Welcome to the UCSF Benioff Children’s Oakland research quarterly newsletter, which will highlight some of the accomplishments by our research community and keep you informed about upcoming events and integration updates.

I wanted to take a moment to reflect on the past few months following my transition into the new role of Interim Director of Research. As we define the research vision in the East Bay, we are dedicated to research excellence and I want to take a moment to recognize each of your contributions. I want to reiterate my commitment of keeping the Oakland research community engaged in the process of integration into UCSF and related activities.

In the upcoming year, keep an eye out for events such as the reinvigorated seminar series, led by Dr. Laura Hertel, town halls about the integration and weekly operational updates from the administrative office.

Best,

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Research Strategic Planning Update

The BCHO Research Strategic Planning work is developing a high-level, long-term strategy for children’s health research here. This work, led by the BCHO Research Planning Task Force and informed by faculty meetings and town halls, began in September and is projected for completion the first quarter of 2019.

We have now accomplished the following key milestones for this project: a high-level current state analysis, including key strengths and weaknesses; identification of key foundational guiding principles; a vision statement with key components; and, most recently, started to identify and outline potential strategic options for the future.

The last update by me and Kelley Meade, MD, Interim Associate Dean of Clinical and Academic Affairs, shared preliminary guiding principles. Since then, the task force has taken the revised principles and developed a vision statement. A summary of the Dec. 21 work is presented below. We invite you share your feedback or new ideas.

Draft Vision, Mission and Guiding Principles

Mission
Improve children’s health in our community and beyond through outstanding basic, translational, clinical and population research.

Vision / Aspirational Goal
A collaborative child health research center, bridging San Francisco, Oakland and Berkeley academic and patient-care communities with a focus on discovery, translation, and prevention.

Critical components:
- Physical presence in Oakland
- Community connectedness
- Focus on underserved populations
- Nested within the broader UCSF

Guiding Principles
- Mission-driven: aligned with the core focus of children's and family health
- Build upon existing strengths, with focused growth in a few key areas
- Enabled by a critical mass of investigators
- Founded on research excellence and impact
- Applicable across our region’s diverse population
- Inclusive of diverse researchers and trainees
- Financially and operationally sustainable over time
- Strengthened by its inclusion in and contribution to research at UCSF

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News & Announcements
Congressional Staff Site Visit to Benioff Children’s Oakland

On October 16, three Congressional staffers from the Senate and House Appropriations Subcommittees on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies came to tour the Oakland campus. Drs. Marisa Medina and Marsha Treadwell led the visit, which explained how sustained, predictable and robust increases to NIH funding are critical to continued advances in research.

Dr. Treadwell launched the visit at the hospital with a robust overview of the work of clinical researchers in the Sickle Cell Center and the basic scientists that have contributed to that longevity and improved quality of life. The staffers then went to visit Dr. Medina’s lab and its work regarding cardiovascular disease precision medicine. The staffers were thoroughly impressed with the sample of work we were able to demonstrate.

Cedric Shackleton Receives Distinguished Contribution Award in Mass Spectrometry

Dr. Shackleton was honored for his work in the use of GC-MS in steroid profiling by The Association for Mass Spectrometry: Applications to the Clinical Lab (MSACL) at its EU Congress last September. The Distinguished Contribution Award recognizes a contributor who has conducted research, teaching or application of Mass Spectrometry in Clinical Chemistry of significant impact. Please take a moment to congratulate Dr. Shackleton, and learn more about his work.

Marsha Treadwell Confirmed as Newest Jordan Fund Endowed Chair

The Jordan Family Stem Cell and Cellular Therapy program, supported by the Jordan Family Fund, focuses on transplantation and stem cell biology, expanding the scope of research and fostering collaboration with the transplantation program at the Oakland hospital. Dr. Treadwell was named the Jordan Fund Endowed Chair in recognition of her significant accomplishments in sickle cell disease and the role of clinical support, health services access and communities to ensuring optimal patient outcomes.

Feel free to call (510-428-3374), email, or stop by my office at the MLK Building if you have questions or want to talk.