

SCHOOL OF MEDICINE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 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; Jamie 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; Nicole Draper, MD; Neill Epperson, MD; Brian Kavanagh, MD, MPH; Kevin Lillehei, MD; Wendy Macklin, PhD; Naresh Mandava, MD; David Norris, 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:

Gregary Bosci, DO; Peter Buttrick, MD; Thomas Campbell, MD; Karen Chacko, MD; Jessica Cordova; Mark Couch; Eduardo Davila, PhD; Amira Del Pino-Jones, MD; Jeff Druck, MD; Anne Fuhlbrigge, MD, MS; Carolyn Goble; Michael Harris-Love, PT, MPT, DSc; Heather Hume; Allison Kempe, MD; Sarah Miller; Lindsay Miner, MD; Chanthy Na; Michael Narkewicz, MD; Abraham Nussbaum, MD; C. Lee Parmley, MD; Judy Regensteiner, PhD; John Repine, MD; Marian Rewers, MD, PhD; Suzann Ruedeman; Carol Rumack, MD; Brian T. Smith; Christopher Smith; Cheryl Welch; Shanta Zimmer, MD

I. GREETINGS

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The July 21, 2020, meeting minutes were adopted unanimously as presented.

III. DEAN'S UPDATES

Thomas Campbell, MD, was named associate dean for adult health research for the School of Medicine and chief research officer for UC Health. Dr. Campbell succeeds Thomas Flaig, MD, who is now the Vice Chancellor for Research for the Anschutz Medical Campus.

Dr. Campbell hosted U.S. Sen. Cory Gardner on campus this week and briefed Senator Gardner on the status of the Moderna vaccine trial. Senator Gardner also met with Liz Concordia, CEO, UCHealth, and Dean Reilly, and discussed the necessity of increasing the supply chain for COVID testing kits and PPE in case COVID cases surge again.

University of Colorado medical students joined a non-partisan national effort, VotER, an initiative to encourage increased voter registration and increase engagement in the political process among patients. Denver Health and the VA are both supportive of the initiative. As a matter of policy, UHealth does not encourage political initiatives on the campus, however the students went through appropriate channels to get the initiative approved.

The Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services announced it has withdrawn its original proposal to revamp the Medicaid Fiscal Accountability Rule, which would have negatively impacted Medicaid reimbursement. This avoids a nearly \$120 million negative impact on the combined campus revue for next year.

IV. Discussion Items

A. Pipelines in STEM: *Eduardo Davila, PhD, Professor, and Associate Director, Cancer Research Training and Education Coordination (CRTEC)(see attached slides for additional information).*

Dr. Davila discussed the CRTEC office, which serves as a hub for pipeline programs for research and has led several efforts for career development for junior faculty as well as training and mentoring for students involved in cancer research activities. The CRTEC office is partnered with the University of Colorado Cancer Center and is committed to training the next generation of scientists.

CRTEC guides PIs through the process of submitting grants and also hopes to expand training and mentoring activities. John Tentler, PhD, associate professor, Department of Medicine, leads an initiative that focuses on recruiting junior high students who are specifically interested in cancer research. Another Cancer Center work study program partners with the downtown Denver campus. Students who are involved in the program are committed to working in the program for two years. The downtown campus pays 65 percent of the students' salaries, while the Cancer Center pays the remaining 35 percent. Another program works with nursing students who are interested in being a lead PI on a clinical trial involving nursing oncology. The idea is to fund projects to help those students commit to working in one of the cancer centers.

CRTEC also works with training and education activities with members of the community, including Aurora STEM schools, churches and other community outlets, with the goal to introduce community members to cancer research and other programs.

Dr. Davila hopes that CRTEC and the Cancer Center can work with other departments to develop other pipeline programs for additional research projects and grant opportunities, specifically with underrepresented groups who would benefit from mentoring and training from senior faculty. Dr. Davila noted the Society for the Advancement of Chicanos/Hispanics and Native Americans in Science (SACNAS), which would benefit from additional support from other underrepresented senior faculty and mentors on the campus.

Dr. Davila acknowledged the challenges of incentivizing faculty to get involved with training and supporting other grants and research proposals when they are focused on running their own labs and research.

Dr. Reilly noted that one of the barriers of applying for T32 grants, for instance, is the work involved in compiling all of the data. Graduate school programs are committed to establishing a more useable and updated informatics resource that will compile data for the investigators and will hopefully reduce the logistical issues for those applying for grants.

Richard Schulick, MD, MBA, director of the Cancer Center and chair of the Department of Surgery, acknowledged the incredible amount of work and efforts of Dr. Davila. The Cancer Center is heavily involved in education, and Dr. Davila's leadership has expanded on this. The process of building meaningful educational programs comes with issues of having underrepresented minorities in training and then having those faculty serve as mentors later in their careers.

Dr. Reilly noted that one of the privileges of being a faculty member at an academic institution is being able to interact with people through all stages of their careers. The University of Colorado School of Medicine has a particular obligation as the only school in the state/surrounding western states focused on academic medicine. The school also has an opportunity to integrate community engagement with the new Aurora Health Commons, as a way to educate and engage the public about the opportunities available on the campus, as well as the opportunities to get a broader sample of people involved in clinical research.

Kevin Lillehei, MD, chair, Department of Neurosurgery, mentioned that the department used to have high school students spend the day shadowing in Neurosurgery. The program was a great opportunity to get young students more involved in medicine. Unfortunately the University of Colorado Hospital will not allow students under the age of 18 to participate in clinical rotations, which makes it challenging to recruit students to the program.

Shanta Zimmer, MD, senior associate dean for education and associate dean for diversity and inclusion, noted that the diversity office is also interested in getting younger students on the campus. Dr. Zimmer plans to address the issue of age requirements for students with other clinical partners.

B. 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.* This year's Faculty Senate officers are: Jaime Arruda, MD, president; Nicole Draper, MD, past-president; Gregory Bosci, DO, president-elect; and Merlin Ariefdjohan, PhD, secretary. The first faculty senate meeting for 2020-2021 is

scheduled for today, Tuesday September 15. Suzanne Brandenburg, MD, associate dean of the Fort Collins branch for the School of Medicine, will be discussing the initiative led by medical students to encourage increased voter registration. Carolyn Brownawell, chief human resources officer, University of Colorado Denver and Anschutz Medical Campus, will be discussing work place accommodations and childcare initiatives for faculty and staff. Brenda Bucklin, MD, director of Continuing Medical Education (CME), will be providing the annual CME update.

C. Affiliate updates from VA and Denver Health

VA Eastern Colorado Healthcare System: *Clifford “Lee” Parmley, MD, chief of staff:* Interviews for a new deputy chief of staff are underway and should be finalized soon. The VA also completed its internal review for its residency program.

Denver Health and Hospital Authority: *Abraham Nussbaum, MD, chief education officer and DIO:* In the past year, research funding at Denver Health has increased by 30 percent. Denver Health received three COVID research awards in the past three months and is one of the NIH-funded sites for a COVID-treatment trial. Clinical volumes are back to baseline and are open for business for medical students and residents. Dr. Nussbaum noted that Denver Health welcomes high school students through its own pipeline programs for clinical experiences for the students.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

*There was no executive session for today’s executive committee meeting. Cheryl Welch, director of Faculty Affairs, circulated faculty promotional updates via email to department chairs prior to the meeting.