



# UPSTATE

MEDICAL UNIVERSITY

EDUCATION • HEALTHCARE • RESEARCH

## *Office of the President*

March 14, 2016

### **A message to the Upstate Medical University community**

Dear Colleagues and Friends:

I have Friday circled twice on my calendar this week for it is one of the most momentous days in the life of a medical student. It's Match Day, when fourth-year medical students find out where they matched – have chosen and been chosen to spend the next 3-5 years or so of their professional training. It's a decision that has implications for a lifetime.

I remember Match Day as if it were yesterday. But I won't give this away now. I am going to savor the day and wait to share my memories of that day with students and faculty at the end of the week.

No matter what your responsibility is at Upstate, all of us have had some influence on how this institution has prepared these students for this next chapter in their life. We may have been a part of their basic science education, or more likely have encountered these students during their clinical rotations or supported their community outreach. Their success is our collective success.

Another important highlight of our academic calendar is Wednesday's Celebration of the Faculty when we gather to honor seven individuals—Deborah Bradshaw, MD; Michael Costanza, MD; Elton Garvin, BS, LLRT; Elizabeth Nelson, MD; Clyde Satterly, MD, MBA; Zafer Soulton, MD; and Suman Swarnkar, MD, who were nominated by their peers for demonstrating dedication, passion, vision and commitment to their work here at Upstate. I hope you can join me at 5 p.m. March 16 in the IHP atrium to honor these individuals.

While we are on the subject of celebrations, I must say how moved I was by a graduation ceremony last week for students in our Rural Medical Scholars Program, which most of us know as RMED. These students lived in rural communities or small cities for several months and worked side-by-side community physicians. This is a valuable program that Upstate has supported for the past 25 years, and will continue to support.

Please let me know of any celebrations in your departments that highlight our successes. You can send the information to me at [president@upstate.edu](mailto:president@upstate.edu).

Have a wonderful week.

Sincerely,

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