We are pleased to announce the appointment of Andrew Gross, MD, as the new Associate Chair for Ambulatory Care and Population Health for the Department of Medicine, focusing primarily on our UCSF Health practices. In this role, he will report to the chair of the Department of Medicine. Andy will also carry the title of Executive Medical Director for our DOM ambulatory practices within the UCSF Health System; in this role, he will report to Dr. Susan Smith, the Chief Faculty Practice Officer. He will assume these new roles on September 1st.

If UCSF is to succeed in today’s rapidly changing policy and payment environment, we must be able to deliver satisfying, high quality, safe, accessible, and cost effective care to patients outside the hospital. While today this involves mostly visits to clinicians in offices, it will increasingly involve e-consults, televisits, monitoring and responding to electronically-collected data, and other innovative new approaches. Whatever the nature of our interactions with patients, we need to develop systems and programs that ensure that our patients receive the best, most satisfying care at the lowest cost. We also must do this while enhancing our educational programs, promoting clinical and translational research, and creating an environment in which our clinicians experience joy in practice. While much of this work will involve UCSF faculty and staff, some of it will involve new partnerships with community-based organizations and clinicians.

In his role as Associate Chair, Andy will take a lead role in all of these efforts, as they pertain to the people and practices in the Department of Medicine. His appointment as Executive Medical Director is symbolic of the increasingly vigorous partnership between our department and the health system. Such partnerships are critical if we are to achieve the results that we all need for our patients, trainees, and for UCSF. As Executive Medical Director, Andy will work directly with medical directors and managers from each of the ambulatory practices to ensure that practices meet organizational goals for improvement, using standard management tools such as Lean, as well as innovative strategies.

Andy was selected after a robust intramural search, and he is supremely prepared for this role. He is a practicing rheumatologist, with a special interest in rheumatoid arthritis, lupus, and scleroderma. He has a strong interest in clinical research, having published himself and established systems to promote research. He is also a terrific and popular educator. Most germane to this role, since 2008 he has led our rheumatology practice, which has established a strong reputation for service, innovation, and effective management. Andy will continue as rheumatology service chief.

Andy received his BA from Bates College and his MD from Tufts. He completed his internal medicine and rheumatology training at Tufts-New England Medical Center. He was a post-doctoral fellow at UCSF in Microbiology and Immunology before joining our faculty in 2003.

Please join us in welcoming Andy Gross to this new role.

Robert M. Wachter, MD
Interim Chair, Department of Medicine

Susan Smith, MD
Chief Faculty Practice Officer, UCSF Health