

ACADEMIC CONNECTIONS

THOUGHTS AND UPDATES FROM DR. W. P. ANDREW LEE

January 22, 2021

Dear Colleagues,

I am writing to share the news that **Kathleen Bell, M.D.**, holder of the Kimberly-Clark Distinguished Chair in Mobility Research, has announced her intention to step down from her position as Chair of Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation (PM&R) once a successor is identified. Dr. Bell anticipates she will remain an active faculty member following the transition to complete projects before she retires.

A nationally recognized clinician-researcher in rehabilitation medicine, Dr. Bell has led the Department to great advances in all mission areas since 2014. She has significantly expanded its portfolio of research, strengthened educational programs, upgraded clinical services for patients, and brought greater recognition to the department, exhibited by improved national rankings in several areas. Currently, it stands at No. 12 on the Blue Ridge rankings for NIH funding for PM&R Departments, and its residency program is also ranked No. 12 nationally by U.S. News and World Report.

Dr. Bell received her undergraduate degree from the University of Pennsylvania and her medical degree from Temple University Medical School. She completed a residency in rehabilitation medicine as well as a NIH Switzer Research Fellowship at the University of Washington. Dr. Bell came to UT Southwestern in 2014 after a distinguished tenure at the University of Washington, where she held a number of leadership roles, including Medical Director of the Brain Injury Rehabilitation Program and Chief of Clinical Services in Rehabilitation Medicine.

In addition to treating patients at UT Southwestern, Dr. Bell has served as co-director of the Mobility Foundation Center and is a leading investigator in the Texas Institute for Brain Injury and Repair. She has published extensively in the field of traumatic brain injury and has given presentations around the world about her work. Since 1998, she has been continuously funded by the National Institute on Disability, Independent Living, and Rehabilitation Research (NIDILRR), Department of Defense, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and NIH, among other sources.

An active member of the American Academy of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation since 1987, Dr. Bell served as President of the Executive Board from 2014 to 2015. She also is a member of the International Brain Injury Association, the American Congress of Rehabilitation Medicine, and the Association of Academic Physiatrists.

An avid supporter of up-and-coming researchers, Dr. Bell has placed focus on helping others grow professionally throughout her career. She is especially proud to have established a leadership infrastructure within PM&R that fosters a culture of equitable opportunity and excellence.

I am pleased to announce that **Elan Louis, M.D.**, Professor and Chair, Department of Neurology, will serve as Chair of the committee that will conduct a national search to identify Dr. Bell's successor. Other members of the committee are:

- **William Dauer, M.D.**, Professor of Neurology and Neuroscience; Director of the Peter O'Donnell Jr. Brain Institute
- **Betsy Kennard, Psy.D.**, Professor of Psychiatry
- **Benjamin Levi, M.D.**, Associate Professor of Surgery
- **Elizabeth Paulk, M.D.**, Professor of Internal Medicine
- **Ross Querry, Ph.D.**, Professor and Chair of Physical Therapy, School of Health Professions
- **Gail Peterson, M.D.**, Professor of Internal Medicine
- **John Sweetenham, M.D.**, Professor of Internal Medicine; Associate Director, Harold C. Simmons Comprehensive Cancer Center
- **Babu Welch, M.D.**, Professor of Neurological Surgery
- **Jon Williamson, Ph.D.**, Dean, School of Health Professions
- **Dane Wukich, M.D.**, Professor and Chair of Orthopaedic Surgery

The search will be launched shortly, and we look forward to building on the success made possible by Dr. Bell's leadership as we continue to advance Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation research, education, and clinical care at UT Southwestern.



Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Andy". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

W. P. Andrew Lee, M.D.

Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost
Dean, UT Southwestern Medical School

Copyright 2021 UT Southwestern Medical Center. All rights reserved.

Academic Connections is a publication of Communications, Marketing, and Public Affairs (CMPA) at UT Southwestern Medical Center.