Dear colleagues,

Our commitment to excellence in clinical care, teaching and research requires that we continually assess all facets of our work – whether it be the processes and procedures we follow, the structure of our operations or the ways through which we can effect positive change.

With that in mind, it is with great enthusiasm that we announce the formation of the Gehr Center for Health Systems Science & Innovation, created by the merging of two established centers on campus, the Gehr Family Center for Health Systems Science and the USC Center for Health System Innovation (CHSI).

Our goal with this new center is simple: to close the gap between discovery of clinical innovations and the systemic adoption of practices in order to make sustainable improvements in the health of individuals and communities.

Leading this charge as director will be Michael Hochman, MD, MPH, alongside Carol Peden, MD, MPH, as director of innovation. Dr. Hochman and Dr. Peden served as respective leaders of the previous centers. The robust interdisciplinary approach offered at the new center will bring great value to both the medical school and health system. And it is with gratitude that we acknowledge the Gehr Family Foundation for its continued generosity in supporting our research.

With the new Gehr Center for Health Systems Science & Innovation, our work in inpatient care and throughout the Los Angeles community will continue, but as of July 1 we will have a stronger foundation for sustainable improvement. We are poised to play a pivotal role in solving challenging real-world problems from a research and practice standpoint, both throughout our health system and within the public space.

Some of our ongoing initiatives and programs in partnership with our clinical colleagues in health care innovation include:

- A brain health initiative for older surgical patients at risk for cognitive impairment
- Patient-centered oncology
- A population-wide approach to cost-effective blood pressure management
- An assessment of different ways of providing care outside the hospital

Beyond these innovations, our policy and advocacy efforts will focus on health care transparency (i.e., sharing of information with patients, including lab results, doctor’s notes after visits, and standard charges for various services), new payment models that favor more creative ways of delivering care, research on the impact of health care reform on vulnerable populations, and so much more.

The Gehr Center for Health Systems Science & Innovation not only reinforces Keck Medicine’s forward-thinking approach to academic medicine, but also provides us with infinite potential for making meaningful improvements across the health care continuum.

Sincerely,

Tom Jackiewicz  Laura Mosqueda, MD
CEO, Keck Medicine of USC  Dean, Keck School of Medicine of USC