To: BSD and Medical Center Faculty and Staff
From: Robert J. Zimmer
Subject: Jim Madara

I am writing as a follow-up to Jim Madara’s announcement that as of October 1, he will step down from the position of CEO of the Medical Center and Dean of the Biological Sciences Division and the Pritzker School of Medicine, and return to the faculty. I am grateful for Jim’s vision and leadership over the past seven years, during which the science, education, clinical, and community outreach programs for which he is responsible marked a number of extraordinary achievements, and the Medical Center has defined and pursued a strategy that positions it for success far into the future.

Jim led the integration of the University’s biomedical research, medical education, and clinical activities, becoming, in addition to the Dean of the BSD and the Pritzker School of Medicine, the first CEO of the combined Medical Center enterprise in 2006. Since his original appointment as dean in 2002, he has recruited many leading faculty to the University, expanded our research, and dramatically increased the support for our students. Private support for the Medical Center, the Pritzker School, and the BSD has grown rapidly, enabling new facilities and programs.

Jim has been instrumental in the construction and opening of the Comer Children’s Hospital, the Gordon Center for Integrative Science, the Knapp Center for Biomedical Discovery, and the expansion of the relationship of the BSD with the Computation Institute and related programs and facilities built jointly with Argonne National Laboratory. In addition, the New Hospital Pavilion is well underway, scheduled for completion by early 2013, as the foundation of the most advanced treatment of complex diseases and a model for translation of research and discovery into new medical approaches and treatments. The Urban Health Initiative is growing rapidly, with almost 30 partner institutions and more than 100 UCMC doctors working in community hospitals and clinics to provide basic and preventive care.

As Jim turns his attention to new pursuits, we are fortunate that our longtime colleague, Everett Vokes, has agreed to serve as interim Dean and CEO while we conduct a national search for Jim’s successor. Everett, in turn, will appoint an interim director of the Department of Medicine. The John E. Ultmann Professor in Medicine and Radiation and Cellular Oncology, Everett came to the University in 1983. He is an international authority on the treatment of head and neck cancer, lung cancer, and drug development, and his research has helped to pioneer the combined use of chemotherapy, radiation, and surgery. Before becoming chair of the Department of Medicine, he served as Director of the Section of Hematology/Oncology, as Deputy Director of the University’s Cancer Research Center, and as Vice-chairman for Clinical Research in Medicine.

Everett will have the support of a talented group of department chairs and senior leaders, both faculty and administrators, in the Medical Center and Biological Sciences Division. I want to express my appreciation for and confidence in the Medical Center’s
management team, which has implemented our strategy with notable success, especially through the challenging economic climate of the past year.

I know that Everett deeply believes in the commitment of the University to the highest quality of research and inquiry, to providing a rich education for all our students -- College, doctoral, and medical students -- embedded in our culture of inquiry, to providing outstanding patient care, and to the excellence of our residency programs. Under his leadership, I am confident that important specific priorities initiated and advanced under Jim Madara’s leadership, priorities that have my support and that of the University Board and the Medical Center Board, will be successfully completed. These include the continued recruitment and retention of the best scholars in basic sciences and clinical endeavors, the construction of the New Hospital Pavilion, and the expansion of community partnerships and research to improve health care in our community as part of the Urban Health Initiative.

The University of Chicago has from its inception fostered a culture of research and education that enables our scholars and students to cross traditional boundaries. In spite of our broad scope of scholarly pursuits, we do so as one University, bound together by a commitment to rigorous inquiry and the conviction that we can best serve society with our particular approach to solving challenging problems. The Biological Sciences Division and the Pritzker School of Medicine are distinctive among their peers by fostering this approach both within the Division, from basic biological sciences to medical research, and in the important relationships to physical, mathematical, computational, and social sciences as well as other parts of the University. All of this is made possible by the vision, imagination, and excellence of our faculty.

The Medical Center is an integral part of the University’s mission. The integration of research, medical education, patient care, and community partnerships has contributed to the distinctiveness of our Medical Center in a way that is consistent with the history and culture of the University of Chicago. The Boards of Trustees of the University and the Medical Center, the Provost, and I are committed to its success, strategic direction, and forward momentum, and to the absolute highest quality of patient care.

Please join me in recognizing Jim for his extraordinary achievements, and in welcoming Everett to his new role.