Dear Colleagues,

I want to welcome several new faculty to the OU School of Community Medicine. These new faculty joining us are advancing the mission of the School of Community Medicine. Please welcome them.

It is my pleasure to announce the appointment of John Blebea, M.D., M.B.A., as the Shepard Thompson Clingen Chair of the Department of Surgery, which will be confirmed by the University of Oklahoma Board of Regents at their meeting this month.

Born in Romania, John immigrated with his family to the United States as a youth and grew up near Cleveland, Ohio. He obtained his undergraduate degree in biochemistry, graduating magna cum laude from Brown University in Providence, Rhode Island. He returned to Cleveland and graduated from the School of Medicine at Case Western Reserve University. He trained in general surgery at Georgetown University Hospital in Washington, D.C., and at the New Jersey Medical School in Newark, N.J. John also did a year of vascular physiology research in New Jersey. He completed his vascular surgery fellowship at the University of Rochester. Subsequent training included a fellowship in endovascular interventions. In September, he obtained a Master of Business Administration degree.

Dr. Blebea has been active throughout his career in the education of medical students, surgical residents and vascular fellows as well as with allied health students. He has held academic appointments as an assistant professor of surgery and director of vascular research at the University of Cincinnati, Cincinnati, Ohio, associate professor and later professor along with directorship of the vascular diagnostics laboratory at the Penn State School of Medicine. He served as professor and chief of the section of vascular surgery at Temple University in Philadelphia, PA. Most recently, he was professor and chief of the division of vascular surgery and endovascular therapy at Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, Ohio.

His research and scholarly activity involved skeletal muscle ischemia and reperfusion, angiogenesis, hemodynamics and blood flow, and most recently, implantable blood flow and pressure sensors. He is an NIH-funded researcher and clinical investigator whose work has resulted in 99 published scientific manuscripts/book chapters, one book and 62 published abstracts and commentaries. He has given more than 400 oral presentations, invited lectures and poster presentations at professional meetings. He holds leadership positions in several national vascular surgical societies and editorial boards of scientific journals.
Beyond his academic accomplishments, he has maintained an active clinical practice performing a broad array of open vascular surgical procedures, minimally invasive arterial and venous endovascular interventions.

I also want to welcome **Durwood (Woody) Neal, Jr., M.D.** For more than 20 years, Woody has been a very active academician and practicing urologist. A diplomate in the American Board of Urology since 1989, Dr. Neal completed his residency in Surgery and Urology at the University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio.

Dr. Neal, a professor, holds the George Kaiser Family Foundation Chair in Urology at the OU School of Community Medicine, Department of Surgery - Urology Division. Prior to this position, he held similar positions at the University of Missouri-Columbia and at Southern Illinois University School of Medicine. He has been an active staff member at a various hospitals in Texas, Louisiana, Missouri and Illinois.

**Elka Serrano** is now the medical director for OU Physicians Psychiatry and assistant professor of Psychiatry. Elka is a graduate of the OU SCM and completed her residency with us in Tulsa. Recently Elka worked as an adult psychiatrist at Family and Children’s Services in Tulsa.

Two new faculty members, who positions are split between the College of Public Health and the School of Community Medicine, are in Tulsa to assist and supervise with curriculum development and research.

**Nasir Mushtaq, M.D., Ph.D.**, is a new faculty member in Epidemiology and holds the George Kaiser Family Foundation Chair in Public Health Epidemiology. He trained and practiced as a physician in Pakistan before coming to OU for his master and doctorate in Epidemiology. He is interested in chronic disease epidemiology, especially tobacco prevention and control, and the use of smokeless tobacco. He will work with SCM by providing epidemiological support for the development of research grant, research projects, and statistical analysis of data. He intends to also conduct research studies and develop research-oriented grants and contracts for submission to funding agencies and publish in peer-reviewed journals. Finally, he will develop and teach graduate courses in epidemiology and mentor master’s and doctoral level students.

**Daniel Zhao, Ph.D.**, is a new faculty member in the Biostatistics and holds the George Kaiser Family Foundation Chair in Public Health Biostatistics. He received his doctorate in Statistics from Iowa State and spent several years at Eli Lilly on a range of clinical trials. More recently, he has been at the University of Texas at Southwestern. His research interest includes genomics, longitudinal analysis, misclassification, and multiple testing, to name a few. His responsibilities include teaching graduate-level courses in biostatistics, maintaining an active collaborative and independent research program, and mentoring public health students, medical students and medical residents for both the College of Public Health and SCM.
Leadership for the School of Community Medicine’s research activities includes:

- Kent Teague, Ph.D., director of Basic Science Labs, collaborates with the Laureate Institute for Brain Research and the College of Pharmacy in addition to the research he does for SCM. Justin van de Wiele, Ph.D., also works in our basic science labs.
- Jennifer Hays-Grudo, Ph.D., was the principle investigator on Women’s Health Initiative at Baylor for many years prior to joining the SCM. A community health researcher, Jennifer directs the Tulsa Children’s Project and an obesity prevention project for pregnant Native Americans.
- Pranay Kathuria, M.D., chief of Nephrology/Hypertension, started our new fellowship program in Nephrology and will work with our fellows on their research.
- Annette Arthur PharmD, is director of Research for SCM’s Emergency Medicine Department.
- Fran Wen, Ph.D., is director of Research in family medicine. Family medicine has a number of resident research projects and community-based participatory research projects. FM’s sports medicine group is active in research as well.
- Marty Jelley, M.D., chairs one of the IRB boards that process Tulsa studies. She is also the director of Research for internal medicine and supervises a number of resident research projects.
- Nora Doyle, M.D., MPH, is in Ob/Gyn and oversees resident projects, a large database of perinatal patients, some clinical trials, and an EMR-based study of family violence.
- Mark Fox M.D., Ph.D., MPH, associate dean for community Research and Development and the Julian Rothbaum Chair in Community Health Research, now oversees research for the Department of Pediatrics.
- Recently, Michelle Matukewicz, MHR, returned to the Department of Psychiatry as a research program coordinator for Psychiatry.
- Wayne Drevets, M.D., former chief of the Neuroimaging in Mood and Anxiety Disorders Section at the National Institute of Mental Health, is director of the Laureate Institute for Brain Research (LIBR) and a faculty member in Psychiatry. LIBR conducts functional MRI research in severe psychiatric disorders.
- Tony Howard, M.D., is acting chair of Surgery and director of Clinical Research for the Department of Surgery.

Leading innovative research projects in our newest division, medical informatics, are:

- David Kendrick, M.D., MPH, is CEO for MyHealth Access Network, the regional health information exchange.
- Matt Clark manages various project in Medical Informatics
- Craig Dean is responsible for the business intelligence functions and oversees the Pentaho application, which pulls data from EMR for various quality and research initiatives.
- Juell Homco, MPH, provides epidemiology and biostatistician support for Med Informatics and the Research Center.

Last month, Dr. Aaron McKethan, a former Brookings Fellow, who now leads the Beacon Community Program for the Office of the National Coordinator, visited Tulsa. Dr. McKethan met with community members and discussed healthcare reform, healthcare IT policy and Centers for Medicare and Medicaid’s (CMS) goals for the coming year.

Please make plans now to attend one of the three SCM State of the College meetings scheduled for Thursday, December 8. These meetings are intended to keep you informed and answer any questions you may have. Find the meeting most convenient for your schedule.
8 a.m., Perkins Auditorium, Learning Center, Schusterman Campus (broadcast to OU Family Medicine Center, third floor conference room)
1 p.m., OU Family Medicine Center, third floor conference room (broadcast to Perkins Auditorium)
4 p.m., Perkins Auditorium (broadcast to OU Family Medicine Center, third floor conference room)
Please RSVP to Karen-mulkey@ouhsc.edu as to the meeting you will attend.

Share any other news you may have with Karen or me. Thanks you for your hard and diligent work!

Sincerely,

Daniel Duffy, M.D.
Dean

SCM PEOPLE NEWS
New Employees:
We want to welcome all our new employees:

Vanessa Cordova is joining OU Physicians Women’s Health Care Specialist as a patient services representative. She has an associate degree from Community Care College in Health Service Administration.

Briana Gorroochotegui has joined OU Physicians Pediatrics as a patient service representative. Previously Briana worked for an allergy, asthma and immunology clinic in Tulsa.

Phoua Her previously worked with Urologic Specialists of Oklahoma. She is joining pediatrics as a medical assistant.

Indera Jones joined OU Physicians Pediatrics as a receptionist.

Andres Hodges is joining OU Physicians Pediatrics as a PCC. A graduate of Tulsa Community College, Andres worked for RML as a laboratory technician.
Candice Lasiter joins OU Physicians Surgical Specialist as a patient service representative III. Candice worked previously at St. John Medical Center and Carlsbad Medical Center in New Mexico. She holds a Master of Education Design and Technology from Florida State University and Bachelor of Music from Wayland Baptist University.

Tara Simmers joined OU Physicians Internal Medicine as a licensed practical nurse (LPN). She worked previously at Saint Francis Hospital and received her LPN education at Tulsa Technology Center.

Mandy Wells holds a bachelor’s degree in nursing from OU College of Nursing. Prior to joining OU Physicians Women’s Health Care Specialists, Mandy worked at Hillcrest Medical Center in Labor and Delivery.

RECOGNITION
Several of our physicians received the distinction of “Best Doctors of 2012,” but we missed one last month: John Cattaneo, associate professor of Neurology. Congratulations to all.

Janelle Whitt, OU School of Community Medicine assistant professor of Family Medicine and medical director of Community Health, was named “Physician of the Year” by the Oklahoma Academy of Physician Assistants.

The Oklahoma Academy of Physician Assistants also named Meredith Davison, OU School of Community Medicine associate dean for Student Affairs, “Honorary PA” for her contribution to the profession.

Neighbor for Neighbor named Mark Fox, associate dean for clinical research and associate professor of Internal Medicine/Pediatrics, OU School of Community Medicine, 2011 Volunteer of the Year for his work at their clinic. Mark is responsible for the Heart Improvement Project, a pilot program funded by the George Kaiser Family Foundation, located at Neighbor for Neighbor’s north Tulsa facility. The program’s approach is to get people into the clinic, see them frequently, provide the medications they need to control their health and teach lifestyle, education and health promotion activities. The project has had an immediate effect in improving health. Mark was also nominated for the BlueCross Blue Shield Champions of Health award: Champion of Uninsured. You may also read about Mark in a January TulsaPeople in an article called “Called to Care.”. Here is the link: http://www.tulsapeople-digital.com/tulsapeople/201112#pg74
Oklahoma Hospice and Palliative Care Association named **Dala Jarolim**, professor of Medicine, 2011 Physician of the Year. For more than 25 years, Dala has served the OU SCM in various positions. In addition to her academic responsibilities, Dala serves as the medical director for Hospice of Green Country, where a significant number of its patients do not qualify for Medicare and have no private insurance covering hospice services. Since its inception, Hospice of Green Country has provided hospice care to more than 5,000 terminally ill children and adults.

**Gerry Clancy** was named by Tulsa Business Journal as one of its 2011 Men of Distinction.

Read about one of the George Kaiser Family Foundation Inaugural Scholarship Recipients, **Chris Sudduth**, at [http://tulsa.ou.edu/scm](http://tulsa.ou.edu/scm)

**Victor Test**, professor of medicine and director of the Division of Pulmonary Medicine and Critical Care, was awarded the “Alumni of Year 2011” by Texas Wesleyan University.

**Bryce Murray**, assistant professor of surgery, and **Tammy Collins**, surgery nurse, received OU Physicians’ Shinning Stars this month. Both recently received a “thankful patient letter.”

Please forward these letters or compliments to Renee Engleking.

**OTHER**

Internal Medicine’s **Ginger Wilson** and **Laura Dunn** of the Dean’s Office presented at the National Clerkship Directors of internal Medicine Conference in Anaheim, CA. Ginger presented “LCME has Come and Gone, Now What?” and Laura, who is 2011-2012 Chair of Clerkship Directors of IM Administrators, presented “Exploring New Horizons.”

**Sarah Anne Schumann**, assistant dean for Community Medicine, presented “Ethics of Service-Learning in Medical Education” at the 23rd Annual Dorothy J. Maclean Fellows Conference at The University of Chicago. For more information see: [http://medicine.uchicago.edu/centers/ethics/documents/MacLean%20Conf%202011_12.pdf](http://medicine.uchicago.edu/centers/ethics/documents/MacLean%20Conf%202011_12.pdf)

Congratulations goes to the SCM Sport Medicine group, specifically **Caleb Nunley** and crew, for staffing medical services for Tulsa’s Route 66 Marathon. More than 11,000 people participated in this year’s race.

Four of The 15 **Faces of Cancer** photos/posters are displayed in the Schusterman Center Clinic.