Wednesday July 26, 2023

Subject: Concerns Regarding Request for Student Volunteers during Nurses' Strike

Dear RWJMS Administration,

As members of the student body, residency program, faculty, and staff of Robert Wood Johnson Medical School, we are writing to express our deep concern and discomfort regarding the recent email sent to us requesting our voluntary time at the hospital to compensate for the nurses who are currently on strike.

First and foremost, we recognize the importance of maintaining patient care and safety during challenging times such as a nurses' strike. However, as medical students committed to upholding ethical principles, we feel compelled to address the moral dilemma we face in crossing the picket line to fill in for the striking nurses. Respecting the rights of the striking nurses and their demands is essential to supporting the fight for fair working conditions, patient safety concerns, and ultimately, improved patient-centered care. By asking us to participate in tasks typically performed by nurses, we would be directly undermining their cause, which conflicts with our core values as healthcare professionals.

Moreover, we are deeply concerned about the potential implications of our involvement on the morale and unity of the healthcare workforce. The decision to seek student volunteers during a strike could be perceived as disregarding the legitimate concerns of the nursing staff specifically related to patient safety. In addition, this potentially endangers the relationship between medical students and nurses who are an integral part of their training and healthcare delivery team. We strongly believe that fostering a supportive and collaborative environment is crucial for the well-being of medical students, healthcare professionals, and patients.

Furthermore, as medical students, our primary focus must be on our academic responsibilities and the rigorous curriculum that lies ahead. Our time and efforts are already dedicated to developing the knowledge and skills necessary to provide quality care in the future. By diverting our attention to fill in for striking nurses, our educational experiences and potential patient care outcomes may be compromised, leading to undue stress and burnout among the student body. In addition, the request to provide unpaid labor in jobs we are not trained to do at the expense of our own educational programming raises concerns about exploitation and risks creating an unsafe environment for patients.

In light of these ethical, moral, and practical concerns, we kindly request that the administration reconsider the decision to request student volunteers to replace striking nurses.

As committed members of the medical community, we believe it is vital to address the concerns raised by the striking nurses in a collaborative and respectful manner. We urge the administration to engage in meaningful dialogue with the nursing staff to seek a fair and equitable resolution that upholds the values of patient safety, employee rights, and the well-being of the healthcare workforce as a whole.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. We look forward to hearing from you soon and participating in discussions that promote the best interests of all stakeholders involved.

Sincerely,
Sarah Decedue (2025),
Joseph Phelan (2025),
Ricardo Munoz (2025),
Afra Trinidad (2025),
Lauren Nazzaro (2025),
Taskeen Ahmed (2025),
Grace Tellado (2025),
Nicholas Dante (2025),
Katelyn Kanemitsu (2025),
Kayla Piiwaa (2025),
Keana Mirmajlesi (2025),
Derek Ge (2025),
Leena Rijhwani (2025),
Amalia Giraldo (2025),
Maame-Serwah Afriyie (2025),
Melanie Fringuello (2025),
Andres Alba (2025),
Lydia Musmanno (2025),
Charlene Fermin (2025),
Mohsin Mothana (2025),
Nehar Damle (2024),
Sonya Rao (2025),
Uri Shalmon (2024),
Tanushree Laud (2024),

Raadhika Kher (2024),
Michelle Zhao (2024),
Adrian Santana (2025),
Lucy Guan (2025),
Cooper Lathrop (2025),
Ellie Deianni (2024),
John Macias (2024),
Kayla Laraia (2024),
Valerie Ricciardi (2025),
Marina Frayberg (2024),
Michael Park (2024),
Juline Hanna (2025),
Isha Kumbam (2025),
Michael Enich (2024),
jairan sadeghi (2024),
Aparna Alankar (2025),
Salma Youssef (2024),
Chris Wachuku (2024),
Anoop Alla (2024),
Raaga Rambhatla (2024),
Pablo Colon (2025),
Praneet Kang (2025),
Aislinn McCleery (2025),
Radha Tummalapenta (2025),
Najm Khan (2025),
Jake Drobner (2024),
Irene Koc (2025),
Luis Sanchez (2025),
Divya Anand (2025),
Richard Lisi III (2024),
Elyse Mackenzie (2026),
Taylor Chiang (2024),
Chase Hintelmann (2026),
Kaitlyn Boyle (2026),
Lily Wushanley (2026),
Sahithi Reddi (2025),
Jordan Shinn (2025),
Kaiwen Chen (2025),
Gabriela Portilla (2024),

Jaanvi Mahesh (2026),
Helen Gao (2026),
Sophia Bhalla (2026),
Amy Caffrey (2026),
Sanjana Eranki (2025),
Deven Singh (2026),
Kemi Alabi (2024),
Radhika Narasimhan (2024),
Lianna Schwartz (2024),
Jessica Nagy (2024),
Lily Adler (2024),
Sara Lubitz (MD (Residents/Attendings)),
Sophie Kauderer (2025),
Hassiet Asberom (2025),
Marissa Carranza (2024),
Casey Lamar (MD (Residents/Attendings)),
Clare Flanagan (2024),
Helen Lu (MD (Residents/Attendings)),
Matt Pelton (MD (Residents/Attendings)),
Jinny Yoo (2024),
Michelle Hutt (MD (Residents/Attendings)),
Faryal Rizvi (2024),
Tzeidel Eichenberg (MD (Residents/Attendings)),
Daniel Morrison (MD (Residents/Attendings)),
Michelle Jeffery (2024),
Candace Morales-Wilde (MD (Residents/Attendings)),
Samanta Mukkamala (MD (Residents/Attendings)),
Evelyn Wu (2024),
Carmen Shulman (MD (Residents/Attendings)),
Jasmine Tomita-Barber (MD (Residents/Attendings)),
Lalita Ganti (MD (Residents/Attendings)),
Sorasicha Nithikasem (2025),
Bethany Mancuso (MD (Residents/Attendings)),
Joshua Bucher (MD (Residents/Attendings)),
Daniel Aziz (MD (Residents/Attendings)),
Artika Saharan (MD (Residents/Attendings)),
Gregg Khodorov (MD (Residents/Attendings)),
Shawen Ilaria (MD (Residents/Attendings)),
Nicholas Malchione (MD (Residents/Attendings)),

Mary McGoldrick (MD (Residents/Attendings)),
Romy Bareket (MD (Residents/Attendings)),
Madeleine Granovetter (2024),
Aishee Bag (MD (Residents/Attendings)),
Theodore Wang (2026),
Sarah Lowen (MD (Residents/Attendings)),
Jenny Ijoma (2025),
Rahul Nayar (MD (Residents/Attendings)),
Aashka Parikh (MD (Residents/Attendings)),
Adam Elwood (MD (Residents/Attendings)),
Monica Roth (Other Faculty/Staff),
Mary Cawley (2024),
Amanda Gaccione (2026),
Troy Shinbrot (Other Faculty/Staff),
Adrian Kase (2024),
Tayra Keshinover (2025),
Veena Bhagavathi (2024),
Imran Qureshi (MD (Residents/Attendings)),
Isaac Snyder (MD (Residents/Attendings)),
Damion Anglin (2026),
Nicole Dib (2026),
Lia Gaccione (2026),
Paolo Abiad (2026),
Stephanie Ruthberg (MD (Residents/Attendings)),
Kaustav Chattopadhyay (2026),
Alexandria Cooper (MD (Residents/Attendings)),
Memphis Diaz Garcia (MD (Residents/Attendings)),
Christopher Bargoud (MD (Residents/Attendings)),
Catherine Roukhadze (2024),
Yida Cai (MD (Residents/Attendings)),
Jennifer Rha (2025),
David Kim (MD (Residents/Attendings)),
Sam Fisher (2026),
Sarah Tian (MD (Residents/Attendings)),
Mary-Anne Hennen (MD (Residents/Attendings)),
Russell Caratenuto III (2024),
Isaac Song (MD (Residents/Attendings)),
Christine Kim (MD (Residents/Attendings)),
Natalie DiCenzo (MD (Residents/Attendings)),

Samantha Fong (2024),

Priyanka Patel (MD (Residents/Attendings)),

Lauren Otaguro (MD (Residents/Attendings)),

Rachael Lowney (MD (Residents/Attendings)),

Weston Cooper (2027),

Sarfraz Akmal (2024),

Nicole Dib (2026),

Akshay Manjarekar (2027),

Cyanna Padmore (2027),

Jack Philips (2027),

Abigail Gulchin (2027),

Justine Jorgensen (2027),

Sandra Freeman (2027),

Alexander Manzella (MD (Residents/Attendings)),

Charlotte Hadjadj (2027),

Julia Friberg (2027),

Jocelynn Gonzalez (2027),

Priya Patel (MD (Residents/Attendings)),

Abisola Lawal (2027),

David Eniola (2027),

Dana Collins (Other Faculty/Staff),

Max Rosen (2026),

sreya sanyal (2027),

Annesha Datta (2027),

Sezai Ustun Aydin (MD (Residents/Attendings)),

Philip Wong (MD (Residents/Attendings)),

Alyanna Tam (2027),

Diana Vitkovska (2027),

Talia Morchower (2027),

Kelly McGovern (MD (Residents/Attendings)),

Paulina Marino-Ortiz (2027),

Fauzia ARAIN (MD (Residents/Attendings)),

Nicolas Rodriguez (2026),

Celena Ma (MD (Residents/Attendings)),

Annie Roble (MD (Residents/Attendings)),

Ankur Govil (2027),

Axel Ivander (MD (Residents/Attendings)),

Amogh Kudva (2027),

Yaerin Song (2025),

Neha Maddali (2027),

Alexandria Raab (2027),

Ashwin Sridharan (MD (Residents/Attendings)),

Marissa Millwater (2027),

Maggie Maniar (2026),

Ray Ramirez (MD (Residents/Attendings)),

Robert Boikess (Other Faculty/Staff),

Catherine Monteleone (MD (Residents/Attendings)),

Roshni Rajan (2024),

Victoria Bigdelle (2027),

Courtney Lieberman (Other Faculty/Staff),

Srivarsha Kaloth (2025),

Colleen Ciccosanti (MD (Residents/Attendings)),

Deshae Jenkins (2024),

Jessica Occhiogrosso (2025),

TJ Booth (2024),

Eileen Lee (2024),

Heather Wang (MD (Residents/Attendings)),

Pooja Patel (MD (Residents/Attendings)),

Patricia Shelton (2024),

Ankit Shah (Other Faculty/Staff),

Michael Nogueira (2027),

Jasmine Gamboa (2024),

Jasmine Gamboa (2024),

Saahil Jumkhawala (2024),

Anna Zakusylo (2025),

Daniel Eng (2026),

Courtney Dunphy (2024),

Hugh Bartlett (2024),

Ishea Johnson (2027),

Aditi Gore (2024),

Tom Ko (2024),

Jigar Patel (MD (Residents/Attendings)),

Sneha Kamarajugadda (MD (Residents/Attendings)),

Maribel Santos (2025),

Jason Wang (2027),

Melanie Babi (2024),

Christle Antwi-Buosiako (2024),

Stephanie Corsetti (2024),

Benjamin Basseri (2024),
Andrew Koury (2024),
Charles Levin (2024),
Shivani Bahl (2025),
Alexandra Quatrella (2024),
Avery Tamakloe (2024),
Bethany Hung (2024),
Charles Li (MD (Residents/Attendings)),
Amaya Powis (2027),
Aravind Rajagopalan (2025),
Ronald Vertsman (2024),
Elan Baskir (MD (Residents/Attendings)),
Kamini Patel (Other Faculty/Staff),
Hanna Labiner (MD (Residents/Attendings)),
Danielle Horowitz (2024),
Vineeth Amba (2025),
Elizabeth Kessel (2025),
Carain Bonner (2024),
Nadia Palte (2024),
Anthony Dimitrey (MD (Residents/Attendings)),
Angelo Chaia (MD (Residents/Attendings)),
Kavya Boyapati (2026),
Eleanor Agosta (2027),
Jennifer Geller (2024),
Sruti Cheruvu (2025),
Jake Schade (2025),
Alioune Diane (2025),
Sara Henein (2026),
Katherine Park (2026),
Mohamed Elrais (2026),
Bellanirys Acosta Arias (2024),
Kangsoo Lee (2026),
James Prister (MD (Residents/Attendings)),
Ming Wu (2026),
Erica Comsti (2024),
Richa Dahake (2026),
Belquis Shahsamand (2024),
Ema Azuonwu (2026),
Kenya Braxton (2026),

Kanchan Misra (MD (Residents/Attendings)),
Nnenna Ukenna-Izuwa (2024),
Marissa Viqueira (2027),
Aparna Alankar (2025),
Bradley Krapes (MD (Residents/Attendings)),
Vasu Balraj (2025),
Abigail Knowles (2024),
Courtney Micallef (2024),
Hayley Donaldson (2024),
Karthik Kota (MD (Residents/Attendings)),
Badal Sojitra (2024),
Patrick Lin (2026),
Karen Noh (2024),
Mehdi Husaini (2024),
Anirudh Krishnan (2026),
Angel Chen (2024),
Julia Sirota (2026),
Madeleine Dahl (MD (Residents/Attendings)),
Sukrut Sonty (2025),
Max Everett (2024),
Jeffrey Xu (2024),
Brianna Slatnick (MD (Residents/Attendings)),
Paul Truche (MD (Residents/Attendings)),
Paul Truche (MD (Residents/Attendings)),
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Phil Glaessner (2026),
Connie Jiang (2025),
Chirag Shah (MD (Residents/Attendings)),
Jacinto Saenz (2025),
Tricia Raquepo (2025),
Jennifer Delgado (2025),
Rabia Khan (2026),
Anurita Sadhu (MD (Residents/Attendings)),
Yulia Kuzniar (2027),
Jordon Friedman (2024),
Anne Pierce (2026),
Catherine Chen (MD (Residents/Attendings)),
Seisha Centeno (2026),

Seisha Centeno (2026),

Myrhiam Diarra (2024),

Anna Howard (2026),

Courteney Ly (2026),

Pooja Rao (2027),

Julianna Martinez (2026),

David Garyantes (2025),

Callan O'Shea (2025),

Shayna Glassberg (MD (Residents/Attendings)),

Jerry So (2024),

Miloni Parekh (2024),

James Reese (MD (Residents/Attendings)),

Sneha Manikandan (2024),

Juliana Kim (2024),

Elijah Peterson (2026),

Devon Campbell (2026),

Aurora Lewis (2026),

Kelly Ling (2025),

Karen Han (2026),

Sarah McGuire (2024),

Jonathan Kuriakose (MD (Residents/Attendings)),

Leila Alidoost (2025),

Meha Aggarwal (2026),

Adrienne Simonds (Other Faculty/Staff),

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Howard Ensel (Other Faculty/Staff),

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Joyce Schneiderman (MD (Residents/Attendings)),

Janos Jeges (MD (Residents/Attendings)),

Jill Ripper (MD (Residents/Attendings)),

Helen Schreiner (Other Faculty/Staff),

John Pintar (Other Faculty/Staff),

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Melissa Lopez (2026),

Prerna Trivedy (MD (Residents/Attendings)),

Rebecca Goett (MD (Residents/Attendings)),

Aislinn Black, DO MPH (Other Faculty/Staff),

Kiran Chada (Other Faculty/Staff),

Isabel Trenholm (2026),

Huaye Zhang (Other Faculty/Staff),

David Seiden (Other Faculty/Staff),

Claire O'Connell (Other Faculty/Staff),

Stephanie Ji (2024),

Sara Khalil (MD (Residents/Attendings)),

Andrew Gosselin (2025),

Natalie VanderVeer (2027),

Hanna Kim (2026),

Omar Kawam (2027),

David Ehrenberg (Other Faculty/Staff),

Vincent Yeung (MD (Residents/Attendings)),

Karen Makar (2025),

Ashley Asensio (MD (Residents/Attendings)),

Kunal Shah (MD (Residents/Attendings)),

Natasha Auer (2026),

Ritik mahaveer Goyal (MD (Residents/Attendings)),

Kavya Atluri (2027),

Wenxin Zhu (2024),

Kike Afolabi-Brown (2026),

Uma Sarwadnya (2025),

Charvi Shah (2026),

Julie Sumski (2025),

Chelsea Osuji (2024),

NaYoung Yang (2024),

Martha Soto (Other Faculty/Staff),

Josephine Alegun (2025),

Ankitha Dindigal (2025),

Mehruba Parris (MD (Residents/Attendings)),

Kenechi Iwelumo (2025),

Alexandra Montesinos (2025),

Giulia Frias (2025),

Isabella Kopits (2027),

Christopher Dzera (2025),

Krystle Vera (2024),

Eve Rosenheck (MD (Residents/Attendings)),

Doreen Lechner (Other Faculty/Staff),

Morgan Watkins (2026),

Sarah Kastner-Ziemann (2025),

Emily Adaniya (MD (Residents/Attendings)),

Sharan Kapoor (MD (Residents/Attendings)),
Veda Girishkumar (2025),
Kathleen Beebe (MD (Residents/Attendings)),
Kyle Moore (2026)