Chatting with the Chief

It's been an interesting few months. For starters, we have had a number of students present their research, en route to their degrees. Congratulations to Abigail and Robert! We also had a wonderful set of presentations at national meetings this year. Of course, the most unique news was Vanderbilt's decision to separate the medical center's financing and governance from that of the university, making us even more like Harvard than we were before! We've had another child added to the "family"—congratulations Claudia! And, there's also the return of the polar vortex. By every measure there's been a lot to talk about.

For me, another memorable event has been watching Fall progress to winter from the 14th floor. As many of you know, this is been a challenging fall for me. However, on some of my toughest days, I have had the pleasure of looking out the window and observing the amazing displays of color, frisbee throwing, juggling, and activity in the Centennial Park area that has been very grounding.

I sincerely hope that everyone is taking advantage of our new location. I occasionally see people out and about at lunchtime, and I hope that we are meeting colleagues both within the department and across departmental lines within the building. I have yet to see many of us taking walks in the park. Has anyone pulled together an ad hoc group to visit Rotier's for lunch? I bring this up not because I encourage us to focus on food in advance of the holiday season, but because I do hope we continue to focus on opportunities to collaborate, to build bridges, to network, and to create disruptive innovation together. I also hope all of us engage in occasional reflective time. For me, lunch has been one of the best times to do these things. The idea for the documentary came up during a lunch discussion I was having with a friend who is an actor. Some of my favorite titles for papers (such as, "Performing Without a Net") were the product of an informal lunch gathering of friends and colleagues somewhere around here. My favorite pastime when working on a grant was to sit by the pond behind the Parthenon, watch the ducks, and collect my thoughts.

Another opportunity here is to involve our secondary faculty in the goings on of 2525 West End. I encourage you to get together with like-minded faculty, students, and staff as you're thinking about problems you need to solve. We have many such faculty on our list of secondary faculty. And while we may have moved a bit further from some of them, you might be surprised to learn how many secondary faculty are in our building, and how many others have reasons to visit if given an opportunity and invitation to do so.

I look forward to us becoming even more entrenched in the West End life, and making it an equally interesting spring and summer!

Dr. Michael Matheny and Team Join

Dr. Michael Methany and his team have joined DBMI. Dr. Methany became primary faculty in DBMI on January 1, 2015. In addition to Dr. Methany, two other faculty members will be on his team. Glenn Gobbel, DVM, PhD., and Ruth Reeves, PhD. His team currently housed in the VA Hospital. His staff consists of

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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
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<tr>
<td>Shrimalini Jayaramaraja</td>
<td>Staff</td>
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<tr>
<td>Elizabeth Hanchrow</td>
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<td>Dax Westerman</td>
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<td>Nancy Gentry</td>
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<td>Jason Denton</td>
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<td>Freneka Minter</td>
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Some of the names and faces are familiar to us from previous work they have done. They will be located at the VA Hospital.
Dr. Colin Walsh Joins the Faculty
By Trent Rosenbloom

Please join me in welcoming Dr. Colin Walsh as a new Assistant Professor in
the Department of Biomedical Informatics
with a secondary appointment in the Department of Medicine. Colin comes from
Columbia University, where he was a Postdoctoral Fellow in Biomedical Informatics and an Instructor of Clinical Medicine. Colin initially received his Bachelors of Science in Engineering from Princeton University, and his MD from the Columbia University. He completed a residency in internal medicine at Columbia, where he also served as Chief Resident. Colin’s area of research has focused on predictive analytics, one of the most highly valued areas of expertise in clinical medicine. At Columbia, he was able to develop and validate a model for predicting hospital readmissions. This work has led to funding through the New York Empire Clinical Research Investigator Program, and resulted in 4 additional publications submitted to peer-reviewed journals. Colin will join the faculty at Vanderbilt to support operational work and research in predictive analytics. Please help me welcome Colin to Vanderbilt!

Retirement Plan Transition
By Elizabeth Brown

Beginning in April, you will have the option to invest your contributions in a streamlined selection of funds or set up a self-directed brokerage account to invest in your choice of thousands of mutual funds. A single provider, Fidelity Investments, will become the sole provider of administrative services. This means that no matter how many funds you choose, you will receive one statement and have one place to go to manage your account and receive retirement planning guidance. Every employee should have received a transition guide in the mail a few weeks ago. It is important that everyone review this guide, to better understand which options may be best for you (a link is provided below).

From February through April, Fidelity will be conducting both onsite and online workshops for employees. From 2/2/15 through 3/31/15, the investment election window for future plan contributions will be open. The transition will occur in April.

Here are resources available for you to learn more about the upcoming retirement plan transition:

Information Sessions and Video Presentation: https://hr.vanderbilt.edu/secure/savingmadesimple/info-sessions.php

Retirement Plan Transition Guide: https://hr.vanderbilt.edu/secure/savingmadesimple/guides.php

Other Items: https://hr.vanderbilt.edu/secure/savingmadesimple/

You also have the option of making an appointment to meet with a Fidelity Planning Guidance Consultant for a one-on-one consultation.

Birthday Celebrations

Continuing our monthly birthday celebration requires help from all the faculty and staff. Now that most members are in the 25235 building, we need more volunteers to cover the larger group. So we are asking for two people per month to bring in a goodie that will feed at least 15 people.

To volunteer, please send Barbara and email indicating the month you are willing to help us. Or you can stop by her office and sign up on the sheet in her office.
This Month’s Quote:

You cannot hope to build a better world without improving the individuals. To that end, we must each work towards our own improvement, while sharing a general responsibility for all humanity, as our particular duty is to aid those to whom we think we can be most helpful.

Marie Curie

Administration advises that everyone keep the 2525 Security Desk phone number handy. The number is 321-4141. You should contact security in the case of a medical emergency (after dialing 911), bomb threat (after dialing 911) or to report a suspicious person or activity.

*Your tenant emergency wardens are:
6th floor - Cheryl Wiggins
8th floor – Barbara Payne and Carol Haas
10th floor - Barbara Payne
14th floor – Teresa Gillespie and Rischelle Jenkins

*Remember to always have your access card after hours. “Lockouts” are very difficult after hours and you will not be able to access your work space without your card.

Clarification about housekeeping services. Cleaning of flat surfaces like tables and desks or any furniture is not provided. Vacuuming and trash pick up should be done nightly. High dusting and vertical surfaces is done quarterly. Questions or concerns about housekeeping should be directed to Coda or Barbara. For an urgent matter, you can contact the housekeeping supervisor directly (Amber Haas) at 615-268-2650.

Coming and Goings

Welcome to new faculty and staff:
Name: Colin Wash Title: Faculty
Name: Michael Matheny Title: Faculty
Name: Xinanna Niu Title: Programmer/Analyst II

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