

**SCHOOL OF MEDICINE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**  
**TUESDAY, MARCH 16, 2021**  
**10:00 AM**  
**VIA ZOOM TELECONFERENCE**

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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; Gregory Bosci, MD; Evalina Burger, MD; Julie Cooper, PhD; Stephen Daniels, MD, PhD; C. Neill Epperson, MD; Frank deGruy, MD; Gerald Dodd, MD; Nicole Draper, MD; Jena Hausmann; 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; Ron Sokol, MD; Ann Thor, MD; Vesna Todorovic, MD, PhD, MBA; Ken Tyler, MD

**GUESTS:**

Mark Abzug, MD; Scott Arthur; Philip Asamoah, MD; Suzanne Brandenburg, MD; Peter Buttrick, MD; Thomas Campbell, MD; Karen Chacko, MD; Jessica Cordova; Mark Couch; Barbara (Genet) D'Arcy, MD; Mark Dell'Acqua, PhD; Amira Del Pino-Jones, MD; Ellen Elias, MD; Carolyn Goble; Michael Harris-Love, PT, MPT, DSc; Alma Juels, MD; Sarah Miller; Chanthy Na; Steven Lowenstein, MD, MPH; Michael Narkewicz, MD; Abraham Nussbaum, MD; Clifford L. Parmley, MD; David Pollock, PhD; Judy Regensteiner, PhD; Marian Rewers, MD, PhD; Suzann Ruedeman; Carol Rumack, MD; Brian T. Smith; Christopher Smith; Jeffrey SooHoo, MD; L. Chesney Thompson, MD; Cheryl Welch; Shanta Zimmer, MD

**I. GREETINGS**

**II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The February 16, 2021, meeting minutes were adopted unanimously as presented.

**III. DEAN'S UPDATES**

Melissa A. Haendel, PhD, was recruited as the new Chief Research Informatics Officer from Oregon Health Sciences University. Dr. Haendel has a national profile in informatics and holds a leadership position in the national CTSA network funded by the National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences (NCATS) at the National Institutes of Health. Dr. Haendel officially joins the University the beginning of April but has already been working with a number of constituents on campus preparing an application for the recently announced NIH RFA grant dealing with funding for research related to long term effects of COVID-19.

On the CU Board of Directors call today, Jena Hausmann, CEO of Children's Hospital of Colorado, discussed CHCO's perspective on the public option bill draft that is currently circulating through Colorado legislation.

CU's Office of Government Relations team, including Tonia Kelly-Bowry, former Vice President of Government Relations, and Todd Saliman, Senior Vice President for Strategy, Government Relations, and Chief Financial Officer, reported that Colorado's Joint Budget Committee agreed to grant the School of Medicine the ability to pull down the maximum amount of the upper payment limit program match for the next couple of years. This will provide investment funds for a number of initiatives designed to improve the diversity of the health care workforce at all levels, including medical student scholarships, support establishment of the Aurora Community Health Commons, as well as several other important initiatives.

The School of Medicine announced the funding of the Charles J. Blackwood, MD, Endowed Memorial Scholarship. Dr. Blackwood was the first African American graduate of the University of Colorado School of Medicine. This announcement represents an important milestone on a three-year partnership with the Mile High Medical Society to raise money to provide full tuition scholarships to individuals of underrepresented backgrounds. Currently the endowment stands at \$2 million dollars, and CU President Mark Kennedy committed another \$1 million of immediate use funds towards the scholarship program.

#### IV. DISCUSSION ITEMS

**A. 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,* reported on the February 16, 2021, Faculty Senate meeting. The Dean provided an update on hires and chair searches for departments, including Physiology and Biophysics, Family Medicine, Pharmacology, Radiology, and recruitment at Denver Health, as well as updates on the COVID-19 vaccination strategies. Peter Buttrick, MD, senior associate dean for academic affairs, presented on the graduate program reorganization within the School of Medicine. There has been robust growth in the graduate student body, with 13 multidisciplinary programs, and approximately 50% of the programs are supported by T-32 grant funding. There has been considerable overlap of faculty serving in multiple graduate programs which has led to a move to restructure the administration of the graduate programs. The School created a new position of associate dean of graduate studies, created more centralized best practice guidelines to be shared among the graduate programs, and is committed to increasing the number of supported graduate students from 50-75. There was also an update on the new CU Medicine branding campaign, 'We CU,' and a noticeable presence on the light rail, billboards, and local radio. There has been an increase in CU Medicine website hits- from around 80,000 per month in February 2020 to 150,000 per month in February 2021. There was also discussion about linking departmental websites to the 'We CU' websites and encouraging faculty to update their faculty profiles and contact information. The March 2021 Faculty Senate meeting will include presentations on the curriculum steering committee, a School of Medicine financial update, and online digital education. Faculty Senate officers have been asked to bring questions to the senate about outreach with regard to labor relations. Many faculty have received communication about unions. Jean Kutner, MD, Chief Medical Officer at University of Colorado Hospital, provided input on how to respond to the union communication as a faculty member.

Naresh Mandava, MD, chair, Department of Ophthalmology, asked what the Faculty Senate learned from Dr. Kutner about how to handle the unions. Dr. Arruda said the faculty senate learned that the push for unions is more of a national movement than something coming out of CU and that the particular

communication received by faculty started at the graduate student level at CU Boulder. There has not been an active union presence at the University, and UCH staff and its nursing group have not expressed an interest in having a union. The Faculty Senate is scheduled to discuss at its meeting why there is a drive of having a union at the University, and the pros and cons of having a union.

Dr. Reilly noted that there are a few campaigns for unions going on in Colorado, mostly targeting University employees on the campus and employees of UCHHealth, particularly the University of Colorado Hospital, as well as at Denver Health and Hospital Authority. The union activities are an undertaking led by the Communication Workers of America. The effort at Denver Health operates under the banner of Denver Workers United. There are a number of representatives of that organization, including current employees of Denver Health, who have provided public comment at public board meetings at Denver Health in recent months. There has not been activity at University of Colorado Hospital Authority (UCHA) board meetings. Dr. Reilly noted there are laws governing what communication and activities around unionization for the unions attempting to organize and the employers. As quasi-public authorities, neither UCHA nor Denver Health and Hospital Authority are subject to the National Labor Relations Act. The usual referendum majority vote rules enforcing union recognition do not apply to either UCHA or Denver Health and Hospital Authority.

#### **D. Affiliate updates from VA and Denver Health**

**Veterans Affairs Eastern Colorado Healthcare System:** *Clifford “Lee” Parmley, MD, Chief of Staff*, reported that Building P, Biosciences East (leased from the University) is out of commission. It was closed initially when the boiler failed, and again after the boiler repair failed. Programs there are being relocated for the time being while determining what further course of action is appropriate. Some research programs, including GRECC, and the Simulation Center are impacted. The VA is bringing in additional leadership for its Southern (Colorado Springs) market, with primary and specialty care being expanded to meet increasing demand there.

Leaders of the educational programs are working with the School of Medicine on the transition of VA rotations into longitudinal clinical clerkships. Dr. Parmley is working with Deputy Chief of Staff, Dr. Jay Macgregor, and chair of the Department of Psychiatry Neill Epperson, MD, on recruitment for new leadership for the Mental Health Service.

Barbara (Genet) D’Arcy, MD, acknowledged the efforts of Ashley Wexler-Walter, director of finance and administration, Graduate Medical Education; Christopher Sienza, curriculum manager, School of Medicine; and Jennifer Weber, program administrator, Internal Medicine residency program, who have been working with the VA on the onboarding process of residents. Nationally, there has been a change in the onboarding process with respect to residents getting VA badges. Dr. D’Arcy also noted that individuals now have an opportunity to schedule an appointment at the VA to get fingerprints. The VA has also sent over new onboarding packets for residents.

**Denver Health and Hospital Authority:** *Abraham Nussbaum, MD, Chief Education Officer and DIO*, discussed active searches for directors of anesthesiology and inpatient pediatrics. Denver Health is partnering with Ron Sokol, MD, director of the Colorado Clinical and Translational Sciences Institute, and colleagues in New Mexico, on research focused on COVID-19. Denver Health is looking forward to Match Day on Friday, March 19.

Dr. Reilly announced a new position in the School of Medicine: Senior Associate Dean for Faculty Affairs and Professional Development. The search committee will be led by Julia Cooper, PhD, chair, Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Genetics. The job should be posted online soon at CU Careers.

## **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

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### **I. APPROVAL ITEMS**

- A.** Faculty promotions committee actions were unanimously approved.
- B.** Sr. clinical appointments and promotions committee actions were unanimously approved.
- C.** Professor Emeritus appointments were unanimously approved.