



May 22, 2020

To Albizu University Community:

A very warm greeting. Over the past two months, we have been working tirelessly to adapt our operations to the circumstances brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic. We have been proactive since the beginning and have adopted extraordinary social distancing measures to protect the health and welfare of every member of the University community. Moving forward, we continue to adjust our plans to the new reality.

To that effect, we are developing an **Operational Plan** adapted to what we have named **The New Normal for Albizu University**. This plan represents all our units and encompasses input from different areas of our community. It addresses the three fundamental pillars of the University's academic and administrative needs: people, spaces, and clinical services.

Starting in August of 2020, this plan will be the foundation that supports our operations. It will include an array of actions and strategies, some of which have already been successfully developed and implemented in recent months, to address the challenges imposed by physical distancing. It will also include the actions and investments we will undertake to transform the spaces and implement the hygiene protocols and operational plans for all units in our system. We are currently in the final stages of the planning process to establish the protocol to implement this plan. Meanwhile, we will engage each unit through various forms of communication to ensure that all members of the community are informed of the plan.

For the time being, our remote operation plans stay in effect. As notified a few weeks ago, summer academic activities are still available through virtual means. Also, the work plans for each unit remain in effect so that administrative activities can continue remotely, and clinical services remain available on a limited basis under the *tele-health* modality.

I want to thank all the University community members that are involved in this planning process. Your cooperation and input are essential. I am also counting on the collaboration of the entire University community to ensure that adapting to our new reality flows smoothly and becomes the model that other academic institutions will follow.

Sincerely,

José Pons-Madera
President