A Conversation with Dr. Paul Klotman

Dr. Paul Klotman, a recognized leader in academic medicine, has been named President and Chief Executive Officer of Baylor College of Medicine.

He was the unanimous choice of the search committee, Academic Council and Board of Trustees.

Klotman becomes the fifth president of the medical school.

The search committee, which began its work early this year, included faculty members and board trustees. The advisory committee to the search committee included deans, and representatives of alumni, medical school students, graduate school students and residents.

Klotman will take the post Sept. 1. He succeeds Dr. William T. Butler, who has been serving as interim president and CEO of BCM since December 2008. Butler, President of the college from 1979 to 1996, also serves as Chancellor Emeritus.

“Baylor is a fantastic institution—a top academic institution worldwide,” said Klotman. “Its academic strengths are well known, it has an outstanding clinical reputation and a terrific scientific base. I am eager to contribute my part to its future.”

A noted scientist, his work has included both basic and clinical research in molecular virology and AIDS pathogenesis. During the time he was chair of medicine at Mt. Sinai, the department’s NIH rank went from 24th to 14th, and funding from $37.8 million to $74.8 million.

As chair, Klotman recruited six new division chiefs, implemented a new faculty compensation plan and zero-based budgeting and grew clinical revenue by 15 percent each year, while continuing to be a funded NIH investigator and the principal investigator of a program project grant in nephrology.

He redesigned the residency curriculum at Mt. Sinai with a focus on academic medicine. In his career, he has trained over 50 clinical faculty members and has served as a national leader in academic medicine, having recently received the Citizens for University Medicine Award from the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education.

Klotman received his bachelor’s degree from the University of Michigan in 1972 and his medical degree from Indiana University in 1976. He completed his medicine and nephrology residency training at Massachusetts General Hospital and was a Henry Wellcome postdoctoral fellow at the National Institutes of Health.

He was named chair of the Department of Medicine at Mt. Sinai in 1993, following his directorship of the division of nephrology. He became chair of the department of molecular biology at Mt. Sinai in 1999.

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He developed the first small animal model of HIV-associated nephropathy (HIVAN) using transgenic techniques and his laboratory was the first to demonstrate that HIV directly causes this kidney disease. His team also found that HIV can be found in human kidney tissue, that the kidney is a reservoir for replicating virus and that the renal tissue serves as a compartment distinct from peripheral blood.

Dr. Klotman has used genomic strategies to identify genes that respond to HIV-1 in the kidney, many of which are novel candidates for the development of renal disease in general. He is the author of more than 200 scientific publications and has presented his work in the field of HIV pathogenesis internationally.

Research Summary

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For more information about Dr. Paul Klotman and his announcement as President and CEO of BCM, see the website: http://www.bcm.edu/news/packages/klotmanchosen.cfm
Dr. Klotman has all “the right stuff” in terms of his national stature and his clear commitment to biomedical science, clinical care, and medical education. What set him apart is his experience in fostering the ultimate success of a major academic health center during a time of financial challenge. “The search committee felt that he has the drive and vision to do the same at Baylor.”

Rob Todd III, M.D.
Chair of Medicine, BCM

“I am excited about the next phase of BCM’s development under Dr. Klotman’s leadership. I think Dr. Klotman’s broad and outstanding experience as well as his energy and vision will effectively move Baylor forward.”

Mary K. Estes, Ph.D.
Professor of Molecular Virology & Microbiology, BCM

“Dr. Klotman brings Baylor an infectious curiosity about the role of excellent medical education in the future of healthcare. He is fluent from genomic research to health policy and information technology in the clinical environment. That broad range of talents will serve Baylor well right away.”

Paul W. Hobby
BCM Trustee

“During the interview process I found Dr. Paul Klotman to be an insightful, methodical, and focused leader, who inspires others in leadership to want to be part of his winning team, while being motivated to develop their own successful, but focused and coordinated programs. Baylor College of Medicine’s upward trajectory will flourish and build upon all past successful foundations under Dr. Klotman’s vision and leadership.”

Kenneth L. Mattson, M.D.
Ben Taub General Hospital Chief of Staff
Professor of Surgery, BCM

“Dr. Klotman has an impressive track record of accomplishment and leadership in patient care, research and medical education. He is an optimistic and creative problem-solver with an expansive vision of what BCM can and should be. I am confident that BCM will flourish under his leadership.”

Dr. Mark Kline
Chair of Pediatrics, BCM
Physician-In-Chief, Texas Children’s Hospital

“We are proud to welcome Dr. Klotman as president and CEO of Baylor College of Medicine. He will supply the necessary inspiration and enthusiasm to carry our goals to reach excellence. BCM will shine as a beacon to welcome and serve all in the Houston area and after.”

Trini Mendenhall Sosa
BCM Trustee

“Dr. Klotman has shown great understanding and appreciation of each and every component of a modern clinical practice, including excellence in patient care and efficient and productive cooperation and collaboration among all the practitioners. These concepts are crucial in helping BCM face the current and future challenges in health care delivery.”

Raymond Sawaya, M.D.
Chair of Neurosurgery, BCM

“We are very excited to have a former VA physician as the leader of our major affiliate because he understands the unique health care needs of our Veterans. Working 13 years at the Durham VA Medical Center, Dr. Klotman has an acute appreciation for VA’s mission to care for our Nation’s heroes and our responsibility to teach the next generation of health care professionals.”

J. S. Kalavar, M.D.
Michael E. DeBakey VA Medical Center Chief of Staff
Associate Professor of Medicine, BCM

“Dr. Klotman understands academic medicine and with his added experience at the NIH he fully understands the federal research funding process. He knows the value of education, research and clinical care and has a proven record in training young scientists who have gone on to achieve great success. Dr. Klotman values the significant role of people at an institution in achieving overall success. Dr. Klotman’s proven experience and success makes him a great fit for Baylor College of Medicine.”

Jodie Jiles
BCM Trustee

“We are excited to have new leadership with such depth in research and medicine.”

Richard Gibbs, Ph.D.
Director, BCM Human Genome Sequencing Center

Welcome, Dr. Klotman!

Dr. Paul Klotman, the next President and CEO of Baylor College of Medicine, had a whirlwind two days after the Board of Trustees officially named him as the new leader on the morning of Monday, June 21. From a news conference held minutes after the board adjourned to three Town Halls and meetings with students, faculty, college and Texas Medical Center leaders and donors, Dr. Klotman was able to share his vision and meet many members of the Baylor family.