



UPSTATE

MEDICAL UNIVERSITY

EDUCATION • HEALTHCARE • RESEARCH

Office of the President

Dec. 28, 2016

Dear Colleagues and Friends,

As December winds down and 2016 makes way for the New Year, I want to take this opportunity to tell you of our accomplishments for the year and the momentum that will bring us into 2017.

So, 2016 began for me on January 14. In the early days we had many conversations. I communicated with you with weekly emails, had conversations with students regarding how we are to treat each other, respecting our individual differences, and small group meetings to find out how work for many of you was progressing at Upstate. I gave the Elizabeth Blackwell and the Black History month lectures celebrating our past, and was formally welcomed at the IHP with so many community leaders coming out to celebrate with us our new beginning. On April 15 we celebrated again together for an inauguration that I will never forget. It is then that we formulated the One University slogan to know that the work ahead, while challenging, would have to bring us to a better understanding of what we needed to do in unison to be more effective at producing the positive change in the lives of those we serve in our communities. We went on to Commencement and Match Day—and then formally embarked on a strategic planning process using the Balanced Scorecard Institute, data-driven method. This latter event has led to many meetings, engaging over 100 people throughout the university in the process and reaching the final Mission, Vision and Values statements. The final Vision statement, in fact, was derived from the over 500 responses from you all throughout the university. Thank you.

We Are Upstate

MISSION

To improve the health of the communities we serve through education, bio-medical research, and patient care.

VISION

United in expertise, compassion and hope to create a healthier world for all.

VALUES

Drive Innovation & Discovery
Respect People
Serve Our Community
Value Integrity
Embrace Diversity & Inclusion

Expertise. Compassion. Hope. Those three words resonate with every job at Upstate. You are working for Upstate because you are expert at what you do. You are compassionate about your work, and through your service, you provide hope to others.

In this past year we lived through many challenges and concerns. Our students and faculty expressed their concerns regarding the preservation of a university that is welcoming to all and protects the rights of students and staff to an education unimpeded. Violence in many forms including those in Orlando and throughout US

communities have challenged us to speak out and to come together in support of our common humanity. In 2017, these efforts will again be needed and supported by my office.

The new vision statement caps our strategic planning work that has intensified these last two months as we anticipate its launch early in the New Year.

A byproduct of our education, research and health care mission is economic development. Our role—your work—in helping us drive CNY’s economic engine is well understood by the Lieutenant Governor, Kathleen Hochul, who visited our campus earlier this month. We agreed to meet again in the near future for further discussion. I am grateful for her support of our important work.

On the subject of economic development, I want to share the news that our Central New York Biotech Accelerator (CNYBAC) was awarded \$625,000 through the state’s Regional Economic Development Council program to support a multi-year medical device development. The CNYBAC recently hosted a meeting between industry leaders and State Sen. David Valesky, which gave way to discussion on how we can make this area an Innovation Corridor. The CNYBAC is helping enhance our connectivity with biomedical leaders and entrepreneurs throughout the region and beyond. As you know the CNYBAC hosted the *First Presidential Symposium* that welcomed the visit of Mary Claire King, PhD, the noted geneticist and human rights activist. All the Presidential symposia will be held at the CNYBAC Theater in the Mind. These symposia will serve to bring those of us together who might not otherwise meet and invite debate and conversation to stimulate innovation and progress at the service of health. The *Second Presidential Symposium, Society & Health*, will be held on March 30 and 31. Please SAVE THE DATE.

I want to extend congratulations to the team at the Community Campus for its hard work, skillful surgery and outstanding patient care that led to the designation of that campus as a Center of Excellence for Hip and Knee Replacement by DNV Healthcare, the same organization that presented us last year with our designation as a Comprehensive Stroke Center. Accolades such as these reflect the excellence of our health care mission.

Kudos to our researchers—Wenyi Feng, PhD; Vivian Ghatan, MD; Mariano Viapiano, PhD; Li-Ru Zhao, MD—who were recently awarded more than \$5 million in NIH funding to study cancer, Alzheimer’s disease.

As I have noted from my first day on the job, I want to hear from you about what makes you proud to work at Upstate; your ideas for strengthening our institution, or any other matter that comes to mind. Many of you have reached out to me this past year, so let’s keep the conversation going in 2017. While I cannot promise you that the journey to excellence will be easy, I can promise that I will be fully there to support and challenge us on this path forward. You can also send me an email at president@upstate.edu

At the end of most years, my husband, Luigi Arena, gives me a book—my favorite gift. This year he gave me the *Essential of John Nash*. Many of you know of the contributions of this mathematician to game theory for which he won the Nobel Prize in economics (1994). Quoting from the book by Kuhn and Nasar, game theory has informed the “auction of public goods from oil drilling rights to radio spectra, reorganize(d) markets for electricity, and devise(d) systems for matching doctors and hospitals.” While I was not thinking of Nash’s theory or his other concepts of connectedness and cooperation when I spoke of them earlier this past year, I connected the dots when examining the life story of Nash, and it now seems fitting that our focus on connectivity and One University have a basis in science. What remains is for us to apply these concepts to achieve the Expertise, Compassion and Hope to make a difference in our communities.

I leave you with these thoughts, wish you a Happy New Year, Peace and thank you all for your contribution to our well-being.

Sincerely,



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