

Leadership changes at Wright State

by Mark Willis

Following the untimely death of Harley E. Flack in March, the Wright State University Board of Trustees turned to Wright State's School of Medicine for leadership. On April 9 the trustees selected Kim Goldenberg, M.D., as Wright State's fifth president. Dr. Goldenberg had served as dean of the School of Medicine since 1990; he joined Wright State's faculty in 1983.

Citing the university's need for "strong, focused, fully empowered leadership," Daniel W. Duval, chair of the WSU Board of Trustees and president and CEO of Robbins & Myers, Inc., said, "We know of no one better qualified than Kim Goldenberg for this vital leadership position. We have complete confidence that Dr. Goldenberg is fully capable of leading this university over the long term."

In accepting the appointment, Dr. Goldenberg told the trustees that he planned to carry forward the spirit of community collaboration that has made the School of Medicine a national leader among community-based medical schools. "In the years I have worked at Wright State, one of my most rewarding satisfactions has been working with Wright State's many collaborative partners in the Dayton community," he said. As president of Wright State, I look forward to strengthening and expanding our community partnerships to serve the needs of Dayton and the Miami Valley region."

Also effective April 9, the Wright State trustees appointed Howard M. Part, M.D., as acting dean of the School of Medicine. He had served as associate dean for faculty and clinical affairs since 1995. A general internist, Dr. Part joined Wright State's faculty in 1986.

Subsequently, Margaret M. Dunn, M.D., has been appointed acting associate dean for faculty and clinical affairs. Dr. Dunn is a professor of surgery who joined Wright State's faculty in 1982. A graduate of Jefferson Medical College in Philadelphia, she is a past president of the Association of Women Surgeons and the Dayton Surgical Society.

"I was fortunate to assemble a strong administrative team whodeserve much credit for the medical school's success in meeting its mission," President Goldenberg says. "In this time of transition throughout the university, Dr. Howard Part is well-prepared to carry forward the School of Medicine's leadership in medical education, biomedical research, and service to the community."

Wright State's new acting dean is well-known to the organized medicine community in Dayton. A graduate of the Ohio State University College of Medicine, Dr. Part entered private practice in Dayton in 1986 as a member of Dayton Internal Medicine Associates. His wife, Kristine Kunesh-Part, practices ophthalmology in Dayton with her father, Charles Kunesh, and brothers Michael and John.

Before he came to Dayton, Dr. Part was an instructor of medicine at Ohio State, where he helped to launch OSU's fledgling Division of General Internal Medicine. He describes his years of private practice as a "real-world fellowship" that gave him a fresh perspective on working with generalists and specialists. "My training in general internal medicine gave me the tools I needed to make the transition into private practice. Private

practice provided the experience to sharpen those tools before coming back to academic medicine at Wright State.”

Dr. Part joined Wright State’s voluntary faculty in 1986 as an attending physician who supervised internal medicine residents at Kettering Medical Center. In 1988 he accepted a full-time faculty appointment at Wright State to combine patient care with his love for teaching medicine.

At the time Wright State and the Dayton VA Medical Center were actively recruiting general internists. “That’s when I began to work with Kim Goldenberg and Steve Cohen, now the director of the Dayton VA Medical Center. It was a very creative time for all of us. We developed a new curriculum for residents and medical students in general internal medicine. By studying and reporting how the new curriculum worked, we also made a contribution to the medical education literature.”

Dr. Part held a succession of leadership positions in Wright State’s Department of Medicine. He was chief of the General Medicine Consult Service and director of the Integrated Internal Medicine Residency Program at the Dayton VA Medical Center as well as the department’s vice-chair for medical education. He also served a term as the department’s chair. Along the way he received nine different awards for teaching excellence.

As acting dean, Dr. Part has no plans to give up seeing patients or teaching medicine. He will continue to participate in the Department of Medicine’s case-based discussions and the school of medicine’s fourth-year senior seminar. He will supervise a resident clinic twice a month, and he also hopes to supervise an in-patient team.

“Teaching and patient care are part of who I am,” he says. “I feel like I’d be selling my birth-right to give those two things up.”