



Dear Colleagues:

Last week I had the pleasure of attending our annual Medical Staff Awards dinner. This is always a special event for me since it is the first event I attended upon my arrival at UCH six years ago. What I like most about this dinner are the stories shared; this year did not disappoint! And, more than anything, the dinner reminds me that you would be hard-pressed to find a stronger, more committed and dedicated faculty.

**A Salute to Faculty and Putting my Money where my Mouth is...** And for that very reason, I made a BIG announcement at the dinner. For the last two years, I have been thinking about how best to support the School of Medicine. As many of you have heard me say, we can't exist without each other, and UCH has no more important partner than the School of Medicine. We are ranked #1 in quality because of our strong partnership with the School of Medicine. You cannot have a great academic hospital without a great School Of Medicine. That is one reason I have spent many hours with the hospital's Board of Directors discussing the decline in funding for the school, its impact on *all* of us, and the decline in research funding that is occurring nationally.

In fact, I, as well as our Board of Directors, believe so strongly in the importance of the University of Colorado School of Medicine that last week at the Medical Staff dinner, I announced that the University of Colorado Hospital is donating \$20 million to the School to create an academic enhancement fund that will support its groundbreaking research and clinical excellence.

The "*School of Medicine Academic Enhancement Fund*" will be held and administered by the University of Colorado Hospital Foundation. We cannot think of a better investment!

**And the award goes to....**I am always struck at dinners like this and UCH's annual President's Award dinner, by all the good things our faculty and staff are doing. So much of it goes above and beyond what is required and really exemplifies our "All Things Possible" tagline.

Before I go any further, I have to give kudos to **Rob McIntyre**, president of the Medical Staff, for his presentation. Rob walked us through the year in photos — from the Bon Jovi concert to Hearts of All Ages; from Epic to Dr. Schwartz's arrival as Chairman of the Department of Medicine. It was just a great way to look back, as well as kick off the evening (although, I could have done without the parking references!).

We started the evening by recognizing our two recipients of the President's Award for Leadership. As her nominator, **Dr. Ethan Cumbler**, told us, **Dr. Heidi Wald** is the lead physician on the UCH Catheter-Associated Urinary Tract Infection, or CAUTI—you know how we love our acronyms—multidisciplinary workgroup. She played a key role in leading a review and revision of the products

our hospital uses to prevent these damaging and expensive-to-treat infections. Even Heidi recognized this was quite the way to start our dinner!

Next, **Dr. Chip Dodd** introduced our second President's Award for Leadership honoree, **Dr. Brian Petersen**, whom he noted joined their staff from private practice, bringing excellent customer service skills with him. It is not unusual for Brian to follow his radiology patients through their treatment, know them by name and offer hugs and encouragement—great leadership indeed!

Next on the program, was the Outstanding Full-Time Faculty Physician of the Year award, presented to **Tom Flaig, MD**, by his mentor, **Dr. Mike Glodé**. While there were many emotional moments during the evening, perhaps the most touching was when Dr. Flaig thanked Dr. Glodé. He told us that he had a lot of people who had helped him through his life and career, but Mike was his first mentor – one who was so generous that he even put Tom's professional advancement in front of his own. And for those of you who know Dr. Glodé, you won't be surprised to learn that prior to his very eloquent introduction, he suggested to Lilly Marks that she invest in a monthly parking pass to help with the parking issues she has been having!

**Dr. Jeffrey Brent** was unable to attend that evening; however, **Dr. Curtis Freed** noted his virtues and values, as well as his commitment to UCH when he accepted the Volunteer Physician of the Year Award on Dr. Brent's behalf.

The stage was then over-run by a bunch of sleep-deprived, energetic, still smilin' Epic members! If only they had been wearing their red shirts! **Dr. CT Lin** recognized and thanked them for their tireless and outstanding service as he presented **Soren Schoultz, Alice Pekarek, Amy Vigil, Cathleen Ehrenfeucht, Andrew Davis, Reenie Zaccardi, Marianne Sherman** and **Melissa Greer** with the Partners in Care award. I could not pick a better group of outstanding leaders to recognize. That was a real joy.

And then the moment we all feared came: **Dr. Steve Ringel** with a microphone! Dr. Ringel was on hand to introduce **Dr. Larry Allen** for the Pioneer Award. After he opened with, "Since I don't prepare remarks, I always wonder what I will say since I have so many random neural firings," the crowd gasped. Dr. Ringel then moved on to paint a wonderful story of Dr. Allen as a truly outstanding heart failure specialist—one of only five board-certified heart failure specialists in Colorado (the other four are colleagues of UCH as well) – with a strong commitment to quality. When Dr. Allen took the mic, he too, was relieved the introduction was not any worse, but he thanked Dr. Ringel for teaching him something about the heart, a reference to Dr. Ringel's other famous quote from the evening: "When you have a problem with the heart, that's a bad thing."

**Dr. Jeff Glasheen** then took the stage to recognize **Drs. Greg Misky** and **Kristen Nordenholz** with the second and third Pioneer awards. They were recognized for creating an innovative venous thromboembolism pathway for both the Emergency Department and the hospital to evaluate and treat this very common diagnosis. Greg's remarks stood out to me since he thanked his late mother, which I thought was so thoughtful. Kristen thanked the ED for its role in helping to make this happen.

As a side note, I had to give a shout-out to the ED during my comments, as well. I found a group that is bugging Tony Ruiz more than I am to get the new tower project finished! But they continue

to awe and amaze me, not only with their handling of a tough situation in a tough space, but because of their attitude — which is almost always great!

As you know, lots of things come in threes: mice, triplets, chipmunks, hearing, speaking, seeing evil...and then there were our three Physician Partners in Care Award recipients: **Dr. CT Lin, Dr. Jonathan Pell** and **Dr. Christopher Raeburn**. They were recognized for the vital and effective roles they played as physician champions during the Epic project. The remarks of these three were among the most entertaining of the evening. CT's thank you speech was, of course, a haiku! And Drs. Pell and Raeburn showed the entire audience why they were so successful in their roles as physician champions. Their humor and genuine warmth came through loud and clear.

**Dr. Tom Henthorn**, of the dean's office, received the Presidential Citation for Meritorious Service. Tom helped develop and lead the Act 1 initiative, a quality improvement effort between the school and the hospital, and a truly critical step for the future of our clinical enterprise— great service and not an easy task.

To end the evening, **Sue West** presented **Dr. Fareed Azam** with the Clinical Effectiveness and Patient Safety award. For years, Dr. Azam has worked on patient safety and quality issues, and helped tackle some of our hospital's toughest issues, such as end-of-life and resuscitation policies. What a vital team member for the #1 academic hospital for quality. When it all ended, I felt both honored to work with such great and committed faculty and staff, and a little inferior as well as humbled by our excellence.

**Onward....**Stay tuned next week for some announcements pertaining to our partnership with Poudre Valley!

Have a good week,

Bruce

Your feedback is important, so if there's something on your mind, write to me at [talktome@uch.edu](mailto:talktome@uch.edu)