Dear Colleagues and Friends:

The months of October and November were filled with many rewarding activities, including the dedication of the new University of Iowa Stead Family Children’s Hospital. Following are just a few highlights:

**Invited Speakers:**

We were fortunate to have many esteemed speakers at Grand Rounds and at Frontiers in Pediatric Research. (Grand Rounds speakers’ presentations are available on our website.)

- Gerd Blobel, MD, PhD, The Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia
  Presentation: *Chromosome conformation: mechanisms and therapeutic applications.*
- Justin Baker, MD, St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital
  Presentation: 10 Key Palliative Care Strategies to Improve the Care of Children with Complex Chronic Conditions
- Christopher Smyser, MD, Washington University School of Medicine
  Presentation: *Functional Connectivity in Premature Infants: Small Brains, Great Opportunities*
- Nathan Boonstra, MD, Blank Children’s Hospital
  Presentation: *Social Media Savvy for Pediatricians*
- Molly Losh, PhD, Northwestern University
  Presentation: *How Iowans are playing a key role in unlocking gene-behavior relationships in autism and related neurodevelopmental disabilities*
- Janey Pratt, MD, Massachusetts General Hospital Weight Center
  Presentation: *Bariatric Surgery in Children*
- Jatinder Bhatia, MBBS, Medical College of Georgia
  Filer Lecture: *Human Milk for Premature Infants: One Size Fits All?*
- Scott Snapper, MD, PhD, Boston Children’s Hospital
  Presentation: *Very Early Onset Inflammatory Bowel Disease: Bridging Genetics to Molecular Functions to Therapies*

**Education**

- Resident recruitment interviews are underway and are going smoothly. Thank you to all faculty who have given time to participate in this important activity. Also, thank you to the Education staff for their important role organizing the interviews. We have had unprecedented interest in our program this year.

**Children’s Hospital**

Activity surrounding the new Children’s Hospital has been fast and furious in October and November.

- Numerous groups have been meeting over the past several months to collaborate across Departments to ensure clinical services which require multi-departmental cooperation will be as seamless as possible when care begins to be provided in the new environment. The teamwork involved in bringing a new hospital online cannot be minimized, but teamwork is part of our culture at the University of Iowa.
- The first meeting of the newly established Children’s Hospital Executive Committee was held on Thursday, November 1st. This multi-disciplinary committee will meet monthly with each subcommittee scheduled to report to the Executive Committee on a routine basis. Committees, committee members, and reporting structure can be viewed at the following link: [https://medcom.uiowa.edu/theloop/wp-content/uploads/2015/12/CH-Admin-Structure-11-22-16.pdf](https://medcom.uiowa.edu/theloop/wp-content/uploads/2015/12/CH-Admin-Structure-11-22-16.pdf)
- All inaugural events held during the month of November to introduce the new hospital to the public and staff were extremely well attended and comments were glowing. Thank you to all who volunteered at these events and a special thank you to those who worked to have the space as ready as possible for the first event on November 3rd.
- A special event to introduce our referring providers to the new hospital was hosted in the lobby of the new hospital on Friday, November 4th. They were invited for lunch, a tour of the hospital, and a reception at the close of the event. Continuing to collaborate with our referring providers by providing them with educational opportunities and assurance that we are committed to keeping them informed regarding their patients is a
win-win for all involved, most especially the patients.

External Program/Site Reviews
We strive to remain on the cutting edge of healthcare and have the good fortune to be able to request outside expertise to assist us with this goal. During October and November we had the following external experts onsite:

- To complete a review the psychology needs of the Department of Pediatrics and the Children’s Hospital:
  - Wayne Fisher, PhD, University of Nebraska Medical Center
  - Terry Stancin, PhD, MA, Metrohealth Medical Center
  - John Duby, MD, FAAP, CPE, Dayton Children’s
- To perform a review of our NIH K12 program:
  - Mark E. Lowe, MD, PhD, University of Pittsburgh
  - The current K12 scholars in our Department (Dr. Beth Newell, Dr. Tony Fischer, and Dr. Aaron Boes) presented their research and career development plans to Dr. Lowe during this site review.

UI Healthcare Strategic Planning
I was one of about 50 leaders from across UI Health Care who, along with industry experts, spent two days examining where healthcare is going. Dr. Robillard asked that those of us who participated in this exercise share the following information with our Departments:

- The basic goal was to identify how we can thrive in the future while preserving and strengthening our role in tertiary/quaternary care to rural patients and supporting our tripartite mission.
- We discussed a number of paths that would be successful for UI Health Care.
- We reviewed and prioritized potential operating priorities, including access and throughput, recruitment and retention, investments in technology and infrastructure, the need to collaborate with others as we prepare for a future of patient-directed care.
- The next steps are to refine the information, gather more input from throughout UI Health Care, then solidify plans that will be aligned with the budget and capital investment decisions.

- You will be hearing much more about this within the next ninety days.

Final Thoughts
Each of you are supremely talented, passionate and committed individuals. It has been my honor to lead this department these past 4 years. As we head into winter and the close of 2016 I would like to wish you and your families happy holidays and a healthy, joyous, and fulfilling 2017.