

# Keck School of Medicine of USC

**ROHIT VARMA, M.D., M.P.H.**

*Dean*

*May S. and John Hoover Dean's Chair in Medicine  
Grace and Emery Beardsley Chair in Ophthalmology*

November 16, 2016

To the Faculty, Staff and Students of the Keck School of Medicine,

I write today to thank you. The opportunity to serve the Keck School of Medicine as dean is an enormous privilege, and one that I undertake with humility and gratitude.

For me, two factors in particular magnify the excitement of this opportunity. The first is the extraordinary community of people who make up the Keck School of Medicine family. It is an honor to work among this community of brilliant and caring women and men. Your talent, ingenuity and dedication — to healing, to creativity, to our school and to one another — are remarkable, and they are the primary assets that will continue to propel us forward.

The second is that this is a time unlike any other in the history of medicine, and the Keck School of Medicine is already poised to lead health into its next generation. The accelerating convergence of medicine with engineering, biotechnology, data science, mobile technology, cloud computing and other disciplines has produced innovations that are saving lives and dramatically improving health. And USC's established strengths in these areas will foster collaboration that leads us to pioneer advances in the years to come.

In President Nikias we are fortunate to have a visionary leader who has established a mission to secure USC's standing among the world's very best academic health centers for patient care and the creation of new science — and who has provided us with the resources to make this vision a reality. As he has said, our university has, over the past several years, “irreversibly committed the entire, worldwide Trojan family, in perpetuity, to taking a leadership role in the human health revolution.”

Given the talent, resources and commitment at our disposal, my overriding priority for the Office of the Dean will be to facilitate the excellent work of our faculty, staff and students. Our office will maintain an open-door policy, and we will operate with transparency in our decision-making.

**University of Southern California**

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Finally, I ask for your help in ensuring that all of us at the Keck School of Medicine treat one another with dignity and respect. Differences of opinion are vital and fundamental to any great academic enterprise. But to every disagreement, let us also bring trust and understanding, and let us recognize the great value that each colleague brings to our Trojan family.

I truly appreciate the overwhelming support I have received from our Trojan family during the past several months and the trust that President Nikias, Provost Quick, the dean's search committee and you have placed in me. I look forward to all that we will accomplish together.

With gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rohit Varma". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "R" and "V".

Rohit Varma, MD, MPH