

From: [SOM-AutoMail](#)
Subject: Special Message from Dean Cavalieri
Date: Friday, September 3, 2021 5:10:50 PM

Dear Faculty, Staff, Students and Residents,

Over the past few weeks, our humanitarian duty remains painfully clear as we witnessed international and national disasters resulting in the loss of human life and devastating damage to homes, businesses, and infrastructure. We stand together as a community to lift up those that are affected and applaud all of our students and many others that are working to relieve the human suffering caused by these tragic events.

HAITI EARTHQUAKE

The recent earthquake in Haiti resulted in the loss of at least 2,200 people and others are still missing. We stand in support of our Haitian students, colleagues, and their loved ones who have been impacted. [Here's How You Can Help Support Earthquake Relief Efforts in Haiti](#)

AFGHANISTAN REFUGEE CRISIS

While the United States has ended the war in Afghanistan, our longest war in history, millions of Afghan refugees are in crisis. Our covenant as future and current physicians persists to value and respect the humanity of every person through providing culturally competent, skillful, and compassionate care. We stand in solidarity with RowanSOM students who have personally been affected by this crisis.

I am very proud of our students, and commend the military service members, for their efforts in supporting the Afghan refugees who are in the process of being resettled in New Jersey. We are proud that Governor Murphy has appointed one of our alumni, Brigadier General Lisa Hou (SOM '96), Adjutant General and Commissioner of the New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs, to oversee healthcare for these refugees. We have been in touch with Brigadier General Hou to coordinate our efforts so that we can best meet the needs of this community.

IMPACTS OF IDA

The national devastation due to Hurricane Ida in Louisiana and numerous states along its path, including Pennsylvania, New Jersey and New York, is heartbreaking and still being assessed. We lend our prayers and service to our neighbors, students, alumni, and colleagues impacted by Ida.

Student leaders, clubs and organizations, in collaboration with the Office of Student Affairs, are developing ways that the SOM community can help those affected by these tragedies. Look for additional information to follow in your e-mail.

LOOKING AHEAD

Next week, people of the Jewish faith will recognize Rosh Hashanah, the Jewish New Year. It is one of Judaism's holiest days. Meaning "head of the year" or "first of the year," Rosh Hashanah commemorates the creation of the world and marks the beginning of the Days of Awe, a 10-day period of introspection and repentance that culminates on the Yom Kippur holiday, also known as the Day of Atonement. Beginning September 15, Yom Kippur is considered the most important holiday in the Jewish faith. Yom Kippur and Rosh Hashanah are known as Judaism's "High Holy Days."

Thank you to each of you for all that you do to assist when the moment calls for service and action to support others or each other in times of need. This was never more evident than with the heroic collective effort that we all witnessed from our students to support every facet of the operation of our Rowan Medicine Vaccine Center earlier this year, and we see it again with our students coming together to provide help to those affected by these crises.

Stay safe and take good care,

Thomas A. Cavalieri, DO, MACOI, FACP
Dean

This message has been approved by: Dr. Thomas A. Cavalieri

This message has been sent by: Marketing