

## MEMORANDUM

**To:** The Downstate Community

**From:** John C. LaRosa, M.D., FACP  
President

Ian L. Taylor, M.D., Ph.D.  
Senior Vice President for Biomedical Education and Research and  
Dean of the College of Medicine

**Date:** April 19, 2010

**Re:** The Appointment of Dr. Antonio Alfonso as Professor and Chair of Surgery

It is with the greatest enthusiasm that we write to you to announce the appointment of Dr. Antonio Alfonso to the position of Chairman of the Department of Surgery, effective immediately. This is an exceptionally appropriate appointment as Dr. Alfonso has been a leading member of our faculty in the department for many years and is a gifted teacher and clinician. We are very grateful that Dr. Alfonso has agreed to accept this new responsibility, in addition to his current role as head of the department at the Long Island College Hospital.

Dr. Alfonso is an academician of outstanding accomplishments who has made extraordinary contributions to the Medical Center, to the Brooklyn Community and to the City. In his 35 continuous years at the SUNY Downstate Medical Center, Dr. Alfonso has served as Vice Chairman of the SUNY Downstate Department of Surgery for more than 20 years, concurrent with his tenure as Chairman of Surgery at the Long Island College Hospital (LICH).

Since he assumed the leadership role, the LICH surgery department has grown from two faculty members to 12 in 6 divisions of the department. He has focused on surgical resident education and garnered a regional and national reputation as surgical educator. As Surgical Residency Program Director at Long Island College Hospital, Dr. Alfonso oversaw the day to day training of all SUNY Downstate surgical residents rotating at the institution and is responsible for overall site coordination of SUNY Downstate Medical Center 3<sup>rd</sup> year student clerkship rotations at LICH. He also continues to supervise independent research that addresses major clinical issues and his recent projects with Surgical Residents have resulted in yearly publications or presentations at National Scientific meetings. Dr. Alfonso has continued his clinical research in thyroid disorders

and thyroid cancer

Dr. Alfonso was distinguished by the residents and fellows with the 2007 *Faculty Honoree Award* in Surgery for SUNY Downstate Medical Center, and the **Golden Apple Faculty Award, Best Teacher**, 1994. Dr. Alfonso's valued contributions to their education have been acknowledged by the graduating residents at every Surgical Residency Graduation Ceremony for the past 26 years.

For over a decade, Dr. Alfonso held the prestigious distinction of Governor-at-Large of the American College of Surgeons. He has served as President of multiple professional organizations that have included the New York Surgical Society, the New York Cancer Society, the New York Head and Neck Society, the Brooklyn Surgical Society and the Triboro Directors of Surgery Association. He co-authored the textbook, *The Practice of Cancer Surgery*, and has two motion picture exhibits in the American College of Surgeons Film Library. He has published over 60 peer reviewed scientific papers and book chapters, and has served on the editorial boards of scientific journals that include the Cancer Journal and the New York State Journal of Medicine.

In summary, Dr. Antonio Alfonso has consistently demonstrated the high ideals associated with SUNY Downstate Medical Center and we are delighted to be able to welcome him to the ranks of our department chairs in the College of Medicine. We hope you will extend him an equally warm welcome and offer him your full support as he takes up this significant and demanding new role.