



Division of Biology and Medicine

Dear Colleagues,

I am pleased to announce that the Board of Fellows unanimously voted to approve the division of the Department of Clinical Neurosciences into two departments: the Department of Neurology and the Department of Neurosurgery. This change will go into effect as of July 1, 2009. Each of the newly created departments will have its own chairperson, well-defined missions and goals, and a well developed and funded infrastructure to support cross-departmental research collaborations, academic mentorship, and clinical excellence.

I firmly believe that the separation of the Department of Clinical Neurosciences into the more traditional independent department structures will enhance academic cross-activity while advancing the independent strengths of each department. A major benefit to this model is the ability to attract distinguished faculty in both neurology and neurosurgery.

We are fortunate to have competent leadership in place that has been working on this challenge. Don Easton, MD, presently chair of Clinical Neurosciences, will be stepping down as chair on June 30, 2009, and will remain professor of neurology. James M. Gilchrist, MD, has been appointed interim chair of Neurology as of June 30, 2009. Curtis Doberstein, MD, presently interim chair of Clinical Neurosciences, will become interim chair of Neurosurgery. The creation of the two separate departments will result in the following changes in faculty titles across all ranks: a Professor of Clinical Neurosciences (Neurology) will become Professor of Neurology and a Professor of Clinical Neurosciences (Neurosurgery) will become Professor of Neurosurgery. Those who currently hold appointments in both departments will have dual appointments.

This proposal has been reviewed by the faculty of the Department of Clinical Neurosciences, who voted unanimously in support of the proposal on August 27, 2008. Letters of support for the proposal have been provided by both Dr. Easton and Dr. Doberstein. This matter was reviewed by the Medical Faculty Executive Council on September 8, 2008, and the Division of BioMed center directors on September 17, 2008. The Council of Clinical Chairs unanimously approved the proposal on September 23, 2008. Subsequent approvals occurred during The Academic Priorities Committee on October 21, 2008 and the Board of Fellows on December 12, 2008.

I am enthusiastic about these two new clinical departments and the enhanced effect they will have on the academic mission of Alpert Medical School.

Sincerely,

Edward J. Wing, MD
Dean Medicine and Biological Sciences
Frank L. Day Professor of Biology
The Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University