FAQs: USF Morsani College of Medicine SELECT MD Program

What is the rationale for the merger of LVHN and Jefferson Health?

The stated rationale for the proposed LVHN and Jefferson merger is to meaningfully improve the health of their communities by creating an integrated health care delivery and health plan system in eastern Pennsylvania and southern New Jersey. As a model integrated health care system, they will have an expanded care footprint with more than 700 sites in the region and more advanced opportunities to enhance how they care for patients, attract and retain talent, and continue to innovate. By combining their resources, they suggest that they will be better positioned to compete and invest in capabilities (e.g., digital, artificial intelligence, talent, etc.) that would be challenging to do as standalone organizations.

What does it mean to enter a non-binding letter of intent?

LVHN announced that it has signed a non-binding letter of intent to combine with Jefferson. Thus, this is not yet a "done deal." There are still several steps including state and federal regulatory approvals that need to occur before the merger can be closed. During this period of regulatory approval, LVHN remains committed to our day-to-day responsibilities and during this time, both organizations will continue to operate independently.

What will happen to the USF Morsani College of Medicine SELECT MD program and when?

As mentioned in Dr. Lockwood's letter, Morsani College of Medicine is planning for the sunset of the current construct of the SELECT program and will no longer be accepting additional applications to the program. The original agreement between USF Health and LVHN, which gave rise to the SELECT program, contains a teach-out provision that ensures the SELECT medical curricula, clinical experiences and training will continue as planned for currently enrolled students.

What happens to me as a year 1, 2, 3 or 4 medical student in the program?

For those students currently enrolled in the SELECT program, your continuation in the program is safeguarded, and we anticipate no changes in the curriculum nor resources available through your graduation.

Will there be any changes to the curriculum?

There are no anticipated changes to the curriculum because of this merger. The only changes that may occur would be those related to the usual work of the Curriculum Committee.

How might this affect my residency Match?

Assuming you continue to meet graduation requirements of the program, you can participate in the National Resident Matching Program (or non-NRMP programs) in your final year as planned. There should not be any impact on your ability to secure a residency position.

Will Jefferson students be placed at LVHN? Will SELECT students need to compete with them for rotations at LVHN?

Please rest assured, Jefferson students will not begin any year-three clerkships until the last cohort of SELECT students has completed year-three requirements. Placement of Jefferson students for clerkships at LVHN would require LCME notification and approval, especially if SELECT program students were still training there.

What happens if the merger is not approved?

We believe this is unlikely to occur, but regardless of the outcome of the merger, the current construct of the SELECT MD program will be sunset.

What happens if I conduct a gap year of research or decelerate for other reasons (e.g., medical leave of absence)?

As noted, Morsani College of Medicine and LVHN are committed to allowing all students currently enrolled in the SELECT program to complete their program of study as intended. In the unique situation where a student's educational journey may be significantly delayed (e.g., class of 2028 and beyond), these situations will be dealt with on a case-by-case basis with the goal of putting the student in the best position to succeed.