

February 8, 2016

Clinical Research Faculty & Staff,

After a nationwide search, the Keck School of Medicine of USC is excited to announce Melissa Archer, J.D., as the new Director of the USC Clinical Trials Office. Melissa's background as the Principal Contracts & Grants Officer in the Clinical Trials Office at the Cedars-Sinai Medical Center, coupled with her background in legal mediation, arbitration and litigation, made her a strong candidate for the position. The strong grasp of clinical trials operations and strong leadership skills that she demonstrated during the interview process "sealed the deal" and made her our top choice. Melissa will join the Trojan family on February 16, 2016.

As we make this transition to new leadership for the CTO, we want to thank Ben Holstein for the important role he has played as Director of the Office. We also want to thank the many members of the clinical research community at USC who devoted significant time to interview the candidates. It was a very competitive field and their input was extremely valuable in helping us pick the best possible candidate for the job.

We look forward to working with Melissa and the entire clinical research community here at USC to achieve the goals of efficiency, transparency and user-friendliness that we have set for the Clinical Trials Office.

Thank you again to all of those who provided valuable time and feedback during this hiring process.

Sincerely,



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Tom Buchanan

