

As a department we want to extend our congratulations to Dr. Rodriguez from the Division of Family Medicine on his new appointment as Interim Associate Vice President for Health Equity and Inclusion. We know he will do a great job in this new position. For further information regarding Dr. Rodriguez's appointment, please see the below letter written and sent by A. Lorris Betz, MD, PhD on Wednesday, August 1.

*Dear Colleagues,*

*It is my pleasure to announce that José E. Rodríguez, MD, has been appointed interim Associate Vice President for Health Equity and Inclusion. Dr. Rodríguez will be filling the role vacated earlier this year by Dr. Ana María López. Dr. Rodríguez is a professor in the Department of Family and Preventive Medicine. He has an impressive background in diversity work within the health care arena.*

*While at the University of Utah, Dr. Rodríguez has taken a strong role in advancing the institutional goals for health equity and inclusion. Within his department, he has served on the diversity committee, as well as various recruitment committees, supporting focused recruitment of underrepresented ethnic and racial minority (URM) faculty and residents. At the institutional level, he has served as a member of the Core Collaborative for the Office of Health Equity and Inclusion. He has represented the university presenting at national conferences on our work and his research on diversity initiatives.*

*Prior to his appointment at the University of Utah, Dr. Rodríguez served as the co-chair of the Council on Diversity and Inclusion and the co-director for the Center for Underrepresented Minorities in Academic Medicine at Florida State University College of Medicine. His academic achievements include publishing several articles on the importance of URM's in academic medicine.*

*Dr. Rodríguez noted that he is looking forward to capitalizing on the tremendous work that has already been done here, and he is eager to build on those efforts as we move toward a more diverse campus for health sciences students and faculty.*

*Please join me in congratulating Dr. Rodríguez on this interim appointment.*

*Sincerely,*

*A. Lorris Betz, MD, PhD*

*Interim*

*CEO, University of Utah Health*

*Executive Dean, University of Utah School of Medicine*

*Senior Vice President for Health Sciences*