

## Christopher J. Cooper, M.D.

Executive Vice President for Clinical Affairs
Dean of the College of Medicine & Life Sciences
Vice Provost for Educational Health Affairs

Mail Stop 1018 3000 Arlington Avenue Toledo, OH 43614 Phone: 419.381.4243 Fax: 419.381.6100 christopher.cooper@utoledo.edu www.utoledo.edu

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## Advancing our Medical Education Mission

The Academic Affiliation Agreement signed in 2015 was critical to safeguard and grow our medical education programs, retain highly qualified and much-needed medical professionals in our region and elevate the stature of Toledo as a strong academic medical community. It was the result of a thorough and deliberate process to grow and increase the national stature of UToledo's College of Medicine and Life Sciences.

I've dedicated my professional career to medical education, research and patient care. I was proud to work with my colleagues, University leadership, and the Board of Trustees in creating this opportunity for the College. Since 2015, we have:

- Doubled our faculty and tripled the number of hospital beds available for our learners to gain valuable clinical experiences;
- Increased the number of students applying to the College and increased the number of M.D. graduates staying locally for their residencies and fellowships that keeps needed medical talent in our community;
- Expanded residency programs and we have created new training programs.

It is important to clarify that the College of Medicine and Life Sciences is not a hospital, it is a medical college. Despite what some might propose, our college's faculty and learners have always been active outside our University's hospital in other clinics, hospitals and health systems across our region since our inception as the Medical College of Ohio.

Unfortunately, there appears to be continued confusion regarding UTMC and the Academic Affiliation. The Ohio Attorney General's Office was consulted throughout the creation of the Affiliation Agreement to ensure there were no anti-competitive concerns. Throughout the implementation, the University has remained diligent in avoiding these issues.

The leadership of the University and I welcome actionable suggestions from our elected officials or members of the community that will help the University of Toledo's College of Medicine and Life Sciences achieve our mission to improve health in the communities and region we serve.

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