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IMMEDIATELY
December 14, 2006
Photo available

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Loyola Names New Health System President and CEO Paul Whelton, MD, of Tulane, Brings Academic and Administrative Leadership



(MAYWOOD, IL) December 14, 2006—Paul K. Whelton, MD, senior vice president for health sciences at the Tulane University Health Sciences Center as well as dean of the Tulane University School of Medicine, has been selected as the new president and chief executive officer of Loyola University Health System (LUHS). He will officially join Loyola on Feb. 1, 2007, although he will not be on-site until Feb. 12, 2007.

Whelton is both a professor of epidemiology at the Tulane University School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine and a professor of medicine at the Tulane University School of Medicine. He joined the faculty at Tulane in January of 1997, following 26 years at the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine and its School of Hygiene and Public Health, Baltimore, Maryland. Whelton will fill the vacancy left by Anthony L. Barbato, MD, who is retiring after more than 30 years of service to the health system, including 18 years as its leader.

“Paul Whelton is a strong leader who has the experience and the vision to help Loyola University Health System advance as a world-class Catholic health sciences center,” said Dan Walsh, chair of Loyola University Health System’s board of directors,

who led the search committee. “We believe that Dr. Whelton is a great fit for Loyola, with his proven leadership in both the administrative arena and in the world of academic medicine,” Walsh added.

A native of Cork City, Ireland, Whelton received his medical degree from the

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National University of Ireland, University College Cork, and a master of science degree in epidemiology from the University of London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine. He completed residency training in internal medicine and a nephrology fellowship at the Johns Hopkins Hospital, Baltimore, and a post-doctoral fellowship in epidemiology at the Medical Research Council Epidemiology and Clinical Care Unit, Northwick Park Hospital, Middlesex, England.

Whelton has served as senior vice president for health sciences at Tulane University since 1999. In that role, he was responsible for the overall administrative and academic leadership of the health sciences at Tulane University, including senior oversight for the Tulane University School of Medicine and the School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine. He also has served as dean of the Tulane University School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine from 1997 to 2000 and dean of the Tulane University School of Medicine from 2000 to 2001 and since 2005. During his tenure as senior vice president at Tulane, Whelton has helped to strengthen the health sciences center’s clinical, educational and research programs, including a three-fold increase in funding from the National Institutes of Health. He also helped the medical school to withstand the effects of Hurricane Katrina, ensuring maintenance of its mission-critical functions throughout the catastrophe and a vibrant renewal over the course of the last 15 months.

“Dr. Whelton's experience and successes at two major health centers--Johns Hopkins and Tulane--are indicative of the talent and dedication that this man brings to the work of medical education, patient care and research,” said the Rev. Michael J. Garanzini, SJ, president, Loyola University Chicago. “I could not be more pleased that he will be leading Loyola University Health System into the future,” he added.

As a physician-researcher, Whelton has ascended to a level of international prominence. He has conducted a series of ground-breaking studies on the prevention and treatment of hypertension for the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute, the National

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Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases and the National Institute on Aging. Well-published and a frequent presenter and lecturer at scientific meetings, Whelton has served as a consultant to numerous national and international health agencies and governments.

“Beyond being a strong administrator and academic leader, Dr. Whelton is a national and international authority on the epidemiology, prevention and treatment of cardiovascular and renal disease. His reputation as a physician and researcher extends far beyond the boundaries of Tulane. We know that his exceptional skills and knowledge will help to inspire our health system administration and faculty and more firmly position Loyola as a leader in the world of academic medicine,” Walsh said.

Loyola University Health System, a wholly owned subsidiary of Loyola University Chicago (LUC), includes the private teaching hospital at Loyola University Medical Center (LUMC), 14 specialty and primary care centers in the western and southwestern suburbs, the Loyola Ambulatory Surgery Center at Oakbrook and the Loyola Oakbrook Terrace Imaging Center; and serves as co-owner-operator of RML Specialty Hospital, a long-term-care facility for ventilator-dependent patients in suburban Hinsdale, Ill. Loyola is nationally recognized for its specialty care and groundbreaking research in cancer, neurological disorders, neonatology and the treatment of heart disease. The 61-acre medical center campus in Maywood, Ill., includes the 523-licensed bed Loyola University Hospital with a Level I trauma center, the region’s largest burn unit, one of the Midwest’s most comprehensive organ transplant programs, the Russo Surgical Pavilion and the Ronald McDonald Children’s Hospital of LUMC. Also on campus are Loyola’s Center for Heart & Vascular Medicine, the Cardinal Bernardin Cancer Center, Loyola Outpatient Center and LUC Stritch School of Medicine. The medical school includes the Cardiovascular Institute, Oncology Institute, Burn & Shock Trauma Institute, Neuroscience Institute and the Neiswanger Institute for Bioethics and Health Policy.