

**Subject:** Announcing a virtual School of Medicine graduation  
**Date:** Thursday, April 16, 2020 at 5:40:13 PM Pacific Daylight Time  
**From:** Talmadge E. King, Jr. and Catherine R. Lucey  
**To:** Wolfson, Rebecca



## Medical Education

*Dear faculty, students and staff,*

*The following message was sent earlier today to the Class of 2020 students to notify them that graduation will be held virtually this year. Thank you in advance for your support, and please reach out if you have any questions or concerns.*

*Best,*

*Talmadge and Catherine*

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Dear Soon to be UCSF Physicians:

Please watch our joint video message and read our plans for a virtual graduation below.

We write to let you know that we will be celebrating your graduation as the latest cohort of beloved UCSF Physicians, virtually. The ongoing public health response to COVID-19 requires that we avoid large scale gatherings for the foreseeable future. We want all of you and your loved ones to stay healthy and safe.

Commencement is both an end and a beginning—the end of the first phase of your formal education as a student and the beginning of the first phase of your education as a physician. This is an amazing event—

- one of the most exciting of our academic year;
- one where we remember the eager matriculant you were when first we met and marvel at the mature and talented physician you are now; and
- one where faculty and friends, parents and partners, staff and supporters will stand in awe of all you have accomplished and all you will contribute to the profession of medicine and to our state, nation and world.

Virtual feels synonymous with technology, but it also means “almost or nearly as described, but not completely or according to strict definition”. Nothing about our recent lives has been nearly as described. But you are a class that has shown adaptability and courage at every stage of your medical education, from agreeing to embark upon a new curriculum, to supporting the School through an accreditation visit and most recently contributing your hearts and minds to the pandemic response.

So, on May 18, we invite you and your circle of family, friends, supporters and faculty champions to join the UCSF School of Medicine in a virtual celebration of your accomplishments. Through the wonders of technology, we will

- celebrate with a presentation from the beloved Dr. Wofsy,
- hear from your chosen graduation speaker,
- listen as Chancellor Hawgood awards the degree of Doctor of Medicine to all within your class,

- read each graduate's name and hear them called doctor for the first time,
- recite the UCSF covenant,
- hear the oath recited in the native languages of your classmates, and
- applaud, yell, cheer and wipe tears of joy away from our cheeks.

While the celebration is virtual, the joy that will be felt by your friends, classmates, faculty, deans, family and loved ones is not. It will be every bit as real as it would if we were all together, in Davies Hall. Further details about the timing and content of the ceremony will be forthcoming. The amazing DoQuyen Tran Taylor will be working with your class representatives to put together a wonderful event.

Please stay healthy, continue to reach out to one another and please let us know if there are ways that we can help you navigate these challenging times.

**Talmadge E. King, Jr., MD**  
Dean, School of Medicine

**Catherine R. Lucey, MD, MACP**  
Executive Vice Dean, UCSF School of Medicine  
Vice Dean for Medical Education

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## A Video Message to the Class of 2020 from Dean King and Executive Vice Dean Lucey





UCSF School of Medicine | 533 Parnassus Avenue, Suite U-80, San Francisco, CA 94143

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