

January 26, 2010

Dear CHOC Children's Medical Staff:

It's hard to imagine that one year has passed since CHOC Children's and UC Irvine reached our historic strategic affiliation, paving the way for the creation of a world-class academic pediatrics center that integrates high-quality, comprehensive care; leading-edge research; and excellent training programs. We can take pride in the milestones and achievements of the past year, and look ahead with anticipation of future accomplishments that will transform the delivery of pediatric care in Orange County and beyond.

Our achievements are the result of extensive planning and collaboration. The thorough planning by both institutions, for example, led to the smooth transition of pediatric inpatient and outpatient clinical services from UC Irvine to CHOC shortly after the affiliation was officially formed. The following numbers offer a greater appreciation for this endeavor: 2,400 specialty care patients transitioned from UC Irvine to CHOC; nine UC Irvine physicians transferred their outpatient clinics to CHOC; and, to accommodate increased volumes in the different specialties, CHOC added four full days of clinic time.

Another milestone is the integration of UC Irvine Department of Pediatrics physicians with CHOC's Pediatric Subspecialty Faculty (PSF), creating the largest and most comprehensive group of pediatric subspecialists in Orange County. Most CHOC doctors received faculty appointments at UC Irvine, and UC Irvine physicians, as members of PSF, now have the opportunity to treat more patients in a pediatric-focused environment. The ability to retain this incredibly talented group of pediatric experts, while recruiting more clinicians, research scientists and educators, has also been enhanced by the affiliation, and will continue to augment our clinical, research and teaching programs. This is great news for Southern California's children and families.

Children and families are already benefiting from our combined clinical programs. CHOC experts helped to expand UC Irvine's strong developmental and behavioral pediatrics program for the screening, diagnosis and treatment of autism, ADHD, and other behavior and learning disorders. And, together, CHOC and UC Irvine improved the care of adolescents and young adults with cancer. Our team approach has resulted in a seamless transition of care for these patients, who benefit from the expertise of both institutions and our focus on addressing the whole spectrum of cancer care, prevention, the best diagnostics and therapeutics, and meaningful survivorship.

In the area of education, a joint agreement was approved under which UC Irvine medical students can conduct their clinical clerkship rotation at CHOC under the supervision of UC Irvine faculty. These students now have increased access to a greater number of pediatric cases, enhancing their overall training and education. In support of our goal to create a new, consolidated pediatric residency program, we recently submitted a Program Information Form to the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education. This is an important first step that was accomplished in a short amount of time due to the collaborative efforts of our faculties.

This year has also been marked by continued research collaboration between CHOC and UC Irvine, including our roles in the National Children's Study, which is the largest and most comprehensive long-term study of environmental effects on child health and development. Recent collaboration has yielded two pilot project grant awards from the Chao Family Comprehensive Center to the CHOC Children's Cancer Institute and UC Irvine's developmental biology program; a Down Syndrome study funded by the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development; and an asthma study, funded by the NIH, to assess the utility of distal airway/alveolar NO in the clinical management of asthma among children served by the CHOC Breathmobile™. Additionally, CHOC researchers have utilized valuable University resources, like applied technology in the Beckman Laser Institute, in an effort to bring breakthrough laser therapies to pediatric patients.

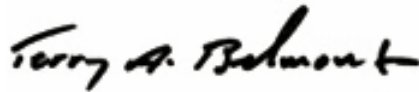
The achievements of the past year signal an exciting era in pediatric and maternal/fetal healthcare for Orange County. Together, we will continue to enhance and combine our premier services to increase access to the best treatment for infants, children and adolescents, while tirelessly pursuing groundbreaking clinical and academic accomplishments that will yield one of the most renowned academic pediatric centers in the nation.

Thank you for your contributions. Your collaborative spirit, your ingenuity, and your unwavering commitment to our community's children and families will enable us to train the pediatricians of the future, while continuing to discover even better ways to provide the finest, most innovative care to children.

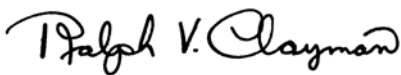
Regards,



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