Dear Colleagues,

I am delighted to announce that Tait Shanafelt, MD, a renowned physician-scientist and an exemplary leader at the Mayo Clinic, has been named Stanford Medicine’s inaugural Chief Wellness Officer, Director of the WellMD Center, and Associate Dean. An international thought leader and researcher in the field of physician wellness and its implications on quality of care, Tait brings an unmatched set of accomplishments and capabilities to these new roles and an inspiring vision to firmly establish Stanford Medicine as the national leader in physician wellness.

Tait is a Professor of Medicine and Director of the Department of Medicine Program on Physician Well-being at the Mayo Clinic, where he began his career in 2001 as a Hematology and Oncology Fellow. In that time, he has pioneered the field of physician wellness and led efforts to enhance professional fulfillment among Mayo physicians despite a growing national trend in the opposite direction. He has held a number of leadership positions at Mayo Clinic, including serving a three-year term as president of the Mayo Clinic Voting Staff from 2013-16.

Tait has also made substantial scientific contributions, particularly in advancing new therapies for chronic lymphocytic leukemia. With over 300 published peer-reviewed manuscripts, he is currently the PI on two R01 grants from the National Cancer Institute (NCI), the PI on numerous other clinical trials, and a member of the NCI Leukemia Steering Committee. From colleagues and patients, Tait receives high praise for his impeccable integrity, insight, and collaborative skills.

David Entwistle, President and CEO of Stanford Health Care, and Christopher Dawes, President and CEO of Lucile Packard Children’s Hospital Stanford and Stanford Children’s Health, share my strong enthusiasm for Tait as the right person to lead our efforts to promote physician wellness, both here at Stanford and nationally through advocacy and scholarship.

The WellMD Center, a central recommendation of the Dean’s Task Force on Physician Wellness, was established last year to support and coordinate programs and initiatives across Stanford Medicine.

I extend my gratitude to the members of the Physician Wellness Committee, the WellMD Steering Committee, the Dean’s Task Force, and the Search Committee, all of whom have made important contributions leading to this extraordinary recruitment. I am also indebted to Bryan Bohman, Chief Medical Officer of University Healthcare Alliance and a champion of physician wellness, for his dedicated service as interim director of the WellMD Center.

Tait will be taking up his post on September 1, making the move westward with his wife, Jaci, and their four young children. Please join me in extending a very warm welcome to Tait and his family.

Sincerely,

Lloyd Minor

Lloyd B. Minor, MD
Carl and Elizabeth Naumann Dean of the Stanford University School of Medicine
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Professor of Bioengineering and of Neurobiology, by courtesy
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