



MEMORANDUM

To: Nutrition department faculty, staff, students, alumni and friends
From: Barbara K. Rimer *BKR*
Date: April 9, 2013
Subject: **Change in Nutrition department leadership**

As many of you know, on March 1, AICR/WCRF Distinguished Professor and Chair June Stevens, PhD, announced her intention to step down as chair and return to the faculty. Dr. Stevens, a member of the faculty for 20 years, with a joint appointment in Epidemiology, has served as department chair since 2005. When she leaves her chair position May 31, 2013, Dr. Stevens will have left a strong mark on every aspect of the department, from its physical spaces to the composition of its faculty and students. She has recruited strong faculty members, continued to attract top students, increased enrollment and diversity and enhanced Nutrition's global profile. Under Dr. Stevens' leadership, the department's academic programs and research portfolio have become even stronger.



June Stevens, PhD

Nutrition faculty members and students are publishing on some of the most important issues in public health and in some of the field's top journals. In 2010, Nutrition received a [number 1 ranking from the National Research Council](#). The department is thriving.

While chair, Dr. Stevens has continued to conduct research and to publish prolifically. After she leaves her chair position, Dr. Stevens, will begin a Kenan sabbatical leave at the University of Cambridge, England, collaborating with colleagues there on analyses of large cohort studies to enhance the precision of BMI as a predictor of disease outcomes.

Starting June 1, 2013, Professor Beth Mayer-Davis, PhD, will serve as interim chair. Dr. Mayer-Davis is an outstanding scholar and leader whose research on diabetes has gained international attention. Since 2012, she has been the department's associate chair for administration. Dr. Mayer-Davis has focused her career on diabetes, including the epidemiology and natural history of diabetes in children and adults. Her research addresses the many ways in which nutrition can affect diabetes risk, especially for children. Dr. Mayer-Davis is Principal Investigator for the Carolina site of the SEARCH for Diabetes in Youth study, and she serves as the national chairperson for this large multi-center study. She



Beth Mayer-Davis, PhD

also conducts translational research to develop, implement and evaluate interventions to facilitate improvement in diabetes self-management, metabolic status, and quality of life for people diagnosed with type 1 or type 2 diabetes, particularly, those who live in medically-underserved communities.

Dr. Mayer-Davis is very active in the American Diabetes Association and was the Association's 2011 President for Health Care and Education. In 2011, she also was

appointed by President Obama to the Advisory Group on Prevention, Health Promotion, and Integrative and Public Health.

Dr. Stevens has been an outstanding chair and SPH leader. I am very grateful for her tremendous leadership and also for Dr. Mayer-Davis' willingness to serve as interim chair. Dr. Mayer-Davis is an incredibly accomplished academic leader who has the track record and leadership skills to move adroitly into the important leadership position of interim chair.

We will begin a search for permanent chair this fall. I am very optimistic about the future of Nutrition; it is one of the top such departments in the world. We are proud that our department is shared between the Schools of Medicine and Public Health at UNC-Chapel Hill. With the quality of our faculty, staff and students and outstanding leadership in department, I expect the Nutrition department to keep getting better!

BKR/af