



UPSTATE

MEDICAL UNIVERSITY

EDUCATION • HEALTHCARE • RESEARCH

Office of the President

February 22, 2016

A message to the Upstate Medical University community

Dear Colleagues and Friends:

You may see me in sneakers soon!

A new goal I have set for myself is to meet with every department at Upstate over the next year. I have always envisioned meeting with each department, but I've moved up the timetable on this goal after a series of meetings — Human Resources management, Emergency Department leadership and the Department of Psychiatry — this past week that generated in-depth, important discussions, which is precisely what I seek as we craft a strategy to move this institution forward.

Part of that discussion will take into account the findings of three nationally respected leaders in academic medicine who will be on campus this week to assess what we do well and where we need to improve, especially as we face significant changes in academic medicine and delivery of health care under health care reform. The premise of this external review and environmental scan is that we are **one university** and this identity must define what and how we select strategic priorities and resource these priorities to achieve the maximum success.

Participating in this assessment will be Dr. Philip Pizzo, former dean of Stanford University School of Medicine, who has also held leadership posts at Children's Hospital of Boston and Harvard Medical School; Dr. Thomas J. Lawley, former dean of Emory School of Medicine and former board chair of the LCME; and Dr. Arthur Rubenstein, current professor and former dean at the Raymond and Ruth Perelman School of Medicine at the University of Pennsylvania, who also served as executive vice president for the University of Pennsylvania Health System. I will keep you posted on the progress of this important work.

Last week for me also included a visit to the McMahon Ryan Child Advocacy Center here in Syracuse. The center helps coordinate the comprehensive evaluation and services for abused and neglected children. The pediatric presence from Upstate is prominent as are cross-sector collaborations, but there is continued urgent need for primary prevention of abuse and neglect and scaling up of evidence-based programs to improve the lives of more children.

This week a notable upcoming event is the celebration of Elizabeth Blackwell Day. I am thrilled and honored to have been invited by our students to be the featured speaker this Wednesday at 12:30 p.m. in Weiskotten Hall's Ninth Floor Auditorium. I was doubly honored after noting that the list of past speakers included New York Times health columnist Jane Brody and Dr. Yvonne Maddox, deputy director of NIH's Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development. If you have time to stop by to listen and say hello, I'd be delighted.

Have a great week and I hope to meet you all soon!

Sincerely,

Danielle Laraque-Arena, MD, FAAP
President, Upstate Medical University