Dear Colleagues:

With great pleasure, I write to announce the appointment of Stephen C. Cannon, M.D., Ph.D. as Chair of the Department of Physiology in the David Geffen School of Medicine, beginning February 1, 2015. Dr. Cannon is a highly accomplished scientist and educator who was chosen through an intensive national search.

Dr. Cannon serves currently as Professor of Neurology and Associate Dean for Medical Education at UT Southwestern Medical Center (UTSW) in Dallas, Texas. He received a B.S. and M.S. in mechanical engineering from Washington University in St Louis, and then completed M.D. training at Johns Hopkins Medical School. He also received a Ph.D. in Biomedical Engineering from Johns Hopkins. Dr. Cannon was a neurology resident at Massachusetts General Hospital and then a faculty member at Harvard Medical School for 12 years. In 2002, he relocated to Dallas to become the Chairman of Neurology at UTSW, a position he held for eight years.

Research in Dr. Cannon’s laboratory is supported with an NIH MERIT Award and has focused on the mechanistic basis for a group of inherited conditions that alter the electrical excitability of skeletal muscle, including periodic paralysis and myotonia. Dr. Cannon and his group have characterized the gating defects of mutant channels, generated computational models of muscle excitability, and produced genetically-engineered mice to gain insights on the pathomechanisms of these disorders and to explore therapeutic interventions. The lab also has been actively engaged in predoctoral training for graduate students at UTSW in the Program in Neuroscience and the Biomedical Engineering Program. Dr. Cannon has been recognized with many scientific awards and fellowship honors over his career.

As a complement to his great success as a research scientist, Dr. Cannon has been a highly dedicated and decorated educator. In addition to his position as Associate Dean for Medical Education at UTSW, he has served as Chair of the Medical Education Curriculum Committee and Director of the Office of Medical Education since 2010. He received a UT Regents’ Outstanding Teaching Award in 2014, and has received many additional honors for teaching.

In announcing Dr. Cannon’s appointment, I wish to recognize and extend sincere thanks to Professor Emeritus Ken Philipson, an internationally renowned cardiovascular physiologist who provided outstanding leadership as Chair of Physiology from 2000 to 2012. I thank Professor Thomas O’Dell for his exceptional service as Interim Chair for the past two years. And I thank the members of the Search Committee, whose names are listed below. Their dedication and
commitment to the process were essential for the result that has been achieved, and our entire School owes them a debt of gratitude for their hard work.

Please join me as we welcome Dr. Cannon to UCLA and wish him great success in his new position as Chair, Department of Physiology.

Sincerely,

**A. Eugene Washington, M.D., M.Sc.**
Vice Chancellor, UCLA Health Sciences
Dean, David Geffen School of Medicine
Gerald S. Levey, M.D. Endowed Chair

**Physiology Chair Search Committee**
Andrew Charles (Chair), Jeff Abramson, Jorge Barrio, Gay Crooks, Tomas Ganz, Judith Gasson,
Thomas O’Dell, Nancy Wayne, James Weiss