Dear Colleagues,

**Strategic Plan**

As you’re aware, we’ve begun the 2010-2014 SCM Strategic Plan roll out. Many of you attended one of the two presentations recently held, and we appreciate your making the time to hear about the goals of the school and how we plan to achieve them. For those of you unable to attend a presentation, we intend to hold smaller group sessions to develop it further. It’s an evolving plan that requires input from all of us – you are important to its success.

I’d like to share the comments of some those who attended:

“I am excited about what SCM is doing in the community and how much we’re involved.”

Ann Nelson, Family Medicine

“As we move SCM ahead, it is good to hear the plan and our overall direction.” Amanda Smith, Pediatrics

If you would like to review/read the SCM’s Strategic Plan, you’ll find it on the SCM’s home page: [http://tulsa.ou.edu/socm](http://tulsa.ou.edu/socm).

There’s also exciting news to report about some OUSCM programs and people – all of which strengthen our efforts to reach the goal of improving the health and health care of the entire community.

**Federal Grant/Research News:**

Two weeks ago, SCM received a $418,000 federal grant to expand our Physician Assistant program. We were told one of the main reasons we received the funds is our well-developed student loan payback plan, a unique element of the PA program. You can find more information about the grant by going to “Newsroom” at [http://tulsa.ou.edu/socm](http://tulsa.ou.edu/socm).

Dr. Mark Fox, Associate Dean for community Health and Research Development, has received recognition from the Deputy Director of The National Center for Research Resources (NCRR). A component of the National Institutes of Health, NCRR oversees the IDEa Networks of Biomedical Research Excellence (INBRE). INBRE promotes the development, coordination, and sharing of research resources and expertise that will expand research opportunities and increase the number of competitive investigators in the IDEa-eligible states, including Oklahoma. Dr. Fox presented “Building Capacity for Community Partner Research in Oklahoma,” and in the audience was NCRR’s Deputy Director, Michael Sayre. He complemented Dr. Fox and the OUSCM on its creative and innovative approach to community research.

**Education News:**

At the same time, we received word that the OUSCM’s new nephrology fellowship has been accredited by the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME). The fellowship is two year program, and we hope to fill the two positions in the program by July, 2011. This is the first of our internal medicine subspecialty fellowships to come.
People News:
Charles Foulks, M.D., nephrologist, Senior Associate Dean of Clinical Services and Chair of Internal Medicine, was notified he’ll be awarded the National Kidney Foundation – the Council of Advanced Practitioners (CAP) Nostradamus Award in Spring, 2011. The Nostradamus Award is given annually to an individual who, through forethought and vision, recognizes and promotes the contributions of Advanced Practitioners (APs) in nephrology. This a high honor that recognizes Dr. Foulks’ tremendous support for the professional education of PA’s, Nurse Practitioners, and advanced practice nurses as critical elements in the care of kidney disease patients.

Finally, a child psychiatrist will be joining the OUSCM Department of Psychiatry in the next few months. This fills a major void in the Department, the SCM and our community. Tulsa faces a critical shortage of child psychiatrists. Our intention is to eventually offer a fellowship in child psychiatry.

Conclusion:
These are among the many positive things occurring because of the talent, dedication, and hard work of our faculty, staff and students. We recognize how much your efforts help us move forward, and we’re most grateful for your contributions.

Sincerely,
Daniel Duffy, M.D.