



UPSTATE

MEDICAL UNIVERSITY

EDUCATION • HEALTHCARE • RESEARCH

Office of the President

February 29, 2016

A message to the Upstate Medical University community

Dear Colleagues and Friends:

What a beautiful weekend it was. I hope all had a chance to spend some time outdoors. In a few short weeks spring will be here and we will venture out more in our beautiful city and county. I had the opportunity to experience tasty delights — having lovely meals at local restaurants. My husband and I are making our way in the community and have found local restaurants warm, set in home-like environments, and serving delicious food.

Today and tomorrow, I am in Albany at SUNY Day, where we are visiting members of the Central New York legislative delegation. Accompanying me are students from each of our colleges who will share with our delegation their personal stories about their motivation for careers in health care. I thank our Assistant Vice President for Government and Community Relations Daniel Hurley, as well as Linda Veit, and Professor Debra Buchan, MD, for also sharing Upstate's story with our legislators, whose continued strong support of Upstate is much appreciated.

Last week started with some terrific news for our institution. We were notified by SUNY that a major grant is coming our way to support our innovative cancer care, to direct and grow research programs and to coordinate educational programs in collaboration with our SUNY and other partners across the state. This award highlights the good work that can come from collaboration and building strong connections with our SUNY and community partners. As we leverage our collective strength and showcase all that Upstate has to offer — from our clinical operations to research and education — great things can happen. More details will be forthcoming as SUNY readies a public announcement.

Another great advocate for Upstate and diversity is one of our former students: Elizabeth Blackwell. More than 160 years after she became the first woman to graduate from an American medical school, our precursor Geneva College, her story still resonates with so many. Indu Gupta, MD, Onondaga County Health Commissioner, attended our Elizabeth Blackwell Day celebration this week and recalled as a little girl reading about Dr. Blackwell and her pioneering accomplishments. Dr. Gupta's attendance was in part to present a proclamation from the county, honoring Dr. Blackwell and Upstate. We are delighted by the recognition. And thanks to all of you who were able to stop by and celebrate Elizabeth Blackwell Day with me and to reflect on where we have been and where we need to go. The presentation is available here: <http://amms.upstate.edu/c/pres/event/20160224-123101-WH-9295e/index.htm>

Finally, I mourn the deaths of two young children this past week. Every child's death, regardless of cause, or any death from violence is a sentinel event that calls on us to understand the best way to prevent such tragedies. Be safe and speak to you next week.

Sincerely,

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