Dear Friends,

The Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine is pleased to announce that Omai B. Garner, Ph.D. has been appointed as the Pritzker Endowed Chair in education and clinical innovation.

As a leader in clinical innovation, Dr. Garner’s impressive educational and mentoring activities influence a wide range of physicians and scientists, including medical students, and clinical fellows at UCLA. He directs the UCLA Clinical Microbiology Laboratory and directs Point-of-Care testing for the UCLA Health System. Dr. Garner led the development of the Clinical Laboratory Ebola Preparedness effort, implementing a mobile isolation point-of-care testing platform to be used for patients suspected of hemorrhagic viral infection. He has an impressive record of collaboration with colleagues in Engineering and the California Nanosystems Institute, developing novel technologies to perform point-of-care testing for diabetes and heart disease, specifically for use with patients in underserved communities. With the Engineering group, Dr. Garner is also creating mobile devices to perform microbial identification and test anti-microbial susceptibility for use in the developing world. He also has a major teaching role in the School of Medicine, as a Block Chair for Block 6 in Human Biology and Disease pre-clinical curriculum. Dr. Garner is the program director for the Clinical Microbiology Fellowship and teaches Pathology residents and Infectious Disease fellows from both Medicine and Pediatrics departments. His mentorship and teaching extends beyond the campus to the Los Angeles community; he is a founder and President of the Board of Directors for the Social Justice Learning Institute, a non-profit organization that focuses on education equity. Dr. Garner leads a summer program for high school youth of color from underserved areas that introduces them to various types of careers in health care.

Please join me in congratulating Dr. Garner on this prestigious appointment.

Sincerely,

Sarah Dry, MD
Professor and Interim Chair