

Harold L. Paz, M.D.
Chief Executive Officer
Senior Vice President for Health Affairs, and Dean

Dear Colleagues,

Over the last five years, Penn State Milton S. Hershey Medical Center and College of Medicine has made amazing strides in developing the neurosciences. Our efforts in research, education, patient care, and community outreach include many programs and services that rival the best in the country. We have created new departments in neurology and neurosurgery and successfully recruited outstanding department chairs and faculty members into these departments, as well as in the Departments of Neural and Behavioral Sciences and Psychiatry. We have built the Neuroscience Intensive Care Unit and Intermediate Care Unit, developed the 30 Hope Drive facility, and established the Pennsylvania Psychiatric Institute. Our educational efforts in the neurosciences for M.D. and Ph.D. students, resident physicians and fellows, and neuroscience nursing have gained national recognition. Our neuroscience research, from discovery science in the laboratory to clinical trials, has grown dramatically.

Building on this momentum, we are pleased to announce the formation of the Penn State Hershey Neuroscience Institute (PSHNI). The PSHNI will be a comprehensive neuroscience institute that integrates basic, translational and clinical research; graduate student, medical student and resident education; and the clinical care of patients with neurological and neurobehavioral disorders. We will serve as a resource for outreach to the local community and to state, regional, national, and international neuroscience organizations.

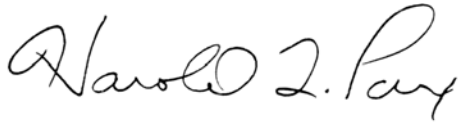
The neurosciences have been established as a priority in our strategic plan of the Medical Center. We believe that the PSHNI is an essential step in advancing the neurosciences by improving collaboration among members of the Departments of Neural and Behavioral Science, Neurology, Neurosurgery, and Psychiatry; the neuroscience divisions of other clinical departments and faculty members in any department who are engaged in neuroscience research, education, or patient care.

The PSHNI will advocate for the neurosciences at the Medical Center and College of Medicine, increasing our visibility and reputation at the national and international level. This Institute will be instrumental in developing relationships with local and regional academic institutions and health care providers to accommodate the growing demand for neuroscience research, education, and patient care. Development of the PSHNI will also facilitate collaboration with the neuroscience community across Penn State University and facilitate the expansion and growth of our unified university-wide Neuroscience Institute. We envision the PSHNI as a nationally recognized center of excellence in research, patient care, and teaching in all neuroscience disciplines.

I am pleased to announce that Robert E. Harbaugh, M.D., University Distinguished Professor and chair of the Department of Neurosurgery, will lead this initiative as director of the new Institute. Colin Barnstable, Ph.D., professor and chair of the Department of Neural and Behavioral Science, will assume the role as the Institute's scientific director and David Good, M.D., professor and chair of the Department of Neurology, will serve as clinical director for PSHNI. Working together, this team will foster translational research in the neurosciences by creating multidisciplinary Centers within the Institute that cross departmental lines.

I am also pleased to announce that the new Center for Emerging Neurotechnology and Imaging is the first to be created within the new Institute. Led by Greg Moore, M.D., Ph.D., the Center will focus on developing rapid, image guided, neurochemical and molecular interventional techniques that have the potential to evaluate and transform clinical treatment in neuropsychiatry, neurology, neurosurgery, neuroradiology, neuro-oncology, neonatology, and others. Other Centers are being developed.

The Penn State Hershey Medical Center and College of Medicine has the faculty, students, staff, and other resources to be a leader in neuroscience. We believe that PSHNI will allow us to leverage these resources in a way that will make us a national model for an integrated institute in the neurosciences.



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