THE NEXT FIVE YEARS

OHSU is moving into a new era. Our work will be defined by health reform and the decline in public resources, and we will be challenged in profound ways. Yet we are well positioned to succeed because of the achievements of the past five years. Past success is the best predictor of future success.

LOOKING BACK

Progress in recent years has occurred amid a series of setbacks: the loss of tort cap protection (from December, 2007 until legislative action to raise and restore the cap in 2009), the cyclical global economic downturn that began in fall 2008, and the structural changes in the economy that are propelling health care reform and reduced public funding.

OHSU laid the groundwork for success in 2007 by adopting Vision 2020, a roadmap for achieving future goals in a rapidly changing world. The emphasis is on innovation and collaboration:

“OHSU will partner to make Oregon a national leader in health and science innovation for the purpose of improving the health and well-being of all Oregonians.”

Collaboration makes the most out of limited resources. OHSU has fostered closer ties to communities throughout Oregon and Southwest Washington, allowing residents to receive care close to home when possible but access OHSU’s unique complex care when necessary.

OHSU has joined forces with partners in Salem and Vancouver, Astoria and The Dalles, among others. Closer to home, we are charting a new course in collaborating on oncology with Legacy Health.

In education and research, OHSU formed a strategic alliance with Portland State University to better meet the state’s educational needs. We successfully launched construction on the Collaborative Life Sciences Building in partnership with Portland State, the Oregon University System, and Oregon State University. We also established the Living Laboratory for Cell Biology in conjunction with FEI, a local scientific instruments company.

This focus on collaboration has put OHSU ahead of most academic health centers and played a key role in recent success.
Progress can be measured in a variety of ways, but the most important is the growth of the missions:

- OHSU treats more patients and educates more students than ever.
- The trend in research grants is up.
- OHSU’s nearly 14,000 employees touch the lives of Oregonians in all 36 counties.
- Philanthropy has grown significantly —
  - $40 million anonymous gift to medical education
  - $100 million gift by Phil and Penny Knight to the OHSU Knight Cancer Institute
  - $25 million gift by Bob and Charlee Moore to establish the Moore Institute for Nutrition and Wellness
  - More than $27 million in gifts, including $10 million from Gene and Bonnie Skourtes, enabled the building of a new OHSU School of Dentistry in the Collaborative Life Sciences Building.

In addition, OHSU has strengthened its community ties and environmental leadership. The Portland Aerial Tram increased connections between Marquam Hill, South Waterfront and the rest of Portland. OHSU is a recognized leader in supporting bicyclists and other alternative commuters, promoting a tobacco-free campus, and sustainability and green building practices.

OHSU has been vocal and active in the health reform conversation, supporting the goals of increased access and quality and reduced costs. Yet while there are challenges in this process — and financial risks — OHSU is poised to lead. As Oregon’s only academic health center, we have a special obligation to lead change — developing new systems of care, new methods of training for providers and more rapid ways to apply science. And while there will be setbacks along the way, we know that we have the right people in place to help us emerge from this period stronger than ever.

LOOKING FORWARD

FIND OUT MORE
If you missed the April 5 Town Hall, with presentations from the president, chief financial officer and provost describing OHSU in the next five years, view the video on Staff News (just search for “Town Hall”).

Next up: Learn how health care reform will affect all of us.