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From: Peter Buckley [Peter.Buckley@vcuhealth.org]

Sent: Thursday, March 30, 2017 08:14 PM Eastern Standard Time

To: Shulkin, David J., MD

Cc: John Prescott

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Follow up on your 3/24/17 open letter to academic leaders, thank you for your outreach

Good evening Secretary Shulkin

By way of introduction, Peter Buckley is my name and I am the new Dean of the VCU School of Medicine and I am just beginning my new relationship with our VA partners here in Richmond, tho' as my colleague and friend John Prescott knows well, I also enjoyed strong interactions with the VA in my last job as Dean of the Medical College of Georgia in Augusta Georgia

Firstly, Congratulations on your appointment ... Our academic community was really pleased that you were appointed and we have very much appreciated your continued outreach to us, including most recently again this week (3/24/17 open letter)

We stand ready to support you and your team - both nationally and with our local VA partners (As I'm sure you know, the Hunter Holmes McGuire VA is a Terrific facility) - in attracting, developing, and sustaining the physician workforce for the VA. This is always an opportunity and one where partnering in recruitment is truly a win-win. This also builds upon the VA's already impressive commitment to physician workforce development across the medical student-resident career continuum.

Additionally, other areas of pressing priority where we can partner further include opioids and substance abuse, integrated pain management, and integrative and innovative rehabilitation post injury including of course traumatic brain injury. The fusion of Quality care and innovative science is powerful in these areas. Additionally, we likely could be of assistance in providing care and support for the military subgroup of those veterans returning home with health issues that need to be addressed in the aftermath of a less than favorable military discharge.

I anticipate that you will hear from others about aspects where our current interface is weak - I anticipate that you know these all too well already - and so I thought that instead I would focus on areas of joint opportunity for our unique academic partnership that can improve our local communities as well as our healthcare in general

I hope this is helpful

I look forward to meeting you in due course tho' likely I will get to meet first with your colleague Dr Karen Sanders whom I understand resides here in Richmond

Thank you again for reaching out to us

Best wishes

Respectfully,

Peter

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