Hello everyone, and welcome back to UBC for another year. We hope that everyone has been able to stay safe through the summer, and adjusted to our “new normal” for the next little while, as we deal with the fallout from COVID-19.

While we would love to be able to welcome you back on your first day of classes, your collective health and safety – and that of your loved ones – takes precedence. For that reason, all Pharmacology undergraduate courses will be online for 2020WT1; there will be no face-to-face Pharmacology classes. This will allow you to continue to make progress on your academic degree, while we ensure our collective health and safety. Please note that no decision has been made as of yet for 2020WT2, which is of particular relevance to our T1-T2 courses (PCTH 300/305, PCTH 302, PCTH 400, PCTH 402, PCTH 404); we will update you as soon as possible, once we have received guidance from university and provincial health authorities.

As we approach the opening of registration, here is some additional information on our 2020W offerings. Additionally, we encouraged you to regularly check in with Science Advising for updates, and consult the general information offered there regarding 2020W registration, expectations on technology (for participating in online courses), resources, etc.

As we plan our courses for the fall, please recognize that we are working our best to accommodate as many students – and as many scenarios – as we can. We recognize that students will be accessing our courses from different environments, different time zones, and in the background of other commitments of variable nature. We are working to find ways to ensure all students have access to the instruction and material they need to thrive for each of our undergraduate courses.

**Labs being offered in 2020W**

For Term 1, both PCTH 302 and PCTH 402 will be online. Labs that would normally be conducted in person will be substituted by a combination of recorded demonstrations and computer simulations.

For Term 2, we are still awaiting word on whether face to face instruction would be possible for one or both of PCTH 302 and PCTH 402. If this can be done safely, we are considering options to allow a small amount of in person sessions to provide you with hands-on experience in pharmacology. We recognize that there is a great deal of uncertainty here regarding students in different situations, even if face to face instruction is permitted, and so if you anticipate returning to UBC for Term 2 would be a problem based on your unique circumstances, we encourage you to contact your undergraduate advisors for guidance. Our goal is to provide opportunities for every student to be able to make progress toward their degree.

**Honours students**

Some students pursuing an Honours specialization while adjusting to online learning may find it helpful to undertake 27 credits of coursework rather than the usual required Honours course load. In the 2020 Winter session (only), you can be granted an academic concession to fulfill the Honours credit load requirement with 27 credits in total for the winter session. This academic concession will be applied to any Honours students who complete 27 – 29 credits of coursework in the 2020 Winter Session and you do not need to take further steps to have receive this academic concession. All other Honours requirements remain unchanged per the information in the [Academic Calendar](#).

If you have any questions or concerns about the upcoming term, please feel free to reach out to your undergraduate advisors or course directors; we are all still here for you to support you in your BSc degree, and will do our best to help you in whichever way we can.