New Gerontology and Geriatric Medicine Division Head

The Department of Medicine is pleased to announce the appointment of Dr. Wayne McCormick as the new head of the Division of Gerontology & Geriatric Medicine, effective immediately; Dr. McCormick is also the proposed holder of the William E. Colson Endowed Chair in Gerontology. He follows in the steps of Dr. Itamar Abrass, who led the division for 28 years, and Dr. Alvin Matsumoto, who has been the acting head since 2012.

Dr. McCormick is a graduate of Washington University Medical School in St. Louis and received an MPH here at the University of Washington School of Public Health in Seattle. In medical school he received the Fulbright-Sawyers Scholarship. During his training as an intern, resident and Chief Resident at the Michael Reese Hospital in Chicago, he received the Alfred Pick Award for Academic Excellence.

In 1987 he came to the University of Washington where he completed a Robert Wood Johnson Fellowship and Residency in Preventive Medicine, fellowship in geriatric medicine, and was subsequently appointed to the faculty of the Department of Medicine as an acting assistant professor in 1990. He rose through the ranks to professor in 2005.

Administratively, Dr. McCormick serves as the medical director of Bailey Boushay House, and lead medical director of Providence Hospice of Seattle. He has been section chief of the UW Medicine Long Term Care Service since 1990.

In addition to bedside and clinical teaching, Dr. McCormick coordinates the Long Term Care Service Rotation for UW Primary Care Internal Medicine and Family Medicine Residencies. He serves as a program tutor in the Minorities Medical Education Program, and as a preceptor for the Geriatric Nurse Practitioner Program. He originated and directs the Palliative Medicine Fellowship. He is held in high regard by students, residents, housestaff and fellows, as well as by his peers on the faculty, for his clinical knowledge, patient care,
teaching and overall compassion for patients under his care.

Nationally, he has served as president of the American Academy of Home Care Medicine, and president of the American Geriatrics Society. He is on the editorial board for the Journal of the American Geriatrics Society. Through his research activities he has established a national reputation in both Alzheimer’s disease epidemiology and in health services research in long term care.

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