

Models of Disease July 2020 - COVID-19 Updates and FAQs

We want to assure you that the annual Models of Disease Boot Camp will still be offered as scheduled in July. At this point, it's unclear whether we will be able to meet in person or if we will hold class sessions using Zoom— or possibly in some hybrid course structure. We are aware that many of our trainees and faculty are being assigned to additional clinical duties to provide coverage in response to the local COVID-19 “surge”— and we are deeply grateful for their service. And others of us are working from home in response to institutional or governmental directives. We will do our best to be flexible and provide outstanding content for our trainees despite these challenges.

Despite the strain that the Covid-19 pandemic has placed upon our professional and personal lives, we feel that *it is essential to sustain our educational mission* while being mindful of safety issues and being totally supportive of one another in this difficult time. The MoD Boot Camp faculty and discussants all plan to fully engage in the course again this year, and the course schedule is (nearly) all set. While a virtual course will not have the immediacy of holding these sessions in person, we want to continue to support and nurture our physician-scientist trainees during these challenging times.

With these considerations in mind, we would like to provide our most up to date information about the summer *Models of Disease* course. And of course, if you have any questions, please contact me at thomas_michel@hms.harvard.edu or at 617-365-1102.

Here are some Frequently Asked Questions:

The original deadline for the application was May 18 – will this be extended?

We will extend the application deadline until June 19 in order for applicants to have time to review their July commitments and to apply to join the course if they are able.

Will the dates of the course change?

No, we are still planning on the course running from Monday, July 6 – Friday July 24, from 8:30AM-1:00PM weekdays (if we meet virtually, some days will end at noon since we won't be having lunch together 😞).

Will the course be held in person or virtually?

We are planning for all possibilities. If it is safe and permissible to do so, we hope to hold the course in person at Harvard Medical School. If HMS and State of Massachusetts policies continue to restrict meetings (as is the case currently), we will hold class sessions via Zoom. We plan to offer a Zoom option even if the course will be offered in person, mindful that attendance may be difficult for some trainees and faculty. In all circumstances, we will of course adhere to Harvard Medical School, hospital, and State of Massachusetts policies and guidelines.

Will the course be flexible in case there is a need to accommodate potential clinical responsibilities for students?

Yes, we plan to record all of the class sessions and make them available for all enrolled fellows.