Dear Colleagues:

It is our great pleasure to announce the appointment of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, M.D., as our newest Professor of Thoracic Surgery and Chair of the Department of Thoracic Surgery in the Section of Surgical Sciences.

Dr. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ is a nationally renowned thoracic cancer surgeon who specializes in minimally invasive Thoracic Surgery. An outstanding leader, educator and mentor, Dr. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ has cultivated an esteemed national reputation. We look forward to supporting his vision to grow our Thoracic Surgery Department into one of the premier centers in the country.

Dr. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ completed his undergraduate studies at the University of Alabama (UAB) in 1990, graduating summa cum laude. In 1995, he earned his medical degree from the University of Alabama School of Medicine. He completed his residency in Surgery at UAB Hospitals, where he completed two research years and served as Administrative Chief Resident. He then completed a Thoracic Surgery residency at University of Michigan Hospitals, a Minimally Invasive Thoracic Surgery Fellowship at Cedars Sinai Hospital, and he completed his General Thoracic Surgery Fellowship at the University of Michigan.

Dr. \_\_\_\_\_\_ was promoted to Assistant Professor of Thoracic Surgery at Michigan where he served from 2005-08. He established their Minimally Invasive Thoracic Surgery Program and performed their first thoracoscopic lobectomy. In 2008, he was recruited to Emory University where he founded the Emory Robotic Thoracic Surgery Program, wrote the Emory Robotic Thoracic Surgery Curriculum, and performed their first robotic lobectomy. He grew the program as Chair of the Robotic Surgery Committee. He was promoted to Associate Professor, and then to Professor of Thoracic Surgery (2021). While at Emory, Dr. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ served as Director of Thoracic Oncology and co-founded the first Emory Multidisciplinary Lung Cancer Clinic. He was appointed Director of Perioperative Services and managed the integration of Kaiser Permanente into surgical operations and served as surgery adjudicator during COVID-19. Dr. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ was Program Director for the Emory Cardiothoracic Residency. He served on numerous education committees and chaired the Surgery DEI Committee. He participated in the inaugural Emory Clinic Physician Leadership Development Program and the Woodruff Leadership Academy.

Dr. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ research interest include the molecular biology of cancer, isolating and studying the Fas apoptosis receptor in adenocarcinoma. He is well published in this space and on surgical techniques, medical and surgical treatments of lung disease, lung transplant outcomes, and geographic and racial disparity in esophageal cancer, authoring or co-authoring more than 50 peer-reviewed journal publications and reviews and 10 book chapters.

Dr. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ is established as an outstanding leader in Thoracic Surgery which has helped propel him into positions of leadership and involvement in national associations in roles that set national guidelines. He is a member of a number of medical and surgical organizations including the American College of Chest Physicians, Society of Thoracic Surgeons, American Society of Clinical Oncology, Thoracic Surgery Directors Association, and the American Association of Thoracic Surgeons. He has served on the editorial boards of the American Association for Thoracic Surgery, Translational Oncology, Surgical Council on Resident Education, and Video-Assisted Thoracic Surgery (VATS).

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the entire Chair Search Committee members, who worked tirelessly over many months on this successful national search.

We believe Dr. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ will be a tremendous asset to the institution, the Section of Surgical Sciences, and Department of Thoracic Surgery. Please join us in welcoming him to our VUMC community.

Seth