Cedars-Sinai Welcomes Nicole A. Leonard, JD, MBA, Vice President of Research and Assistant Dean

Nicole A. Leonard, JD, MBA was appointed as Vice President of Research and Assistant Dean June 6, 2016. In this role Leonard has responsibility for teams in Sponsored Research and Funds Administration, Comparative Medicine, Research Facilities, Research Compliance and Quality Improvement, liaison with Technology Transfer, and for system-wide Clinical Trials. She graciously offered to participate in a brief interview.

What brought you to Cedars-Sinai?

NAL: A few things brought me to Cedars-Sinai. First was the excitement I felt for the job itself. I saw it as a great stretch opportunity and a chance to tackle new and exciting challenges. I also immediately saw a strength that is unique to Cedars-Sinai – a very strong translational research focus. I recall thinking, “Wow, I just might be able to see something that I helped facilitate end up in a patient treatment room in a matter of years rather than decades!”

What are your goals and/or focus for your first six months at Cedars-Sinai?

NAL: My goal for the first six months is to learn the lay of the land and the culture of Cedars-Sinai. To be most effective I first need to understand Cedars-Sinai (and frankly California) before I can begin implementing change. The wonderful thing about this position and Cedars-Sinai is that I see it as a “sustaining success” (and continuing growth) opportunity. By that I mean there has been tremendous growth and success and as such we are not in the middle of a crisis. I inherited a very strong team so I feel that we are poised for continued success.

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What have been your most significant leadership successes and challenges on your pathway to your current role?

NAL: I consider my most significant leadership successes to be the people that I’ve mentored and grown along the way, and the relationships that I’ve built with my faculty researchers. I mention my people first because helping employees and colleagues be their absolute best at work is personally fulfilling for me, but is also good for the organization and the mission. I mention my relationships with the faculty because it is a classic myth that ‘administrators’ are just in the way to create unnecessary bureaucratic work. While we do sometimes over-regulate ourselves, my greatest leadership success is helping researchers see that we bring much value to the organization and to them! That happens when you build a relationship based on honesty, trust and transparency.

What is your vision for the research enterprise at Cedars-Sinai?

NAL: I envision the research enterprise at Cedars-Sinai as an entire ecosystem that is innovative, mission focused, proactive and anticipatory, as well as compliant. Innovation is important to leverage our strengths in new ways through synergistic, interdisciplinary collaborations within the Cedars-Sinai community and with external collaborators. While the need to be innovative in solving problems is applicable to research questions, it is equally so for the various administrative support functions. Being proactive and anticipating what is needed now as well as in the future is key to promoting impactful research that directly connects to the Cedars-Sinai mission. It is also key to continuing to build an efficient, service-oriented and seamless infrastructure for research. ●

High Impact Faculty Publication: Janet Wei, MD


“Adverse pregnancy outcomes (preeclampsia, gestational hypertension, preterm delivery, small-for-gestational-age infant) and reproductive disorders (recurrent miscarriage, polycystic ovarian syndrome, premature ovarian insufficiency) are predictors of increased cardiovascular disease risk (most risk ratios >1.0 but <2.0), as recently reviewed by the Dutch Society of Obstetrics and Gynecology. Unfortunately, the society recommended follow-up for cardiovascular risk management only for women with a history of preeclampsia (RR 2.15, 95% confidence interval: 1.76-2.61) due to their selection of RR>2 as a threshold. In a follow-up editorial, we discuss the limitations of risk thresholds, existing risk scores, and lack of standardized definitions and nomenclature that hinder appropriate cardiovascular disease risk assessment and guidelines development for young women.”
Thank You to the Faculty Supporting the 2016 Summer Scholars Program

For the third summer, the Office of Faculty Development provided research internships for seven students from Charles R. Drew University of Medicine and Science with support from Dr. Shlomo Melmed. Interns developed basic research skills and were mentored by faculty who exposed them to a diverse spectrum of leading edge technology in multiple disciplines at the Medical Center. At the conclusion of their internship five interns participated in Research Internship Poster Day, with Himantha De Silva (mentored by Shouri Lahiri, MD) advancing as a finalist.

2016 Faculty Mentors

Caroline Jefferies, PhD
Medicine

Shouri Lahiri, MD
Neurology

Stephen Freedland, MD
Surgery

Komal Ramani, PhD
Medicine

Rodrigo Alban, MD
Surgery

Maria Lauda Tomasi, PhD
Medicine

Brennan Spiegel, MD
Medicine
Cedars-Sinai Academic Appointments and Promotions Update

**Appointments**

**Assistant Professors**

Kumar, Sanjeev, MD, PhD, Biomedical Sciences  
Zhang, Yi, PhD, Biomedical Sciences

**Associate Professor**

Siedhoff, Matthew, MD, Obstetrics and Gynecology

**Promotion**

**Associate Professor**

Rutishauser, Ueli, PhD, Neurosurgery, Neurology, Biomedical Sciences

**Heather D. Jones, MD, Attends AAMC Early Career Women Faculty Professional Development Seminar**

Heather D. Jones, MD, faculty member and Assistant Professor of Medicine, was selected to attend the 2016 AAMC Early Career Women Faculty Professional Development Seminar this July. This national seminar for women at the assistant professor level is designed to help attendees develop academic medicine career building skills such as communication, conflict management, and financial acumen, and employ strategic thinking about their career and leadership development. As a promising physician-scientist working toward developing her own independent research focused on mechanisms of hypoxia during acute lung injury, the Office of Faculty Development was pleased to support her attendance.

“I just wanted to thank you so much for this incredible opportunity. I never would have believed that 4 days could change my entire perspective and approach, but this workshop has done just that. I now know exactly what I need to be doing to be most effective in my research and my career, and I am inspired and invigorated to do so. I also have a new network of women like myself who are here in LA and across the country to whom I can reach out for support and collaborations. It was really wonderful.”

**Gislâine A. Martins, PhD, Attends AAMC Mid-Career Minority Faculty Professional Development Seminar**

Gislâine A. Martins, PhD, Associate Professor in the Inflammatory Bowel and Immunobiology Research Institute, and Departments of Biomedical Science (Research Division of Immunology) and Medicine, and Scientific Director, Flow Cytometry Core was selected to attend the 2016 AAMC Mid-Career Minority Faculty Seminar this June. The Seminar addresses the specific needs of mid-career faculty from a culturally responsive approach offering skill building and strategies for pursuing career advancement in academic medicine. The Office of Faculty Development was happy to support her participation to continue her development as a faculty member, scientist, and educator.

“This AAMC seminar was a great opportunity to develop key professional competencies in academic leadership and to network with other professionals in academic medicine. I am grateful to the CSMC Office of Faculty Development for the opportunity to attend.”

Faculty Developments | Summer 2016
Gender Medicine Lunch & Learn: Ted Talk & Discussion Series

The Office of Faculty Development, Department of OB-GYN, and the Barbra Streisand Women’s Heart Center are pleased to sponsor a new educational luncheon series on gender medicine. This series will provide sex and gender-based medicine education via short, powerful video talks from expert speakers in gender medicine, and will be followed by engaging discussion.

“His and Hers….Healthcare”

Ted Talk by Paula Johnson, MD, MPH, President, Wellesley College  
Friday, September 23, 2016, 12:00 p.m.—1:00 p.m.  
Education Conference Center (ECC) A

“Sex and the Brain”

Ted Med Talk by Gillian Einstein, AB, PhD, University of Toronto  
Friday, November 11, 2016, 12:00 p.m.—1:00 p.m.

“Why Medicine Often Has Dangerous Side Effects for Women”

Ted Talk by Alyson McGregor, Brown University  
Friday, January 6, 2017, 12:00 p.m.—1:00 p.m.

“The Single Biggest Threat Women Face”

Ted Talk by C. Noel Bairey Merz, MD, FACC, FAHA  
Friday, March 3, 2017, 12:00 p.m.—1:00 p.m.

*Box lunch will be provided, locations to be announced
Medical Education Updates

New Online Activities on Radiation Safety for the Clinical Use of Fluoroscopy

The Cedars-Sinai Office of CME in partnership with the Radiation and Environmental Safety Office has developed four one-hour online CME courses focusing on radiation safety for the clinical use of fluoroscopy. There is a new California requirement for physicians who are radiation operator/supervisors. Now four of the ten CME credits, required every two years in fluoroscopy must be specific to radiation safety for the clinical use of fluoroscopy.

These activities are now available online at: [http://cedars.cloud-cme.com/](http://cedars.cloud-cme.com/).

Medical Library Fast Facts

FY2016 resulted in 649,964 full text downloads from EJournals and 68,604 full text downloads of EBook content.

Calendar of Events

September

9/16/16: Precision Health Launch
12:00 p.m.—1:30 p.m., Harvey Morse Auditorium

9/23/16: Gender Medicine Ted Talk Discussion Series: “His and Hers...Healthcare”
12:00 p.m.—1:00 p.m., Education Conference Center A

October

10/25/16: Faculty Panel on Career Advice for Residents and Fellows
5:00 p.m.—6:30 p.m., Harvey Morse Auditorium

10/27/16: Tips for Success From NIH Awardees (K/RO1)
5:00 p.m.—6:00 p.m., AHSP PEC 5
Office of Faculty Development
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www.cedars-sinai.edu/faculty-development