

In support of these objectives, the Office of Multicultural Affairs (OMCA) will transition to become the new Center for Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (CEDI). The leader of CEDI will hold the dual title of director of CEDI and chief diversity officer (CDO) for the School of Medicine. OMCA has very effectively focused on increasing and supporting diversity among our medical students. The role of the CEDI will be to promote diversity and inclusion for faculty, trainees, students and SOM staff.

David Acosta, formerly associate dean for multicultural affairs, has agreed to serve as the chief diversity officer and director of CEDI. He began in these roles on Jan. 1, 2012. David's immediate task is transitioning OMCA to CEDI. He will also fulfill many other leadership roles in support of diversity, including: working with departments and units to identify diversity leads; developing department-specific metrics to track diversity and inclusion and to identify and prioritize goals to be measured; surveying SOM units for successful "best practices" initiatives and disseminating these; promoting new initiatives related to diversity; developing a toolkit for widespread use to improve diversity and inclusion in all departments and units; and meeting regularly with chairs and unit leaders to provide assistance in improving diversity.

In addition, Dr. Ramsey appointed an executive steering committee for CEDI, chaired by Dr. Carlos A. Pellegrini. This committee will provide oversight for the CDO to transition the current activities of OMCA to CEDI; provide ongoing advice and direction regarding CEDI; seek input from departments regarding membership of CEDI's Advisory Board; and serve as an executive committee for CEDI's advisory board.

The School of Medicine also recently established a new standing committee, the Committee on Minority Faculty Affairs chaired by Dr. Leah Backhus, UW assistant professor in the Department of Surgery. This committee is addressing the professional and development needs of our faculty from underrepresented groups in medicine and biomedical sciences and highlighting the needs of minority faculty to aid in the recruitment and retention of underrepresented faculty.<sup>i</sup>

The Department of Surgery is exceedingly proud of Drs. Pellegrini and Backhus for their work and these appointments and look forward to the future developments from these committees.

<sup>i</sup> From Dr. Paul Ramsey's February 3, 2012 Message

## UW Spin-out Born Out of Doctor's Frustration with Paper-Based Records



**Erik Van Eaton, MD, FACS**  
Assistant Professor

The University of Washington is spinning out a new startup company by the name of TransformativeMed which has developed a new way for physicians to more effectively communicate about their patients. The technology – currently in operation at more than a half dozen hospitals, including Harborview Medical Center, the University of Washington Medical Center and Sinai Grace Hospital – works with the hospital's existing electronic medical record system. The company – founded by **Dr. Erik Van Eaton**, assistant professor of surgery at the UW, and David Stone – said it plans to have more than 20 customers in its first year and achieve profitability.

Dr. Van Eaton came up with the idea and built an early prototype in 2003 as a first-year UW surgical intern, noting that he was frustrated by the inefficient way daily patient updates were prepared for residents and attending physicians making hospital rounds. "It was clear at the time that we were going to need an electronic solution to manage what would become increasingly complex care-team transitions," said Van Eaton in a press release. "The current process of paper, email and Excel simply wasn't going to be efficient or safe."

The company said that the majority of hospitals in the U.S. do not have an electronic system to manage how physicians sign-out and hand-off patients to one another, with many relying on paper-based systems or Excel spreadsheets. Advisors to the company include Ken Myer, former CEO of the Washington Technology Industry Association, and Rob Arnold, CEO of Geospiza.

*Story by John Cook from GeekWire*