Dear colleagues,

I am writing to inform you that despite making steady progress toward a new long-term agreement, Tenet Healthcare Corp. management in Dallas communicated to me that it has decided to end contract negotiations and dissolve the decades-long relationship between the Detroit Medical Center and Wayne State University, beginning with the Wayne State University Physician Group (WSUPG).

This came as a surprise to Wayne State and WSUPG, as we were working toward a mutually beneficial, long-term contract that would allow Tenet to continue meeting its financial goals while allowing WSU to develop additional partnerships with health care entities that share the vision of creating a cutting-edge academic health sciences center. This outcome would have served the goals of both entities and ensured the continuity of Wayne State and WSUPG physicians’ presence on the DMC campus.

We are disappointed with this outcome, but we have offered to work with Tenet to ensure a smooth transition. Unwinding a partnership that has endured for decades is a complex undertaking and may take several years of hard work.

Our highest priorities in this transition are patients, students and physicians. We will do all we can to ensure patient care is uninterrupted, and we will provide all reasonable assistance toward a safe and smooth transition to alternative providers as that is Tenet’s desire and intent.

Medical students and residents can be assured that their education will not be affected. The existing contracts that govern residency programs and undergraduate medical education ensure that: a) current residencies are taught to completion and graduation, and b) current undergraduate medical students will complete the hospital portion of their education without interruption. In addition, we have many undergraduate teaching sites, and others in development. We are confident that these expanded opportunities will translate into an even greater educational experience for our medical students. The education of physicians is our primary mission; we will never compromise that mission.

Our physicians should also know that we will ensure continuity of their salaries and benefits as we navigate through this transition.

This is complicated, but the bottom line in this situation is that we are guided by our mission, our integrity and our core values. I don’t have a crystal ball, but I can tell you that I am confident in our leadership, our doctors, our researchers and our educators.
We will continue moving forward toward our vision of building a health care delivery and education model that is foundational and transformational.

I appreciate your support.

M. Roy Wilson
President
Wayne State University