, movies and music. We stayed connected.
 - Our family style graduation was remotely celebrated. Meals were delivered to homes and the ceremony was zoomed to living rooms across Lubbock, across Texas and our country to family and friends who could not be there. It was awesome!

As our program's leadership, Dr. McCartney, Dr. Reppa and I are very grateful for the way that our residency family strengthened our bond to navigate this portion of our COVID pandemic. We learned new things and new ways to do old things which should give us insight to help us deal with future COVID related changes that could be on the horizon for GME.

At Texas Tech, we are not just in charge of our residents, we are responsible for them and we know the difference.

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Residency Program Director

