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Dear Colleagues,

With mixed feelings, I write to announce that Dr. Macaran Baird, Head of the Department of Family Medicine and Community Health, has let me know of his intention to retire in June of 2017. Dr. Baird has led the department for the past 15 years through a time of significant change in healthcare, with distinction. The Department of Family Medicine and Community Health is our highest ranking department, known for impactful research, highly qualified and dedicated educators, and service to Minnesota.

Dr. Baird is a tremendous advocate for his faculty, for primary care and integrative medicine, and for this Medical School. During his time as head, the Department increased faculty, residency programs, fellowships and research productivity. In addition to an impressive NIH ranking, FMCH residency clinics are certified healthcare homes and the Department has recently been named by the American Academy of Family Physicians as the country's leader in producing family medicine physicians.

Mac has held many leadership positions within national and community professional organizations, including the Minnesota Medical Association and the American Academy of Family Physicians. He has received multiple awards for his impact on the field and family medicine education. He is a passionate advocate for quality health care, access to primary care, faculty and students. I will miss his counsel and friendship.

Within the coming weeks, I will launch a national search for the next leader of the department. I am committed to continuing the level of excellence and service instilled by Dr. Baird and look forward to working with our faculty on this search and the next steps for FMCH. Please join me in thanking Dr. Baird for his service to the University of Minnesota Medical School.

Sincerely,

Brooks Jackson, MD, MBA
Dean of the Medical School
Vice President for Health Sciences

Read more about Dr. Baird's career