Perelman School of Medicine 2020 Commencement

February 11, 2020

To: Faculty, Students, and Staff
From: J. Larry Jameson, MD, PhD
       Suzanne Rose, MD, MSEd

It is our pleasure to invite you to join us as we celebrate Commencement on May 17, 2020, at the Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts and recognize the outstanding achievements of our graduating medical class. We are privileged this year to welcome back to Penn as commencement speaker Katrina Armstrong, MD, MSCE. A distinguished member of the Penn faculty and Penn Medicine leader for many years, Dr. Armstrong now serves as Chair of the Department of Medicine and Physician-in-Chief at Massachusetts General Hospital and is the Jackson Professor of Clinical Medicine at Harvard Medical School.

Katrina Armstrong

Dr. Armstrong is a graduate of Yale University and the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine. She was a resident and chief resident in Medicine at Johns Hopkins and completed a research fellowship and Masters of Science in Clinical Epidemiology at Penn. In 1998, she joined the Penn faculty and led a research program in cancer control. Over the years, Dr. Armstrong took on multiple leadership roles, including serving as the Associate Director of the Abramson Cancer Center, Co-Director of the Robert Wood Johnson Clinical Scholars Program and Chief of the Division of General Internal Medicine.

Dr. Armstrong was appointed as Chief of the Mass General Department of Medicine in 2013. She is an internationally recognized investigator in the areas of health disparities, medical decision making,
and cancer prevention and outcomes. In recognition of her impact, she is an elected member of the American Society of Clinical Investigation, the Association of American Physicians and the National Academy of Medicine. Among other awards, she has received the Outstanding Junior Investigator of the Year Award from the Society of General Internal Medicine, the Outstanding Investigator Award from the American Federation of Medical Research, and the Alice Hersh Award from Academy Health.

In addition to her career in health policy and disparities research, Dr. Armstrong is a dedicated practicing internist. Over her career, she has prioritized her role as an educator, including developing and leading courses on clinical decision making at Penn and at MGH and founding multiple innovative educational programs including the Master’s program in Health Policy Research at Penn and the Center for Educational Innovation and Scholarship at the Mass General. Diversity and inclusion are central to Dr. Armstrong’s leadership, including her award-winning roles in the advancement of women, her commitment to programs to support diversity across faculty and trainees at the MGH, and her research leadership in health disparities and community based research.

Dr. Armstrong joins a roster of distinguished scientists, physicians, and health care leaders (pictured below) who have spoken at Commencement over the years. We look forward to hearing from Dr. Armstrong at this year’s Commencement. We hope you will join us.