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The University of Arizona
Health Sciences

Message from the Senior Vice President for Health Sciences

August 15, 2019



William Cance, MD

I am writing with mixed feelings to announce a transition of leadership in the University of Arizona Cancer Center.

William Cance, MD, interim director for the UA Cancer Center, has accepted a new position as chief medical and scientific officer at the American Cancer Society. Dr. Cance, who joined the UA Health Sciences in October 2016, also is a professor in the Departments of Interdisciplinary Oncology, Pharmacology and Toxicology, and Surgery in the UA Colleges of Medicine and Pharmacy – Phoenix. During his tenure here, Dr. Cance has made enormous strides to establish a culture of collaboration to improve cancer care and treatment.



Joann Sweasy, PhD

I am grateful to Dr. Cance for his contributions and commitment to advancing the Cancer Center in its efforts to become the preeminent leader in cancer research and care by extending and enhancing the lives of individuals throughout Arizona and across the country. Dr. Cance will begin his new role at the American Cancer Society in late October.



Julie Bauman, MD, MPH

As the Center continues its progress toward renewal of its five-year Cancer Center Support Grant through the National Cancer Institute, I am pleased to announce that Joann Sweasy, PhD, has agreed to serve as the new interim director for the Center. Dr. Sweasy currently is associate director for basic sciences at the Center, the Maynard Cancer Prevention and Control Professor, and a professor in the Departments of Cellular and Molecular Medicine, and Radiation Oncology. Prior to joining the UA Health Sciences, Dr. Sweasy was associate director for basic sciences, the Ensign Professor of Therapeutic Radiology, and co-leader of the Radiobiology and Radiotherapy Program at the Yale Comprehensive Cancer Center, where she had oversight of pilot funding for the center and all cancer-focused internal grant competitions at Yale University.

I am confident that Dr. Sweasy's expertise and experience will advance our cancer-related basic science efforts, reduce disparities, enhance our programs and elevate the Center's reputation for excellence as she guides it toward NCI Cancer Center Support Grant renewal.

In addition to Dr. Sweasy becoming the interim director, Julie Bauman, MD, MPH, has been appointed deputy director for the Center. Dr. Bauman is uniquely qualified for this role, currently serving as associate director of Translational Research at the Center, and as a professor in the Department of Medicine and chief of Hematology/Oncology at the UA College of Medicine – Tucson. Internationally recognized as an expert in both head and neck cancer and cancer prevention, Dr. Bauman is funded by the NCI and the V Foundation. She leads a broad portfolio of trials evaluating nutraceuticals, targeted agents and immunotherapies to prevent or treat cancer.

With the appointments of Dr. Sweasy and Dr. Bauman, the UA Cancer Center is well-positioned to continue on its upward trajectory.

Please join me in thanking Dr. Cance for his service to the UA Health Sciences and UA Cancer Center over the last three years, and in wishing Dr. Sweasy and Dr. Bauman the very best in their new roles.

Michael D. Dake, MD
Senior Vice President, UA Health Sciences



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