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Dear Colleagues,

I wish to take this opportunity to update you on the progress being made with the Oakland University William Beaumont School of Medicine (OUWBSOM). This past Monday, an Oakland and Beaumont team of leaders traveled to Washington DC to meet with representatives of the Liaison Committee on Medical Education (the accrediting body for medical schools) to share and receive information on our progress toward submitting a preliminary accreditation application in the months ahead. That meeting proved to be very helpful in refining our focus and the work needed to be completed before submitting the application.

Dean Robert Folberg and a start-up staff are settling into a School of Medicine office suite on the 4th floor of O'Dowd Hall. He is in the process of appointing associate deans with responsibilities in the areas of academic affairs, faculty development, diversity, student affairs, undergraduate medical education (the 4 year MD degree program), graduate and continuing medical education, and research. Soon to follow will be the initial appointment of biomedical science faculty and an initial cadre of clinical science faculty from within the ranks of the William Beaumont Hospitals staff of physicians.

Dean Folberg is providing the leadership necessary to build a curriculum and learning environment that will make the OUWBSOM a remarkable place, with many exciting collaborations and spin-offs that will enhance the entire university community. Dean Folberg's vision for the medical school includes a unique approach to curricular design that features the basic sciences with clinical threads extended throughout the four years to ensure thoughtful understanding and mastery of the direct relevance of basic science to society. This approach is different from traditional medical schools in that by returning each year to the basic sciences students are more likely to master and retain critical science concepts. This more complete understanding of the basic sciences will in turn better prepare students to be future physicians, establishing our medical school in a unique niche. Dean Folberg is also committed to partnering with the College of Arts and Sciences and our professional schools to ensure OUWBSOM has university-wide participation.

Dean Folberg has also met with the Executive Committee of the AAUP to describe his vision for the MD curriculum. They believe he will be setting a new standard for medical education. They also recognized the benefit of the medical school for research collaboration and enhancing external funding successes, and their hope that faculty throughout the university will accept his invitation to extend these benefits throughout other disciplines.

I have also requested the AAUP's support for hiring faculty in OUWBSOM so that faculty can develop the MD curriculum and the school constitution. Once the MD curriculum is finalized, Senate Committees will be charged with review of preliminary planning documents concerning the school's structure and finances. The school curriculum and the constitution, developed by the new school faculty, will then be presented to the University Senate for discussion and approval.

We appreciate the significant OU faculty support for the medical school. I look forward to sharing more updates with you in the future as we progress along our timeline for accreditation. I hope you, like me, sense the excitement associated with this remarkable venture. It truly will be the product of innovation and opportunity.

Virinder Moudgil, Provost