

Dear Colleagues,

I am writing to tell you that I will step down from my position as Dean of the Biological Sciences Division and Pritzker School of Medicine, and CEO of the Medical Center, on October 1, and return to the University of Chicago faculty. Together, and most importantly with your leadership and engagement, we have made extraordinary advances in all areas of our mission. Many significant projects are completed, and new ones are well underway or poised to begin. It is time to turn things over to a new leader, who will inject fresh energy and ideas into our work and ensure our momentum and pace of accomplishment can continue unabated.

I have been fortunate to be part of this terrific organization for more than seven years as dean and more than three years as CEO. During that time, we have integrated our governance structure, significantly advanced our fundraising, rebuilt our physical campus with spectacular new facilities completed or underway, recruited outstanding faculty, and increased support for students as well as the selectivity of our admissions. We also have launched new science and clinical programs such as the departments of Microbiology and Neurobiology, Institute for Genomics and Systems Biology, Dean's Office for Global Health, Center for Health Sciences, and first dedicated space for the Cancer Research Center. We have become a national leader and innovator in finding solutions to the nation's health care challenges through our work on the Urban Health Initiative. Every day that each of you conducts your work, you enable the discoveries that advance medical knowledge and treatments, save the lives of patients who benefit from a level of advanced care available in only a handful of places, contribute to a higher quality of life in our surrounding communities, and educate students who will become the medical leaders of the future.

You will be hearing soon from President Robert Zimmer about next steps and the appointment of an interim CEO and Dean who can lead our efforts while a national search is conducted. I will be working closely with the President and the boards of the Medical Center and the University to ensure a smooth transition. I am confident in the strategic course we have charted, in the unparalleled quality of our faculty, staff and students, and in the commitment of the University and board leadership to our important priorities. With your continued efforts and engagement, I believe we have a very bright future ahead of us.

Sincerely,

James Madara