Dear Colleagues:

Happy New Year!

2015 has come in like a lion, with record numbers of patients coming to UCSF for care – a phenomenon that has been experienced by many hospitals across the state and region. Last week we set a record for number of inpatients at Parnassus and Mt Zion, at over 600. That is a testament to the confidence our community has in the medical staff and team at UCSF, which is terrific. Unfortunately, the high census also meant we had many patients boarding in the Emergency Department and PACU for extended periods of time, which is far from ideal for patients, their families, our physicians and our staff.

I want to acknowledge the faculty, housestaff and staff in the Emergency Department, ORs and PACU, ICU’s, OB and medical/surgical units that have been impacted by the high census at Parnassus and Mt. Zion. I know it has not been easy, but more beds will become available when we open the new Mission Bay hospitals in two weeks. On behalf of the thousands of patients you have helped during this extraordinary period, thank you for the great care you have provided.

Our record census comes at a time when we are getting ready to open, on February 1st, the new UCSF Benioff Children’s Hospital at Mission Bay, along with the Bakar Cancer Hospital and the Betty Irene Moore Women’s Hospital. On January 26th, we will begin seeing outpatients at Mission Bay in the Ron Conway Family Gateway Medical Building.

In the coming two weeks, there will be many moves that will occur. First, in anticipation of inpatients moving to Mission Bay and our conversion of Mt. Zion to an ambulatory care campus, medicine patients at Mt. Zion will move back to Parnassus between January 25th and January 31st. On Sunday, February 1st, all the children and OB patients, as well as certain other cancer patients will move, via ambulance, to Mission Bay. The logistics of all of these moves is extraordinarily complex, especially at a time of high census. I hope you will join me in thanking the teams of physicians, nurses and other staff who have planned the logistics of all these moves and will execute on those plans in the coming days.

It is likely that even when we open Mission Bay, and even with some vacated beds immediately being used for adults, we will be operating at nearly fully capacity at Parnassus for several weeks. We expect this capacity problem to diminish somewhat as beds are vacated by the services moving to Mission Bay. As always, we appreciate the help of all clinical services to promptly discharge patients when appropriate, and to consider delaying truly elective admissions until February 10th when some of those additional beds come online.

I also wanted to share with you that last Saturday night, in a huge tent at Mission Bay; we had our opening gala celebrating those who worked on this project, as well as the donors who helped finance it. The event, which was entirely paid for by private funds, was a touching acknowledgement of the work that will go on in the halls of this new hospital. I announced our most recent generous gift to the project -- $40 million from Ron and Gayle Conway, naming the Ron Conway Family Gateway Medical Building, which will open on January 26, 2015. This joins the Bakar Cancer Hospital, the Betty Irene Moore Women’s Hospital, and the Benioff Children’s Hospital San Francisco. Of the $1.5 billion project cost, we set an unprecedented fundraising goal of $600 million – and we are now at $550 million raised from our communities.
incredibly generous community. I was particularly pleased to acknowledge the great Chuck Feeney, who leads Atlantic Philanthropies, who got us started with a $125 million matching gift several years ago.

Among others on the program were three patients, representing women’s, children and cancer, talking about the incredible care they received at UCSF and their excitement at the new Mission Bay hospital complex. People admire what you do at UCSF every day, and are proud to be associated with it – and that was never more apparent than to the 1000 people who joined us on Saturday evening.

I hope that you are all able to take a moment to reflect on what an incredible institution UCSF is -- at every site, and how fortunate we all are to be part of it. I am very proud to serve on your team.

On behalf of Chancellor Hawgood and the entire campus leadership, thank you for your continued support of our missions and in particular, your dedication to the patients we serve. Here’s to a great 2015!

Sincerely,

Mark R. Laret
CEO
UCSF Medical Center
UCSF Benioff Children’s Hospitals