

January 26, 2007

Dear Members of the Keck School of Medicine of USC Community,

Office of the Dean

I am writing you as a follow-up to the communication you received from Provost Nikias regarding my decision to step down as dean of the Keck School of Medicine of USC. I want the entire Keck School community – faculty, staff, students, patients and friends – to know that I remain fully committed to leading the school while we engage in a national search for my successor and during the period of transition when the new dean starts his/her tenure. While this search could conceivably last more than a year, we must remember that we have much work before us and time to accomplish the goals we have outlined together.

While the formal search process is under way, please be assured that I am fully engaged in addressing the challenges and opportunities our school faces. I remain committed to our efforts to build a larger, more robust research community, and I will continue to support efforts to recruit new faculty talent to our campus. We have made great strides in growing our faculty, and we will continue to attract more faculty investigators to our campus in order to build and strengthen our research, educational and clinical enterprises.

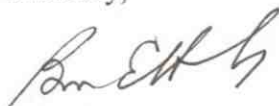
I also remain committed to completing searches for department chairs that we are currently working to fill. We have seen many high quality candidates who can contribute much to their respective departments, and to the Keck School of Medicine as a whole. It is my hope that these chair appointments can be finalized over the next year.

It is my view that a change in leadership is a healthy and natural progression. A new dean will bring fresh insights, ideas and talent that will benefit our medical school community. I see this as a change that will ultimately improve our school.

It is my privilege and distinct honor to lead the Keck School of Medicine of USC, particularly as we work together to build an internationally renowned academic medical center. I take great pride in the achievements we have made together and in the plans we have outlined for the future, most especially plans for the continued campus growth that contributes to our ability to meet our major mission areas – in research, education and patient care.

I urge our entire community to continue in our commitment to excellence, and I welcome your participation as we forge a stronger future.

Sincerely,



Brian E. Henderson, M.D.
May S. and John Hooval Dean's Chair in Medicine
Distinguished Professor of Preventive Medicine
Kenneth T. Norris, Jr. Chair in Cancer Prevention