MEMORANDUM

TO: Class of 2019
FROM: Christa H. Zehle, MD, Associate Dean for Students
RE: Residency Advising Discussion (RAD) and Medical Student Performance Evaluation (MSPE)

During April through August, I will be available to meet with you, or to communicate with you via telephone/Skype, about your residency application plans. Please follow this link to schedule an appointment. These meetings are incredibly important, thus you are excused from your curriculum/clinical responsibilities to attend; please be in communication with your course director regarding the scheduled meeting time.

Before our scheduled meeting, please complete and submit the Pre-Meeting Survey, and upload a copy of your CV and Personal Statement if you would like me to review these documents, under the MSPE tab in your Academic History in Oasis one week prior to your scheduled meeting time. Having this information available will make our conversation more valuable to you.

We will begin drafting Medical Student Performance Evaluations (MSPEs), formerly known as Dean’s Letters, over the spring and summer. All letters will be released on the nationwide release date of October 1, 2018. Much of the substance of your MSPE is drawn from the evaluations in your file, with particular emphasis on your clinical work. When viewed as a whole these evaluations provide an accurate reflection of your medical school performance.

The MSPE is not a letter of recommendation, it is an evaluation of your medical education. Your letter should be as complete and accurate as possible. To assist us with developing the MSPE we ask you to complete the Identifying Information paragraph (information about you before attending medical school) and Noteworthy Characteristics (three noteworthy characteristics about yourself during medical school in addition to your CV) sections of the MSPE one week in advance of your meeting. Students who have not already submitted these sections as a Preparation for Practice course assignment should submit this information in the online MSPE portal. You are the experts with respect to the information that populates those two sections of the letter, and it is in your interest to write them clearly. We will edit them once you have written them, however the better the job you do on them the better the finished product is likely to be. Instructions and examples to guide you in this task are available in Oasis and online.

Your USMLE scores are not included in your MSPE and instead are requested by you from the NBME.
Thanks to Emma Faustner, the information (including the documents accompanying this memo) you will need to keep track of for the residency application process are linked in your Oasis Notices and in Comet. Please visit the timelines/checklists, information about letters of recommendation and MSPEs, and links to several helpful documents at Lounge > Student Affairs > Residency Application (password req). Perhaps most importantly, we are here and remain available to help you through this exciting process. Please do not hesitate to call on us!

Sincerely,

Christa Zehle, MD
Associate Dean for Students
The Robert Larner, M.D. College of Medicine at the University of Vermont
Office of Medical Student Education