

MEMORANDUM

To: Academic Deans, Faculty, and Staff
From: C. L. Max Nikias *C. C. Nikias*
Date: February 2, 2011
Subject: National Search: USC Senior Vice President for Health

C. L. Max Nikias
President

Robert C. Packard
President's Chair

Malcolm R. Currie Chair
in Technology
and the Humanities

I am pleased to announce a national search for a new senior level position at USC: **senior vice president for health**. This key leader will oversee the clinical elements of the university's Academic Medical Center, while ensuring that the care we provide in a range of specialties—from the extremely complex medical cases to primary care for the entire family—continues to be at the highest possible level of excellence, and uses the most effective methods of treatment and attention in all our interactions with patients. This leader will also strengthen and expand our centers of clinical excellence and help recruit additional outstanding doctors to our hospitals and faculty practices. In approaching all issues, he or she will endeavor to maximize the impact of the entire clinical operation: the University Hospital, the Norris Cancer Hospital, the Doctors of USC, and USC Care.

This position will report directly to the president, thereby ensuring that the clinical arm of our Academic Medical Center serves USC's mission. The senior vice president will also work closely with Provost **Elizabeth Garrett**, who will remain fully responsible for the academic and research mission of the university's medical enterprise. The chief executive officer of USC Hospitals will report to this new position, as will the Doctors of USC and USC Care. The dean of the Keck School of Medicine will continue to report to the provost with respect to all educational and research matters, and he will work closely with the new senior vice president for health with respect to the clinical endeavors of the school, including faculty recruiting.

Concurrently with the creation of this new position, I am establishing the **Medical Enterprise Oversight Committee**, which will be chaired by **Provost Garrett**, and consist of the senior vice president for health; **Robert Abeles**, senior vice president for finance and chief financial officer; **Todd Dickey**, senior vice president for administration; and **Carmen Puliafito**, dean of the Keck School of Medicine. This committee will coordinate all the activities of our academic medical enterprise, so that all decisions work to further the university's academic, clinical, and research priorities. To reach the pinnacle of academic excellence,

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the university's medical enterprise must excel in the tripartite missions of academic medicine: to produce cutting edge and consequential research in basic and translational sciences; to train the next generation of leaders for the medical profession and the academy; and to provide exceptional clinical care through its hospitals and clinical practices. I have charged this committee to rigorously oversee our entire academic medical enterprise to make sure we advance these missions collaboratively, guided in all cases by our academic values.

Given this new position's significance, I have already formed a search committee that includes department chairs at the Keck School of Medicine, as well as Provost Garrett, Mr. Abeles, Dean Puliafito, and Mitchell Creem, CEO of USC's Hospitals. I have asked three of USC's trustees to serve as my advisors: John Kusmiersky, David L. Lee, and William J. Schoen. I will also ask the President of the Faculty, Dr. Peter Conti, and other representatives of the Keck School of Medicine Faculty to interview the final candidates. The full roster accompanies this memorandum.

Isaacson, Miller, a highly regarded executive search firm, is assisting USC in this search. The firm is currently building a pool of qualified candidates from around the nation, and we certainly welcome additional nominations and applications. These materials should be directed to 4221@imsearch.com. The search committee will make every effort to maintain absolute confidentiality throughout the process.

I want to take this opportunity to thank the members of the search committee for their service. We all look forward to welcoming a dynamic individual to the university's senior leadership—and to strengthening our medical enterprise at this crucial juncture in USC's history.

cc: Elizabeth Garrett
Al Checcio
Robert Abeles
Todd R. Dickey
Martha Harris

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**Senior Vice President for Health
Search Advisory Committee**

Chair

C. L. Max Nikias, President

Members

Robert Abeles, Senior Vice President for Finance and Chief Financial Officer

Helena C. Chui, Chair, Department of Neurology; Raymond and Betty McCarron Chair in Neurology

Edward D. Crandall, Kenneth T. Norris, Jr. Chair, Department of Medicine; Hastings Foundation Professor of Medicine

Mitchell R. Creem, Chief Executive Officer, USC University Hospital and USC Norris Cancer Hospital

Elizabeth Garrett, Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs

Steven L. Giannotta, Chair, Department of Neurological Surgery; Professor of Neurosurgery

Inderbir Gill, Chair, Department of Urology; Professor of Urology

Philip D. Lumb, Chair, Department of Anesthesiology; Professor of Anesthesiology

Michael J. Patzakis, Chair, Department of Orthopaedics; Vincent and Julia Meyer Chair in Orthopaedic Surgery

Carmen Puliafito, Dean, Keck School of Medicine of the University of Southern California

Michael E. Selsted, Chair, Department of Pathology; Professor of Pathology

Ronald E. Smith, Chair, Department of Ophthalmology; Charles S. and Hildegard Warren Chair in Vision Research

Vaughn A. Starnes, Chair, Department of Surgery; Distinguished Professor of Cardiothoracic Surgery; H. Russell Smith Foundation Chair for Stem Cell and Cardiovascular Thoracic Research; Surgeon-in-Chief, USC University Hospital and USC Norris Cancer Hospital

Trustee Advisors

John Kusmiersky

David L. Lee

William J. Schoen