

Hello everyone-

After consulting with our colleagues at UF, the Department of Health, and the Florida Department of Emergency Management, we have made the difficult decision to cancel Bugs, Bones, and Botany for later this month. As Commander and Deputy Commander of FEMORS, both of us along with nearly all of the Maples Center for Forensic Medicine team have been tasked with ongoing response to Hurricane Helene and Hurricane Milton. The safety and wellbeing of each of you is most important, and with the uncertainty of the impacts of Hurricane Milton across Florida, we felt it was best to cancel at this time. We will provide updated dates when this course is rescheduled for a future semester.

Regarding your paid registration fee, we have a couple options. We can either transfer your registration fee to a future offering of this course, or we can process a refund for you. Please email [maples-center@ahc.ufl.edu](mailto:maples-center@ahc.ufl.edu) and CC [jhbyrd@ufl.edu](mailto:jhbyrd@ufl.edu) indicating which option you would prefer, and we will gladly work with you to make those accommodations. Please ensure you include your full name in the email, along with the email address you may have used to register if different than the address from which you are sending the email.

For those that have made travel plans (flights, hotels, etc.) we will be sending a letter out on UF Maples Center for Forensic Medicine letterhead indicating the reason for the cancellation that you can provide to the entities with which you booked travel arrangements. Most places are willing to honor cancellations with no fee liability for situations such as this even without a letter if you call and talk to someone directly, but our hope is that the letter will help make the process of any cancellations easier for everyone.

We apologize for any inconvenience and disappointment this cancellation may cause. We were truly looking forward to working with each of you this semester in the lab class, but given the remaining uncertainty of both the track and the strength of Hurricane Milton, we felt it would be the safest and best option to cancel the lab class.

For anyone in the projected path of Hurricane Milton or for those still affected by Hurricane Helene, please take care and stay safe. If there's anything we can do to assist, please never hesitate to reach out.

Thank you for your understanding,

Dr. Lerah Sutton and Dr. Jason Byrd