

# A Message from the President

State University of New York • Upstate Medical University



September 1, 2006

Dear Upstate Associates,

I am honored to be the sixth President of SUNY Upstate Medical University. My wife, Donna [Donna Bacchi, MD] and I appreciate the warm wishes that have been extended to us as we join the remarkable family here at Upstate.

Even before my first visit, I knew that Upstate Medical University is a place of significant achievement. Together we will build on this foundation of accomplishment and enhance our reputation. We will let the state, the nation and the world know about our unparalleled excellence and reputation of clinical service, education and research.

I ask all of you to join with me to “Engage Excellence” as we renew our commitment to be relevant to the communities we serve and to bring to them the hope created through the search for new medical knowledge. To do so will require all of us to pull together to realize this expanding vision:

- Our tradition of superb health care has been, in large part, what has distinguished us in the minds of many in Central New York and beyond. The clinical enterprise will continue to be a bedrock of this University.
- Our research enterprise has also been on a good trajectory and is the fastest growing in the SUNY System. We can look forward to continued growth of this vital component of our academic profile and expand our capabilities to include a focus on translational research in the future.
- Our academic enterprise is respected and unique to this region, but we must evaluate mechanisms to grow enrollment in response to the demand for doctors, nurses, research scientists and a wide array of essential health care professionals.

“Engaging Excellence” requires that our service mission will continue to be a cornerstone for our activities. We will assume leadership for public policies that enhance our ability to perform our trusted services. As a university of national significance, we must look for solutions to pressing issues, including health disparities, the aging population, diversity in health care professionals, pediatric care, cancer, the neurosciences, cardiovascular disease and a variety of other factors that disproportionately affect those we serve. We must be flexible enough to alter our course if external factors dictate and find partners in the public and private sector to realize our vision.

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“Engaging Excellence” will require investment in people: faculty, students and the professional staff. All employees on both campuses are integral to the achievement of our aspirational goals.

“Engaging Excellence” will require a continued investment in infrastructure. Investment in new facilities, information technology and renovations will continue and will position us strategically for the future.

In one of my visits to campus, I approached a student and asked, “Why did you choose Upstate?” The expression on her face answered the question before her voice could. She said, “This is where I wanted to be.” Our growth will be of such a quality that all students – and indeed all employees – will choose Upstate because it is where they want to be.

Today is a good day to begin the work that lies ahead. As we succeed, our message will reverberate. I invite you to join with me in this opportunity to go beyond the limits of our current imagination, as we become a place of excellence, grounded in relevance, in every corner of this great University.

Sincerely,

David R. Smith MD  
President



State University of New York

Upstate Medical University

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