

July 11, 2017

National Academic Affiliations Council, Public Comment Period
Veterans Affairs Administration
Washington, DC

Re: Email access to affiliate sites from VA computers

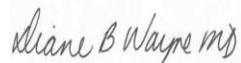
As you may be aware, the VA made the decision to stop access to non-VA email from VA computers. While this was done in response to concerns about IT security, there have been unintended consequences that impede patient care, and physician engagement, education, and professional duties.

We as representatives of the Dean's Office at Northwestern University, Feinberg School of Medicine are tasked with orienting and educating our students, residents, fellows, and faculty around patient care responsibilities and any issues that may arise at the Jesse Brown VA. The inability to access secure Northwestern University email impedes continuity of care, inhibits communication between physicians and students working at the VA, and restricts the dissemination of important educational materials and policies between the affiliate site and the Jesse Brown VA, to the detriment of students, physicians, and most importantly, VA patients.

Any consideration you could give to rescinding or amending the VA firewall to allow access to secure Northwestern University email would be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Robert Rosa, MD
Vice Dean for Regulatory Affairs and Chief Compliance Officer



Diane Wayne, MD
Vice Dean for Education



Aashish Didwania, MD
Residency Program Director



Alexandra Goodwin, MD
Chief Medical Resident