Congratulations! According to our records, you may be a candidate to walk in the 2012 Commencement Ceremony. The ceremony is scheduled for 10:00 a.m. on Friday, June 8, 2012 at The IZOD Center located at The Meadowlands Complex, 50 Rte 120, East Rutherford, NJ. We request that all graduates arrive by 8:30 a.m. A continental breakfast will be available for graduates between 8:30 – 9:15 a.m.

No tickets are required for the June 2012 Commencement ceremony. **Please note that participation in the Commencement ceremony does not indicate clearance for diploma issuance.** You must meet the below criteria in order to be cleared for the issuance of your diploma. It is your responsibility to ensure that RUSM has received all required documents for graduation clearance.

Graduates, please read thoroughly!

**Criteria for Meeting Graduation Requirements**

Only candidates meeting the following requirements will be eligible to attend the June 2012 graduation ceremony.

- Successful completion of all courses in the Basic Science curriculum.

- Passing score on **Step 1 and both the CK and CS portions of Step 2** of the United States Medical Licensing Exam (USMLE). Please be advised that you **must submit these scores to the Office of the Registrar. We do not receive them from ECFMG.** You must fax (732-509-4820) or email (Registrar@RossU.edu) both sides to our office regardless of whether you pass or fail.

- Successful completion of the required clinical clerkships, consisting of core and elective clerkships as dictated by the Clinical Science curriculum.

- Payment of all fees and charges owed to the University.

- Clearance of a degree audit, which includes receipt of all administrative paperwork and clinical evaluations.

Students completing these requirements between:

- July 1st and November 30, 2011 will receive a diploma dated **November 30, 2011.**

- December 1st and March 31, 2012 will receive a diploma dated **March 31, 2012.**

- April 1st and April 30, 2012 will receive a diploma dated **April 30, 2012.**

- May 1st and June 1st 2012 will receive a diploma dated **June 1, 2012.**

- June 2nd and June 30th 2012 will receive a diploma dated **June 30, 2012.**
Honors Information
Honors designees will be published in the commencement program and will be printed on the diploma to which it applies. Honors candidates will be acknowledged during the ceremony for those who have officially met their graduation date.

Honors are calculated using the final cumulative GPA for both the Basic Science and Clinical curriculum. In order to receive honors designation, you must have passed Step 1, Step 2 CK and Step 2 CS on your first attempt and meet one of the following final cumulative GPAs:

3.5 – 3.59 – Honors  
3.6 – 3.79 – High Honors  
3.8 – 4.0 – Highest Honors

Federal Loan Exit Counseling
Please note that all graduating students that have borrowed federal student loans must complete an exit counseling for loan repayment using the following link: http://www.nslds.ed.gov. Once on this page, please select the “Exit Counseling” option and select START on the next page under Loan Exit Counseling. Loan exit counseling is a federal requirement for all students who have borrowed federal student loans. For further information regarding federal loan exit counseling, please contact the Office of Student Finance at FinAid@RossU.edu.

Diploma Distribution
Graduates cannot receive a copy of their diploma or final transcripts prior to the diploma date and final degree audit clearance.

Original diplomas for all graduates will be mailed to the address provided on the Graduation Application after your graduation date has passed and the degree audit has been completed. Diplomas will not be distributed at the June 2012 commencement ceremony. Your diploma will automatically be mailed to the address provided on your graduation application within 2 weeks after you have been cleared for graduation.

Commencement Day Itinerary
8:30 a.m. Graduates arrive and check in  
8:30 – 9:15 a.m. Continental breakfast for all graduates  
9:00 a.m. Doors open for guests  
9:15 a.m. Line-up for processional  
10:00 a.m. Processional begins

The following is a brief outline of the ceremony:

- Processional  
- Welcome & Introductions  
- Commencement Address  
- Conferral of School of Veterinary Medicine Degrees  
- Recitation of the Veterinarian’s Oath  
- Conferral of School of Medicine Degrees  
- Recitation of the Hippocratic Oath  
- Recessional

Arrival for Ceremony
Please arrive at The IZOD Center by 8:30 a.m. with your robe, tam, hood and tassel. Graduates enter through the Box Office entrance, which is located between Gate A and Gate D. Graduates are to check-in no later than 8:45 a.m. Please line up at the appropriate check-in station based on your school and the first letter of your last name. At check-in, you will be required to show your student ID in order to receive your seating card. School of Medicine graduates will receive seating cards broken down into three groups, A-G (Yellow Card), H-O (Green Card), and P-Z (Blue Card) printed with their name and honors information. Do not lose this card. This card will also be used to announce your name during the ceremony (See Conferral of Degrees). Please be sure to add your current contact information to the card for use by Island Photo in sending you proofs of your graduation portraits. Once you have received your seating card, proceed to the lower level.
Guest Information
Guests of graduates from the School of Medicine will be allowed to enter The IZOD Center beginning at 9:00 a.m. through Gates A and B. For the best view of your graduate, we recommend choosing one of the following seating sections:

School of Medicine Graduate, Last Name A-G: Sections 106-110, 210-214 (Entrance Gate B)
School of Medicine Graduate, Last Name H-O: Sections 2-3, 101-106, 201-209 (Entrance Gate A or B)
School of Medicine Graduate, Last Name P-Z: Sections 1-2, 101, 124-128, 201, 237-244 (Entrance Gate A)

Please note that some upper sections may be closed depending on the number of guests in attendance. Please do not bring extraneous personal belongings as there is no coat check or security available. Additionally, be aware that large bags and backpacks of all guests may be searched upon entrance to the IZOD Center. Light refreshments will be available for purchase in the IZOD Center concourse, and balloons and teddy bears will be available for purchase immediately outside the arena. Please note that balloons are not permitted inside the arena.

Line up for Processional
Once you arrive on the lower level, please place the tassel on the left side of your tam. Drape your hood, folded lengthwise, felt side up, over your left arm. You will be "hooded" during the ceremony. Breakfast will be available for graduates at this time.

Upon reaching the lower level, you will see the line-up hallway to your right. There will be four distinct lines in this area, based on your degree and section of the alphabet (also designated by seating card color).

At 9:15 a.m., you will be instructed to line up based on your seating card color. Our group leaders will then inform you on procedure for the processional, row arrangements, standing protocol, how to receive the diploma, and where to stand for pictures. While we understand that you may want to socialize with your fellow graduates, please listen to line-up instructions, as there will be limited time to prepare.

Conferral of Degrees
An RUSM staff member will instruct you when it is time to stand and when it is time to walk. When directed, you will proceed to the right side of the stage. You will then proceed up the stairs to be hooded. A faculty member will take your hood from you and place it over your head. Please hand your seating card to the appropriate staff member on stage when you approach the microphone. You will then proceed across the stage to receive a diploma jacket from the Dean. Shake with your right hand and take the diploma with your left hand above your right shaking hand. A picture will be taken at this time. Continue to the left side of the stage where you will proceed off the stage for your portrait, and then back to your seat.

Professional Oath
Following the awarding of the last diploma, all graduates will participate in a recitation of the Hippocratic Oath along with the Dean of the School of Medicine. All graduates will receive a copy of the Hippocratic Oath in the program.

Recessional
Once the stage dignitaries have exited, the recessional will begin by section. An RUSM staff member will direct you when to stand and begin the recessional. From this point you will be able to exit the arena through the Box Office to reunite with your family outside the arena.

Invitations
No guest tickets are required for this year’s Commencement. You may bring as many guests as you would like, and all guest seating is general admission.
Tams, Gowns, Hoods, and Tassels
Students must purchase a Doctoral tam, gown, hood and tassel through Herff Jones, Inc. The price for buying the set is approximately $65 plus applicable state tax and shipping and handling of $16. Please note that you must order the tam, gown and tassel set and the hood set from the www.herffjones.com/college/graduation website. This is not handled through RUSM.

Please complete the order form appropriately with your height, weight and school information (indicating whether you are a Medical or Veterinary graduate). For further information regarding the ordering of your graduation regalia, please contact Paul Reilly by email at preill@aol.com. Be sure to order by the deadline (May 11, 2012) to ensure that you receive your regalia in time for the ceremony. The Herff Jones website will shut down between May 12 and May 14. For orders between May 14 and May 22, the domestic rush shipping charge will be $37. For international shipping, additional charges may apply. After May 22, no orders can be made without prior arrangements with Paul Reilly for pickup at the ceremony. If you choose to pick up regalia at the ceremony, the cost will be $100, cash only.

For the School of Medicine, the gown will be all black. The hood will be black with blue and tan satin to represent RUSM and green velvet to represent the field of medicine. Tams will be black with a green tassel. Graduates who earn honors will receive a gold tassel upon check-in at graduation. You will not be allowed to walk in the ceremony if you do not have a tam, gown, hood and tassel. It is your responsibility to have these with you for the ceremony.

Announcements
If you wish to order announcements, please do so directly through Jostens. The website for placing orders is www.Jostens.com/college. These announcements are NOT invitations for the ceremony, rather a formal declaration of your graduation from medical school.

Children Under 3 – Please inform your guests
Children are permitted at the ceremony, but to avoid distractions during the ceremony, guests are asked to please remove their child/children to the lobby if they become disruptive.

Handicap Access
If you or a guest needs wheelchair access or other special accommodations, please email Commencement@rossu.edu with the details of the accommodations needed as soon as possible. State the nature of the accommodation and the number in your party requiring accessible seating.

Directions to The IZOD Center
For information on directions to The IZOD Center, please view the http://www.meadowlands.com/izodparking.aspx website. Parking attendants will be on site to direct you to appropriate parking.

Additional Information
For information regarding USMLE registration, Leaves of Absence, Degree Audit Clearance or Graduation, please contact the Office of the Registrar at Registrar@rossu.edu.

For information regarding the ERAS Match, residencies, and/or licensing, please contact the Office of Student and Professional Development at ProfessionalDevelopment@rossu.edu.

For information regarding the graduation ceremony, please email Commencement@rossu.edu.