



North Coast Physician

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"Lightpole Forrest"

Stephen Kamelgarn, M.D.

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Post COVID Changes

Emily Dalton, M.D.



Kids are getting sick again! Now that COVID restrictions are easing and children are allowed to socialize without masks, kids are again catching routine colds and other viral infections. It sounds strange to say, but it's a relief to see these runny noses, coughs, and ear infections. For a pediatrician, that is life returning to normal. We can only hope that no new serious viral variants will emerge this year, and that school and children's activities will slowly continue returning to normal.

As we transition to a post COVID era, some things will remain permanently different. Masks will be routinely worn by everyone in medical settings (not just the OR crew) and patients will have to become accustomed to masking up in health care facilities.

COVID vaccines will likely join influ-

enza as an annual vaccination.

One of the saddest changes I've noticed is that the desirability of jobs in public health has plummeted. Death threats, harassment, and abusive behavior from certain segments of the public have made those jobs unpleasant and downright dangerous. I don't know how to estimate the drop in interest among physicians for those positions, but I imagine it is significant. Our own public health department has lost two excellent physicians in just the last 2 years. In the past public health officers typically stayed on contentedly for years. Unless our medical public health officials are aggressively safeguarded it's unlikely many qualified candidates will stay interested in public health careers.

Another lasting change brought about by the COVID pandemic is the exodus of

anti-vaxxers from jobs in medicine. While painful, this may be a good thing in the long run. Medical professionals who won't vaccinate send patients the wrong message, and endanger their patients and coworkers. I imagine in the future hiring practices will take into account one's vaccine status, effectively limiting staffing in medical facilities to the vaccinated. Anyone who does not endorse vaccination has no business studying medicine or nursing.

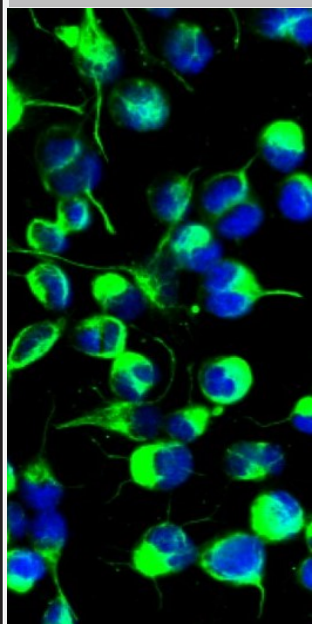
In summary, Covid seems to be winding down, but the world will never be the same. Masks are here to stay, vaccinations will be required to enter a medically related career, and public health departments will struggle to attract good candidates.

Oh, and kids are getting sick again.

§

CAL POLY HUMBOLDT

CIRM Bridges 3.0 Scholar Program



2022 CIRM Bridges 3.0 Scholars Symposium

Thursday, May 5th 5:00 pm Sci B 135 or Zoom

<https://humboldtstate.zoom.us/j/81500431014>

Passcode: cirm2022

Through our CIRM Bridges 3.0 Connect program and in collaboration with the Humboldt –Del Norte Medical Society and Pre-Medical Task Force, the Cal Poly Humboldt CIRM Bridges scholars are pleased to present their research in regenerative medicine to our campus and medical community.

Student interns complete a 12-month internship focused on regenerative medicine at one of our outstanding collaborating host institutions: [The Stanford University Institute for Stem Cell Biology and Regenerative Medicine](#), [The University of California Davis Stem Cell Program](#). They have received advanced training in the research methods and good manufacturing practices required to develop cellular-based therapies for emerging and unmet medical needs.

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www.hdncms.org

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Editorial and Publications Committee would like to encourage you to join the committee. Meetings are held quarterly 12:15 - 1:30 pm at the Medical Society office. Come help coordinate our member publications.

*Members wishing to place a classified ad
(Business- free to members for first 6 mos. /
Personal 1/2 price)
contact Medical Society office.*

The Editorial and Publications Committee encourages our member's comments for publication. Please submit electronically prior to the 15th of the month preceding publication. hdncms@sbcglobal.net

Display Advertising Rate Schedule

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