

Message from the Associate Dean for Graduate Education*

Dear Students,

Happy spring semester 2019! I hope you took advantage of the break in the academic calendar to spend time with friends and loved ones and/or that you were able to step back from your research and studies to relax and have some fun. I also hope that you are as keen as I am to reengage with the academic and scholarly activities of the new term. This can be a difficult time of the year, but we can all look forward to ever-increasing daylight hours, and the promise of warmer temperatures. . . pretty soon, I guess.



You perhaps won't be surprised to know that I have more on my mind than a desire to wish you a great start to 2019. Specifically, I wanted to have another go at persuading any of you who haven't yet done so to *please participate* in the Medical School Graduate Student Climate Survey. Here is a link (<https://tohanuk.typeform.com/to/G73CTD>) to access the survey using a computer-based interface (as opposed to the texting-based format that was initially offered). This survey is an important tool we are using to gain new insights, and your participation is vital if we are to accurately sample the climate of the learning environments our graduate programs. While we're still collecting data, we have begun the process of analysis and reflection. We'll be at this for a wee while yet, but you can anticipate an upcoming communication from me inviting students and faculty to a 'town hall' meeting. At that time we will, as a learning community, review the results from the survey and discuss changes to our practice and our policies that have the potential to make us better.

Finally, I want to announce that, starting this week, I will be holding regular office hours on Friday afternoons from 3:00 -5:00 PM in room 733 of the Mayo Building. This isn't my regular office location—it is being loaned to me by a generous colleague—and I think the change of venue will help create a space for frank and productive conversations. I'm sure I'll learn a lot, and am looking forward to the opportunity. While it is my intention to be in 733 Mayo most every Friday afternoon, there are going to be a few days when my schedule has a conflict. The following link (<https://z.umn.edu/ColinOfficeHours>) will indicate whether office hours are being held, or will be cancelled for any particular week.

I offer each of you my heartfelt best wishes for a happy, and productive 2019.

Sincerely,

Colin Campbell, Ph.D.

Associate Professor and Director of Graduate Studies in Pharmacology
Associate Dean for Graduate Studies, Medical School

* For anyone who is wondering, 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.