

Dear Colleagues:

I'm thrilled to announce the appointment of two new Associate Chairs for Research in the Department of Medicine – one for clinical research, the other for biomedical research. As you know, Bill Seaman has served as our Associate Chair for Research for the past six years. Given the size and breadth of DOM's research portfolio, I felt that the job had become large and complex enough to split in two.



**Our new Associate Chair for Clinical Research is Diane Havlir.** Diane, one of the preeminent clinical and translational HIV researchers in the world, is chief of the Division of HIV, Infectious Diseases, and Global Medicine at ZSFG. Over the past 25 years, her NIH-funded research has led to changes in national and WHO guidelines for HIV and HIV/TB treatment. She is currently leading SEARCH, a 320,000-person community-based randomized study in East Africa measuring the health, economic, and education effects of HIV and multi-disease (diabetes, hypertension) testing and treatment. Diane is the founding leader of the San Francisco's "Getting to Zero" initiative to eliminate new HIV infections. She chairs the Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee of the United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) and the WHO HIV Drug Resistance Surveillance Program. In addition to her own research, Diane is passionate about mentorship and research training, and is PI of an NIH-funded T32 grant for HIV translational research. In her free time, she is an avid hiker and enjoys travel with her family.



**Our new Associate Chair for Biomedical Research is David Erle.** David is a pulmonologist with a lab in the Lung Biology Center at Mission Bay and a clinical practice at ZSFG. His early work led to the cloning and characterization of novel cell adhesion molecules. One of them, integrin alpha4 beta7, is the target of vedolizumab, an FDA-approved treatment for inflammatory bowel disease. Over the last 20 years, David and his colleagues have dissected molecular mechanisms of asthma; this work has helped to provide the rationale for clinical trials of inhibitors of the cytokine interleukin-13. David is the founder and director of the UCSF SABRE Center Functional Core Facility, which has supported over 700 basic, translational, and clinical research projects led by UCSF and other investigators. He has trained and mentored dozens of fellows and serves as co-director of an NIH-funded K12 Career Development Award. David is a CVRI investigator and a member of the UCSF Immunology and the Biomedical Sciences graduate programs. Like Diane, David and his family enjoy hiking and traveling.

In this challenging funding environment, our department's research enterprise continues to thrive. The [2016 data](#) just came in, and we remain the top recipient of NIH grants of any department of medicine in the country, breaking (probably for the first time by any department) the \$200 million mark.

Despite our successes, Diane and David have plenty to do: charting our strategy in precision medicine, helping to guide the continued growth at Mission Bay and the rejuvenation of Parnassus, planning the use of new research space (and the more efficient allocation of existing

space) on all our campuses, promoting diversity in our research enterprise, nurturing our pipeline of junior researchers, integrating our growing informatics enterprise into our research operations, and dealing with the uncertainties of NIH funding, to name just a few. It's an ambitious agenda, and I can't think of better people to help lead it.

Please join me in welcoming Diane and David to our leadership team, and in thanking Bill Seaman for his remarkable service to UCSF and our department. Bill brought extraordinary integrity, passion, modesty, and wisdom to his work. I am particularly grateful to Bill for his sage advice, for establishing the highly effective DOM Research Council, and for suggesting and helping to steward the development of the iRAPS funding program for associate professors in the In Residence series. We will plan a suitable celebration in the next few months.

One final note: with the exception of the search for a new chief of medicine at Fresno (to replace Mike Peterson, now Associate Dean), the appointment of Diane and David fill out the Chair's Council: the DOM's associate and vice chairs who help me oversee the department. The group is shown on the attached org chart. Please remember that these folks are there to help you succeed. Don't hesitate to contact any of them, or me, if you have concerns or ideas for us to improve.

-- Bob

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