Safe Return to Campus: Update #2

Howard University

Colleges of Science and Engineering

Message from Dean, Fernando R. Miralles-Wilhelm

As you've just learned from President Washington and Associate Provost for Academic Affairs, Mason has remained committed to its efforts for a safe return to campus this fall.

Please review the unit safety plans carefully. Our return to campus is grounded on our unit safety plans which have been reviewed and approved by Mason-authorized officials. These safety plans are based on the best available public health information and guidance from federal, state and local entities. They include: mask requirements, physical distancing, social gatherings, and student and staff conduct expectations.

The Health and Safety Committee has designated a COVID-19 Task Force to provide support to units, researchers and Mason community members. The task force will be responsible for implementing and monitoring adherence to unit safety plans. The task force is comprised of representatives from all Mason units, including representatives from the College of Science.

Returning student athletes and students participating in the Mason Softball, Track & Field and Men's Basketball programs are required to complete the required training no later than 24 hours before you return to campus.

Scientists at George Mason University's Center for Applied Proteomics and Molecular Medicine (CAPMM) and the National Center for Biodefense and Infectious Diseases (NCBID) have been working together in a joint effort to create a coronavirus equine antibody formulation to prevent COVID-19.

Scientists and students utilized the Yorktown, Virginia, native's expertise in biochemistry and the George Mason University's Field House on the Fairfax Campus to create the antigen-antibody pair, referred to as TrueRemove®. The team, headed by Robin Couch and collaborating with Dr. Rainald Löhner, conducted research on the virus's spike protein to develop a potential vaccine.

This project is currently in the preclinical phase in Costa Rica for validation. Scientists plan to continue clinical trials in the United States using the TrueRemove® and validate it against the U.S. strain of COVID-19.

Patrick Gallagher, Associate Director of the Center for Computational Fluid Dynamics (CFD), collaborated with the College of Science researchers on mathematical formulations to describe and simulate fluid dynamic phenomena. The CFD work includes the simulation of fluid flow to determine the spread of COVID-19. On Monday, Aug. 10, it began testing and simulation to quantify the spread of diseases in the built environment. The work is formulated to describe and simulate fluid dynamic phenomena.

New York Times article

Researchers sniff out organic compounds: New fall speaker series launched

College of Science researchers have launched a new scientific speaker series on campus this fall. The fall series will feature presentations from various members of the College of Science, including alumni and faculty. The first speaker is Dr. Rainald Löhner, who will delve into the world of computational fluid dynamics.

Mason's NCBID and University of Costa Rica develop equine antibody-based therapeutic to neutralize Coronavirus

Researchers at George Mason University (Mason) and University of Costa Rica (UCA) are working together to develop an antibody-based therapeutic to neutralize the SARS-CoV-2 virus and COVID-19 disease. The therapeutic will be developed based on the structure and the mechanisms of neutralization of COVID-19 and will be tested for safety and efficacy in clinical trials.

The scientists at the National Center for Biodefense and Infectious Diseases (NCBID) at Mason collaborated with the UCA to create a new antibody-based therapeutic.

Softball, Track & Field and Men's Basketball student-athletes complete required training

Students participating in the Mason Softball, Track & Field and Men's Basketball programs are required to complete the required training no later than 24 hours before they return to campus. The training will provide them with the necessary knowledge and understanding of the health and safety protocols to follow when returning to campus.

Softball: Amber Verstynen discovers love of science while in high school

Softball's Amber Verstynen discovered a love of science while in high school. She entered George Mason softball student-athlete Amber Verstynen discovered a love of science while in high school. She entered George Mason as an athlete with career aspirations in the meteorological field.

Andrea Cobb, a Mason softball student-athlete, discovered a love of science while in high school. She entered George Mason as an athlete with career aspirations in the meteorological field.

Eager to put that passion to use in the real world, the Patriots' outfielder has spent the past two summers as an intern at NASA contractor on an ozone garden project with the Virginia Institute for Biohealth Innovation.

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