

# **Today's homework: MSE FUNdamentals!**

Happy Tuesday! We have once again culled the latest Covid news to give you what you need to know to stay safe, but we're also excited to announce a new feature in this issue: a Letter to the Editor section where we will field questions you have for the department, and two (yes, two!) new contests: a Halloween costume contest and our traditional 2021 MSE Calendar art image contest! We have another packed issue, so let's dive in...

Questions, comments or ideas for TeamMSE? Contact Kristen at <a href="mailto:kristen@umich.edu">krisfres@umich.edu</a>.

We'd love to hear from you!



#### Last week's Covid cases at NCRC and HH Dow receive all-clear

EHS has given the all-clear to both incidents we reported last week of 1) someone testing positive who visited NCRC on September 29, and 2) an external visitor visiting the manufacturing lab on the first floor of Dow.

It continues to be the case that to our knowledge, no one in MSE has been contacted by EHS for contact tracing.

# Covid case numbers hold steady

The quarantine and isolation data for yesterday, Oct. 12, is 136. Some small clusters were recently identified in residence halls, but none of the clusters has had more than 100 close contacts, nor has U-M exceeded capacity for contact tracing.

All positive cases and known close contacts were isolated or quarantined. Additionally, broader pop-up asymptomatic testing was conducted in several residence halls as a precaution. For Mary Markley, South Quad and West Quad, this included offering tests to

more than 700 residents.

Several large off-campus houses were under quarantine as a targeted response. An ongoing review of the situation is being conducted by campus and county public health officials to determine what additional mitigation strategies may be considered.

# Click here for U-M's COVID-19 Dashboard



The <u>second weekly video briefing</u> about issues related to COVID-19 on campus took place Oct. 9. In case you missed the briefing, highlights and questions from the session included:

#### Study Space reservations now open

The university has launched <u>Study Spaces at U-M</u>, a web-based space reservation system to help students find and reserve designated individual study spaces or computer stations. The system currently has more than 1,400 individual spaces that can be reserved at various North and Central campus locations. Read more <u>here</u>.

#### Saliva testing expansion

The <u>Community Sampling and Tracking program</u> is switching to a saliva-based collection method for U-M surveillance testing. At the same time, the university is streamlining the sign-up process, expanding campus testing locations and increasing capacity for testing of students, faculty and staff on the Ann Arbor campus. Currently, U-M is testing about 1,200 individual volunteers per week with

this program, despite having the capacity to test more than twice that number. The change to saliva-based collection will further increase capacity to 6,000 per week by the end of month – but you must <u>sign up</u> to be tested under this program.

#### Q: When will there be a decision for the Winter 2021 term?

**A:** U-M is actively working on a plan for the winter term and will announce details as they become available in the coming month. The university continues to learn from fall teaching experiences, which is essential for incorporating winter planning and will reach out to gather information from instructors, students and staff across the schools and colleges to help assess what's working well and what are some of the things that need improvements.

Q: What are the metrics the university is using on determining whether to ramp-down again and move to all remote teaching?

**A:** Currently defined metrics, existing mitigation tools, and possible enhanced measures to prevent the spread of COVID-19 are outlined <a href="https://example.com/here">here</a>.

Read more of Schlissel's <u>answers to questions</u> on the topics of health & safety, testing, finances, etc.

NOTE: The next Covid briefing with President Schlissel will be this Friday, Oct. 16, 1:00-2:00 p.m. Zoom link: https://umich.zoom.us/j/97123053324

## CoE wants to hear from you

The College of Engineering welcomes your feedback as to how the College is operating, adapting and caring for its community, Questions and feedback can be <u>submitted here</u>.

## If you're feeling sick

It is very important that U-M students who feel ill or are concerned about possibly having contracted COVID-19 get their testing done <u>through EHS</u>. It's fast and easy.

## Feeling overly stressed? You aren't alone.

One of the biggest tolls this pandemic is taking is on mental health. If you are struggling with stress and/or having a hard time staying positive, remember there are resources available that are ready to help you **right now**:

- **SilverCloud:** An <u>interactive mental health portal</u> that can help you sleep better and manage stress anxiety and depression.
- C.A.R.E. Center: The <u>central hub to assist engineering students</u> through a variety of challenging circumstances, both inside and outside of the classroom.

# Letter to the Editor

#### Dear TeamMSE:

"I'm very happy to see the return of the TeamMSE newsletters! It's nice that I can check one email and see the facts that are the most relevant to my work environment. Overall, I'm happy with the department's renewed push for DEI initiatives and the beginning of the grad student cohort meetings. I'm just wondering if you could give us some information about conference participation. I know they're virtual right now and the state of the pandemic in even a couple months is hard to predict, but it would be helpful to know when decisions about conference travel are going to be made or what the department anticipates will be the case for next semester."

#### --Anonymous graduate student

Dear Anonymous: Thank you so much for this letter! We are very pleased to hear that students find the TeamMSE newsletter useful. As far as the question about conference travel, as of today, the university is still prohibiting all travel on university business, although participation in virtual conferences is allowed (as long as it is covered by sponsored funding). The University is expected to make a decision about the Winter 2021 term by the end of October so we will relay that information as soon as it is updated.

#### **Upcoming Virtual Conferences**

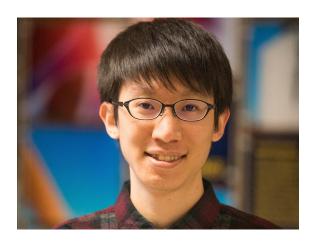
There are three upcoming virtual conferences:

- IMAT (October 26-28). IMAT is free for students to attend (register here).
- <u>MS&T</u> (November 2-6). MS&T has a small registration fee for students that MMS may be covering. If you're an undergraduate interested in attending MS&T, please fill out this form.
- MRS (Nov. 27-Dec. 4).

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Have a question you'd like answered? Please email Kristen at krisfres@umich.edu.

# Upcoming MSE events



# This Friday's Seminar: Asst. Prof. Abdon Pena-Francesch

Newly hired MSE Assistant Professor Abdon Pena-Francesch (arriving Jan. 2021) will present "Bioinspired self-healing soft materials" this Friday, October 16 at 10:30 a.m. The Zoom link is

https://umich.zoom.us/j/96173307372

Passcode: 743400



## **MSE Apparel Sale**

MMS is sponsoring an MSE apparel sale that includes t-shirts and crewneck and quarter-zip sweatshirts. If you think you might be interested in ordering apparel, click <a href="here">here</a> to see the items and fill out an

# Li-Jen Yu dissertation defense: October 15

A member of the Marquis group, Li-Jen Yu will present "Microstructural Evolution in Commercial Ni-based Alloys under Irradiation" on Thursday, October 15 at 1:00 p.m. The Zoom link is <a href="https://umich.zoom.us/j/9668580591">https://umich.zoom.us/j/9668580591</a> 7Passcode: 834406.

# This Friday's MMS Luncheon

Lionano CEO Siyu Huang will talk about her company's research in advanced battery materials. Lionano is recruiting as well, so if you are interested in the battery industry, this would be a great talk to attend! MMS is also raffling off two \$15 Grubhub coupons to those who attend. The talk is at 11:30 a.m. Zoom link is here.

interest survey. (Please complete by Monday, October 19.) Prices will be determined and an order form will issued after the survey.







Our MSE pet photo contest was so popular last spring that we've decided to launch a new photo contest, this time, of course, with a more seasonal theme: a Halloween costume contest! This DEI contest is open to the entire MSE community and the rules are simple: Just submit a photo of you (or your pet) in a costume to Kristen at krisfres@umich.edu by THURSDAY, OCTOBER 29.

The following day, October 30, we'll send out a special email with a link to all the submissions so you can vote for your favorites. After all the votes are tallied, we will announce the winners in TeamMSE on Monday, Nov. 2. The top three vote-getters will receive a gift card. Have fun with it and good luck!



We're looking for some cool, creative "science as art" images to use in a variety of MSE marketing materials, including our 2021 calendar! Please submit your images (with explanatory caption and advisor/course name) to Kristen: **krisfres@umich.edu** by **Monday, Nov. 10.** We plan to award all winning images with \$100! High-resolution images only. ALL MSE students and postdocs are welcome to participate BUT, please note: *Submissions must be based on research conducted at U-M*.





#### Go Blue, Go Vote!

U-M is participating in the <u>Big Ten Voting</u> <u>Challenge</u>. This is a non-partisan effort to increase student voter participation in all elections. The average student voter rate across the Big Ten Conference spiked to 43 percent for the 2018 midterm elections, surpassing the national average student voting rate of 40 percent, and more than doubling the national student voting rate of 19 percent in 2014. The goal is to increase U-M student voter turnout even more for this upcoming election.

# Need to get registered in Michigan? Deadline is October 20

The U.S. General Election is just 3 weeks away! If you still need to register to vote in Michigan, you can <u>register online</u> before Tuesday, October 20. To check to see if you're already registered, click <u>here</u> or visit Michigan.gov/vote. For more election information, go to <u>govote.umich.edu</u>



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