

THANK YOU

Thursday



For this week's Thank-You Thursday, we will honor the dedicated clinicians working on the "frontlines" here at UF COM and UF Health. Through this whole ordeal, they have been the superheroes hidden behind masks (and other PPE). While others have sheltered at home, they have shown up to do the hard work necessary to treat patients with and without COVID-19. The practice of medicine is perhaps the most noble of professions, and yet—even before this pandemic—it requires a level of personal and familial sacrifice that is matched by few others. Our UFCOM physicians and PAs, our UFCON and UF Health nurses, and all the other valued members of the healthcare team continue to put patients first, as they have always done. We can never fully repay them for the lost sleep, the time away from family, the years spent in training, the gifts of their attention and compassion, and the personal risk they assume just by showing up to work. However, *we can all take the time to express our appreciation and to do what we can to make the work environment more supportive for them.*

Today, I encourage you to **send a personal note of gratitude/encouragement to a member of our clinician team at UFCOM / UF Health**. For inspiration, you can read about some of the sacrifices, efforts, and accomplishments of our physicians, PAs, nurses, pharmacists, psychologists, social workers, and other frontline clinicians as they continue working—every day—to keep us all healthy:

- To health care workers and everyone on the front lines of the COVID-19 pandemic: The Gator Nation salutes your courage and dedication. Thank You. ~ University of Florida and the entire Gator Nation (You can watch a special 1-minute video tribute here: <https://www.facebook.com/uflorida/videos/248867759558586/>)



#LightItBlue

- I am incredibly grateful to all frontline clinicians always, but even more so during this exceptional time in our history. Thank you for your selflessness. ~ Michele Lossius, MD, UF Health Chief Quality Officer
- It is my privilege to highlight the resiliency and inner strength of the nursing staff during this health crisis. They have been steadfast in providing excellent nursing care during this time of the “new norm.” I would also like to extend a Happy Nurses Week to all the nursing workforce. With all of the social distancing measures still in effect, it is unique to virtually celebrate Nurses Week but their profound impact will not go unnoticed. ~ Duke C. Lim, DNP, RN, CNML, Associate Vice President Nursing & Patient Services
- In this time of uncertainty, I am so grateful to our frontline clinicians who, at personal risk to themselves, continued the critical task of caring for patients. They stand out as examples of what is best about our profession and as role models for the type of physicians and human beings we all strive to be. ~ Mark Segal, MD, COM Senior Associate Dean for Faculty Affairs and Professional Development
- Our clinicians make us proud to be Gators every day! Thank you for your amazing work on the front lines. ~ Ellen M. Zimmermann, MD, COM Associate Dean for Faculty Development
- Thank you to the pharmacists in all practice settings who have been providing patient care and support to other health care providers. You have displayed dedication to provide high quality services to ensure safe and effective medication use, while maintaining patient access to the critical medications they need. Your compassion shines through with every patient you interact with and your accessibility to patients and other healthcare providers has been the positivity and support they desire during this

difficult time. Thank you for your willingness to support those who need us most. Your never ending dedication makes me proud to be your colleague. ~ Michelle Farland, PharmD, BCPS, CDE, Division Head for Community Based Pharmacotherapy

- Nurses, In the dark of all...you are the light!! It is really meaningful that the WHO designated 2020 as the international Year of the Nurse and Midwife; your work in the frontline fight of COVID-19 is just immensurable! On behalf of the UF College of Nursing, please accept our gratitude for all you are doing. This word cloud just symbolizes a genuine THANK YOU for your care, lead and inspire. The world is saluting you. Happy Year of the Nurse!! ~ Jeanne-Marie R. Stacciarini RN, PhD, FAAN, CON Assistant Dean for Diversity, Inclusion and Global Affairs



- Thanks to all of the UF Health physicians who care for our GatorCare members – we appreciate all that you do! ~ Jill Sumfest, MD, GatorCare Medical Director & President
- As many of us return to the workplace on campus, we are thankful to those on the frontlines that have been here through it all - thank you! We appreciate you so much, and thank you for your response to a higher calling than duty alone - truly a work of heart. Because of your work and care of our patients we are able to continue the good work of UF Health. ~ Corina Velasquez, Associate Director, UF College of Medicine Human Resource
- A ‘thank you’ from behind my computer screen is not enough to recognize the immense load that you all have taken on. I appreciate your courage. I appreciate you putting our community and our patients first. I appreciate your families, who have had to work through the “behind-the-scenes” strains of having a loved one in the field. Thank you for all that you bring to our community. We are in good hands. ~ Morgan Papworth, GatorCare Wellness Manager
- Thank you for putting your life on the line to make sure that every family receives the best care during this time of unprecedented difficulty. I can’t imagine the stress that this situation has brought to your life and to your family. As you take care of the most vulnerable members of the community, you’re also juggling all of your own needs, concerns and challenges. Through it all, you’ve maintained the highest standard of care, empathy and resourcefulness, even when we have been careless, critical and inconsiderate. If that’s not love, then we really don’t know what love is. I want you to know that every personal sacrifice has strengthened our community and inspired us all to choose selflessness over fear. None of it has been in vain (even though it might feel like that at times). You’ve led us to think critically, inspired us to care deeply and motivated us to love unconditionally. We are all better because of you! ~ Anonymous Gator
- A HUGE ‘thank you’ to all the UF Health providers that are taking care of the community. Your hard work, focus and dedication to each patient is truly a gift and we could not be where we are today

without your knowledge and expertise. You have been putting yourself at risk and caring for the community as well. So thank you all you do! ~ Holly Alford, GatorCare Case Manager

- Thank you so much for all of the time, energy, and care that you have dedicated to taking care of and helping those in our community! You are appreciated and cared for as well! ~ Sky Richards, GatorCare Intern

Words can't express how grateful I am of the healthcare workers who are in the hospital at this time, here in Gainesville and elsewhere. Life and other emergencies still occur even with all of this going on, and our healthcare providers are the ones to step up and tackle COVID along with everything else life decides to throw at us. I'm grateful for my friends and colleagues who are still reporting to the hospital for their usual shifts, the surgeons I don't know that are performing surgery on my Grandpa today, and everyone who is behind the scenes to make the hospital as safe as possible for employees and patients with and without COVID.

I wish I could say thank you in a way that would give you as much gratitude as you deserve, but that would be impossible. You are caring for the sick, caring for your co-workers, caring for yourself (as much as you can on 3+ straight days without sleep) and doing all of that while away from your family and friends to keep them safe. You are the front lines, and I can't thank you enough. I am lucky, I don't see what you do. My fiancé comes home (construction, in a hospital right now), and what he describes to me is insane. He used to say his work was hard, now all he does is talk about how hard you have it, and how you don't let patients see you waiver, how you don't show you're tired. Thank you, for all you do. Thank you. Thank you.



Dear Healthcare worker,

Thank you for your selfless contributions during this worldwide crisis. I am incredibly grateful of the risks that you and your colleagues take on a daily basis to continue serving those in need. It is so inspiring that I have reflected on my own career and am considering a dramatic change into healthcare so that I can pay it forward by serving those in need too! Thank you!

You may also enjoy watching this quick (1-minute) **video reminder that the community is behind you, supporting you, and appreciating all you do** to keep us safe and healthy!!:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-rtuEgAHWw0>

And finally, as we continue to focus on giving thanks, you might also enjoy reading this **commentary about gratitude** from Dr. Isabel Garcia, Dean of the UF College of Dentistry: <https://dental.ufl.edu/2020/05/06/i-cover-my-face-in-gratitude/>

"I cover my face in gratitude to our first responders, and ask that everyone in our community join me.
I am a Grateful Gator."
— Dean A. Isabel Garcia, DDS, MPH



THANK YOU to all our amazing UF Health clinicians!!!
Stay well,

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