

Message from Mr. Brian Porter, Chair of the UHN Board of Trustees

Several weeks ago, Dr. Peter Pisters informed me that he had been approached by The University of Texas System to consider the role of President at The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center – a position that was vacated in the spring of 2017. Earlier this month, the University of Texas System search for the MD Anderson President was narrowed to four candidates, one of which was Peter. In our discussions involving Peter, John Mulvihill, and the rest of the UHN Board Governance and Nominating Committee, we recognized that this was an opportunity that Peter could not ignore, given his 20-year history as a clinician, researcher, and executive at MD Anderson and given MD Anderson’s global reputation.

Today, following a full day meeting, The University of Texas System Board of Regents voted unanimously to name Dr. Peter Pisters as the sole finalist in the global search for President of the University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center. By regulations of the State of Texas, this Board of Regents outcome was made public in Texas this afternoon and this is why I am sending this note to everyone at UHN. We know that many people across the United States and in the global oncology community have friends and colleagues in Toronto and that this news will travel quickly.

Peter will be speaking to Board Members and members of his leadership team over the weekend and to all of you in his Looking Ahead on Monday. I know that this is the only role that Peter would consider at this time in his leadership tenure at UHN. Indeed, the prominence and stature of UHN is reflected in the reality that global searches for iconic institutions like The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center seek talent from UHN.

State law in Texas provides for a 21-day period after the announcement of sole finalist and before the selection of President and confirmation by the University of Texas Board of Regents. Assuming Peter’s selection is confirmed, Peter has let me know that he will be at UHN for three months following that period while we start the search for UHN’s next President and CEO. I look forward to continuing to work with Peter and his team and to speaking with many of you about our next steps in the process of leadership transition.

We also recognize that this is unfortunate for UHN as Peter and his team are over two and a half years into the process of renewal and they have made remarkable progress during this time. Indeed, we have seen extraordinary gains in all areas of our mission under Peter’s leadership. UHN’s Board of Trustees is committed to ensure that we capitalize on the significant work that has been done to date and Peter has committed to the Board to ensure an orderly transition. Peter, the UHN Board and I are determined that UHN continues to be able to fulfil our purpose of transforming lives and communities through excellence in care, discovery, and learning.

I hope you will join me and the UHN Board of Trustees in congratulating Peter on this extraordinary opportunity. The entire UHN community is committed to continue to build on the period of renewal that has taken place under his extraordinary leadership.

Brian Porter
Chair, UHN Board of Trustees