

**A Message from the Executive Vice President, Provost and
Dean, School of Medicine**

March 31, 2014

I am happy to announce that Elena Volpi, MD, PhD, has agreed to continue leading the Sealy Center on Aging (SCOA) as its Director, effective March 1, 2015. Dr. Volpi has successfully been serving as SCOA's Interim Director for the past year.

SCOA was recently re-designated a World Health Organization/Pan American Health Organization Collaborating Center on Aging and Health, and is the home of the Claude D. Pepper Older Americans Independence Center, the Comparative Effectiveness Research on Cancer in Texas (CERCIT) program, the Patient-Centered Outcomes Research (PCOR) in the Elderly program, the East Texas Geriatric Education Center Consortium (ETGEC-C), the Pre- and Post-Doctoral Training Program on the Health of Older Minorities, the Medical Student Training in Research (MSTAR) program, the RSVP Volunteer program, and the Center for Spirituality of Aging.

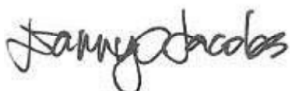
Dr. Volpi is the Daisy Emery Allen Distinguished Chair in Geriatric Medicine and Professor in the Departments of Internal Medicine-Geriatrics, Neuroscience & Cell Biology and Nutrition & Metabolism. She is also Director of the National Institute on Aging-funded UTMB Claude D. Pepper Older Americans Independence Center and Associate Director of the Institute for Translational Sciences.

A world-renowned expert in clinical and translational research on sarcopenia and functional recovery in older adults, Dr. Volpi's major scientific contributions to research on aging include the discovery of pathways that lead to loss of muscle mass and strength; the identification of therapeutic targets; and testing novel nutritional, exercise and pharmacological interventions in clinical trials to improve physical function and independence in geriatric patients. She has published more than 100 papers in prestigious, peer-reviewed journals and serves as Associate Editor of Clinical Nutrition.

Continuously funded as Principal Investigator by the National Institutes of Health for more than 15 years, Dr. Volpi is also the clinical site Principal Investigator of the \$30 million fall prevention STRIDE Study funded by the National Institute on Aging and Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute. As Chair of our Clinical Trials Steering Committee, she is active in promoting clinical trials at our institution. Dr. Volpi has been involved in several national and international consensus panels on nutritional recommendations for older adults and has participated in numerous NIH study sections. Recognized as an outstanding mentor, Dr. Volpi has trained many successful junior scientists who have become independent academic investigators funded by NIH. Among her many accolades is the Brookdale National Leadership on Aging award. She is a Fellow and Chair of the Fellowship Committee of the Gerontological Society of America.

Please join me in thanking Dr. Volpi for taking on this role and wishing her continued success in leading the Sealy Center on Aging.

Sincerely yours,



Danny O. Jacobs, MD, MPH, FACS
Executive Vice President, Provost and
Dean of the School of Medicine
Thomas N. & Gleaves T. James Distinguished Chair