

SCHOOL OF MEDICINE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2020
10:00 AM
VIA ZOOM TELECONFERENCE

Members and guests in attendance noted below.

MEMBERS:

John J. Reilly, Jr., MD, Dean, School of Medicine and Chair;

Venu Akuthota, MD; Jaime Arruda, MD; Leslie Berg, PhD; Evalina Burger, MD; Julie Cooper, PhD; Stephen Daniels, MD, PhD; Frank deGruy, MD; Mark Dell'Acqua, PhD; Gerald Dodd, MD; Herman Jenkins, MD; Brian Kavanagh, MD, MPH; Kevin Lillehei, MD; Wendy Macklin, PhD; Naresh Mandava, MD; David Norris, MD; Connie Savor Price, MD; Angie Ribera, PhD; Nanette Santoro, MD; Richard Schulick, MD, MBA; David Schwartz, MD; Ron Sokol, MD; Ann Thor, MD; Andrew Thorburn, DPhil; Vesna Todorovic, MD, PhD, MBA; Ken Tyler, MD; Erik Wallace, MD; Richard Zane, MD

GUESTS:

Thomas Beresford, MD; Suzanne Brandenburg, MD; Peter Buttrick, MD; Thomas Campbell, MD; Karen Chacko, MD; Jessica Cordova; Mark Couch; Genet D'Arcy, MD; Amira Del Pino-Jones, MD; Jeffrey Druck, MD; Anne Fuhlbrigge, MD, MS; Carolyn Goble; Michael Harris-Love, PT, MPT, DSc; Elizabeth Harry, MD, SFHM; Heather Hume; Alma Juels, MD; Allison Kempe, MD; Allison Krebs; Chanthy Na; Steven Lowenstein, MD, MPH; Michael Narkewicz, MD; Judy Regensteiner, PhD; Marian Rewers, MD, PhD; Suzann Ruedeman; Carol Rumack, MD; Brian T. Smith; Christopher Smith; Jeffrey SooHoo, MD; Cheryl Welch; Shanta Zimmer, MD

I. GREETINGS

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The September 15, 2020, meeting minutes were adopted unanimously as presented.

III. DEAN'S UPDATES

Lori Sussel, PhD has been appointed Associate Vice Chancellor for Basic Science Research for CU Denver | Anschutz Medical Campus, working with Thomas Flaig, MD in his role as Vice Chancellor for Research. Lori came to us from Columbia University a few years ago and serves as professor of pediatrics and cell and development biology and director of the basic and translational research division at the Barbara Davis Center for Diabetes, securing a NIH diabetes research grant within the past year.

Casey Greene, PhD, a bioinformatics data scientist, will join the School of Medicine in mid-November to lead the new Center for Artificial Intelligence in Health. Casey joins us from the University of Pennsylvania Perelman School of Medicine.

Two new chair search committees have been launched, for the departments of Pharmacology, led by Wendy Macklin, PhD, and for the department of Physiology and Biophysics, chaired by Paco Herson, PhD.

For additional updates, Dean Reilly directed attendees to the meeting materials.

IV. DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Approval of New Division of Pediatric Anesthesiology: Steve Lowenstein, MD, MPH, Professor, Department of Emergency Medicine, and Associate Dean for Faculty Affairs (*see attached slides for additional information*)

A faculty committee, chaired by Kenny Chan, MD, professor of Otolaryngology, convened in August to consider the request by Dr. Todorovic, Chair of the department of Anesthesiology, to create a new division of Pediatric Anesthesiology. Dr. Lowenstein reported on behalf of Dr. Chan, who could not be in attendance. Committee members agreed unanimously that forming the new division met the three tests outlined in the School of Medicine Rules, that there is a national precedent for division status, a nationally recognized fellowship program, and that the new division will benefit the department and the School.

The committee considered concerns that administrative costs might increase and that creating a new administrative unit might discourage collaboration among faculty. The committee concluded that these risks were low. The department chair and section head collaborate extremely well, and their proposal stressed that the pediatric faculty do not seek independence but rather greater collaboration.

The committee voted in favor 7-0 of the request and recommends approval by the Executive Committee.

Connie Price, MD, Chief Medical Officer for Denver Health, asked whether there are pediatric sub-specialty divisions in most other departments. Dr. Schulick confirmed that the Department of Surgery has a pediatric division. Dr. Todorovic discussed that Anesthesiology's pediatrics section has been functioning independently for a long time.

Dean Reilly asked for a motion to approve. Dr. Dodd moved to approve, and Drs. Santoro and Sokol seconded the motion. All were in favor to approve. The Faculty Senate will discuss and vote on this proposal later in the day.

B. Physician Wellbeing at the University of Colorado Hospital: *Elizabeth Harry, MD, Visiting Associate Professor, Department of Medicine – Hospital Medicine, and Senior Director of Clinical Affairs, University of Colorado Hospital*

The Faculty Engagement and Wellbeing Committee was created to mitigate stress for faculty. The committee, that partners between the University of Colorado Hospital and the School of Medicine, recently administered the “Coping with COVID-19 Caregiver Survey.” Dr. Harry’s presentation reported on the results of the survey. (*See attached slides.*)

Dr. Harry also explained the guiding strategy of the Faculty Engagement and Wellbeing Committee, with participating members from nearly every department in the School of Medicine. The objective of the committee is to foster safety, inclusivity, belonging, support, and wellbeing among our physicians.

Following Dr. Harry’s presentation, Dean Reilly asked for questions and comments. He recommended that the Chairs advise their department faculty with the resources available to them. He also said that additional resources are available through the new employee benefit Care@Work by Care.com.

C. Gender Equity Task Force: *Judy Regensteiner, PhD, Professor, and Director, Center for Women’s Health Research; Angie Ribera, PhD, Professor and Chair, Department of Physiology and Biophysics*

In 2020, the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC) issued a Call to Action for Gender Equity. In response, Dean Reilly charged a task force of 12 faculty and staff to examine gender equity in the School of Medicine and submit actionable recommendations to him by mid-October. Task force co-liaisons Dr. Regensteiner and Dr. Ribera presented the work of the task force and its recommendations regarding two areas of focus, leadership and recognition. (*See attached slides and the report.*)

D. Faculty Senate updates: *Jaime Arruda, MD, Associate Professor of Clinical Practice, Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology; Director of Robotic Surgery; Assistant Program Director of Minimally Invasive Gynecologic Surgery (MIGS); and Faculty Senate President*

Three presentations were given at the September meeting. The first by Suzann Brandenburg, MD, Associate Dean for the CU SOM - CSU MD Training Program, discussed the Get Out the Vote initiative, introduced and implemented by our medical students with the support of faculty. Then, Carolyn Brownawell, CU Denver | Anschutz Medical Campus Director of Human Resources, presented the new benefit for all employees, Care.com. Brenda Bucklin, MD, Associate Dean for Continuing Medical Education (CME), reported that professional development opportunities for faculty have been expanded and accessed at a higher rate during this time of the pandemic, with greater than 50,000 CME attendees and more than 2,500 hours of online instruction.

To be discussed at the October meeting later in the day will be presentations on the proposed new division for Pediatric Anesthesiology, a faculty advisory group proposal by Adam Greene, MD, department of pediatrics, and on current COVID guidelines by Ethan Carter, PhD, director of the Department of Environmental Health and Safety on campus.

E. Affiliate updates from VA and Denver Health

Veterans Affairs Eastern Colorado Healthcare System: *Genet D'Arcy, MD*, reported a recent unannounced visit by the secretary of the VA Administration, Robert Wilke. Discussed were the growth of the VA in the region and the need for additional resources.

Two deputy chiefs of staff, in addition to the position held by Dr. Parmlee, have been selected and names will be announced soon and will be on board in the near future.

A deputy director for the Colorado Springs region will be announced soon. This administrative role is similar to Mr. Michael Kilmer's role at the Anschutz campus site.

Monthly Office of Academic Affiliation meetings continue. The next Academic Partnership Council meeting is scheduled for November 10, with a sub-committee meeting on onboarding to be held October 21.

Denver Health and Hospital Authority: *Connie Price, MD, Chief Medical Officer* reported that the clinical operation is busy dealing with both COVID and non-COVID patients. Elective surgeries will be suspended for a period of time to free up space and to address concerns of community spread. This decision may impact trainees through the surge this fall. A meeting has been scheduled with Shanta Zimmer, MD, Jean Kutner, MD, MPH, at University of Colorado Hospital, and their colleagues at Children's Hospital Colorado. PPE is secure for the time being.

The results of their own physician wellness survey will be provided in November.

Two recruitments will be launched soon, for Director of Service for Anesthesiology and for Director of Service for Inpatient Pediatrics.

Their recent recruitment for Director of Service in Urology comes from the University of Kansas and will be on board in early 2021.

F. Other Business

The Dean asked Shanta Zimmer, MD, Senior Associate Dean for Education, to address our medical education efforts with the latest surge in COVID-19 cases.

Dr. Zimmer reported that contingency plans have been relaunched for undergraduate medical education as well as for graduate medical education as cases increase in the state and in dealing with a recent outbreak on campus. For undergraduate medical education, it is the hope to keep all clinical rotations and partial virtual clerkship activities in place.

PPE had been a previous barrier, but it is not at this time due to stockpiling by our hospitals.

An area of concern had been the clinical experience for our students and whether they were prepared to care for patients with COVID. Students now have a better understanding of the virus

and how to care for COVID patients. Students have taken the virus-focused elective course and have received training on telehealth. Issues related to space and students in the hospital setting are also being addressed.

In Graduate Medical Education (GME), Dr. Zimmer expressed her appreciation for Linda Montgomery, MD, residency director and associate professor, Department of Family Medicine, and Jeffrey SooHoo, MD, residency program director and associate professor, Department of Ophthalmology, who organized backup plans for our residents and fellows during the earlier surge. Jeff Connors, MD in the Department of Medicine has also been a key player. The Department of Medicine housestaff have been staffing a surge unit as well as taking care of COVID patients in the ICU in each of our affiliate hospitals. Residents and fellows will stay in their scheduled educational activities at this time, related to electives and outpatient care. If surgical and other clinical activities are decreased again due to a focus only on COVID, the emergency plans would be reactivated.

Carol Rumack, MD, director of GME, is monitoring guidance from the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME). Program directors are preparing a list of residents and fellows who would be tapped should we go beyond our current surge capacity.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

No executive session was scheduled for today.