

## Message from the Associate Dean for Graduate Education\*

Dear Students,

First off, I want to introduce myself to any newer members of our learning community who I've not met, or who may not know about the office of the ADGE. You can see from the description below that my job is to work with graduate programs to help them reach their fullest potential, and to help ensure that each of you can thrive in an intellectually challenging, respectful, and supportive research environment. The Directors of Graduate Studies share my commitment to these objectives, and together we are making progress towards reaching them. Below is a list of some of the steps that we have taken over the past year.



- **Creation of the Office of Professional Development (OPD)** [<https://medopd.umn.edu>]. The OPD is directed by Dr. Sharolyn Kawakami-Schulz and provides biomedical graduate students with resources and opportunities in career education and professional development. Starting this year, all doctoral students must meet with Dr. Kawakami-Schulz at least once prior to taking their preliminary oral examination, and all MS students prior to the end of their first year. I would encourage all students who have already passed their Oral Preliminary Examination (congratulations!) to avail themselves of the opportunity to meet with Dr. Kawakami-Schulz. You can contact her at [sharolyn@umn.edu](mailto:sharolyn@umn.edu).
- **Creation of the Office of Diversity Inclusion and Outreach.** This new office is directed by Dr. Danielle Watt, and provides resources and support for graduate student recruitment and retention until degree completion. You can contact Danielle at [watt0175@umn.edu](mailto:watt0175@umn.edu).
- **Graduate Program Policies.** Student handbooks are being updated to clearly describe rules concerning absences, leaves, and vacation policies for students receiving stipend support.
- **Health Insurance for Students on Medical Leave of Absence.** Graduate students who receive stipend support are now eligible to apply for no-cost health insurance coverage during approved medical leaves of absence, of up to one year duration. For details, please contact my office or your DGS.
- **Goals for 2020.** Areas I am working on include: creation of opportunities that bring students from different programs together, reducing behavior that harms students, and increasing diversity in our leaning community. If you have ideas or suggestions for additional goals, please contact Danielle, Sharolyn (they are located in 742 and 743 Mayo) or me.

Finally, starting 6 March, I will be holding regular office hours *most* Fridays from 11:00 AM-1:00 PM via Zoom (<https://z.umn.edu/ColinOfficeHours>). Importantly, if that isn't a suitable time for you, please email me ([campb034@umn.edu](mailto:campb034@umn.edu)), and we can arrange another time to meet.

I wish each of you a great 2020.

Sincerely,

Colin Campbell, Ph.D.

Associate Professor and DGS, Pharmacology

Associate Dean for Graduate Studies, Medical School

\* The Associate Dean for Graduate Education's responsibilities include the following: *Provide* leadership, advocacy and strategic direction for the doctoral and master's graduate programs in the Medical School, *Collaborate* with Medical School leadership, Directors of Graduate Studies, department chairs, faculty and graduate students to develop and implement programs and activities that will enhance graduate program quality, enhance opportunities collaboration with Medical Students and MD/PhD students, and *Enhance* graduate student recruitment, diversity, retention, satisfaction and career development.