

Dear Colleagues,

Today a letter from Chancellor Block was sent to the UCLA campus community concerning the criminal charges brought against Dr. James Heaps, a physician formerly employed by UCLA, and his surrender to law enforcement.

The charges of sexual battery in connection with his medical practice at UCLA Health are very disturbing. We want you to know that in 2018, UCLA investigated Dr. Heaps for sexual misconduct and improper billing practices. We reported him to the Medical Board of California, the US Department of Health & Human Services Office of Inspector General ("OIG") and law enforcement. We also informed Dr. Heaps that his employment was being terminated, after which he announced he was retiring.

We are deeply sorry that a former member of our staff violated our policies and standards, our trust, and the trust of his patients. As an institution we recognize that we must do more to provide the safe, supportive and respectful environment our patients and staff expect and deserve. Sexual harassment and sexual violence are unacceptable. Such behavior represents an inexcusable breach of the physician-patient relationship.

Let us be clear: UCLA is committed to holding violators accountable. We are focused on understanding what occurred and ensuring that our practices reflect the high standards we demand and expect of ourselves.

For any of Dr. Heaps' former patients who have complaints or concerns, we have engaged a trusted third-party resource called Praesidium. Praesidium has extensive experience in providing and connecting patients with support services. We encourage any patients with complaints or concerns about Dr. Heaps to contact Praesidium at (888) 961-9273.

We at UCLA Health have a responsibility to each other, our patients and their families and our staff, students and trainees, particularly when it comes to maintaining a safe and supportive environment. It is critical that we uphold the [University of California policy on](#)

[Sexual Violence and Sexual Harassment.](#)

If you are ever in possession of information related to misconduct of any kind, we urge you to report the information directly to the [Title IX office](#), at titleix@conet.ucla.edu or (310) 206-3417, or anonymously to the [Compliance Hotline](#) at (800) 403-4744. Find more information about your reporting obligations and additional options [here](#). If you yourself are a survivor of sexual misconduct, we have [resources](#) to help.

Thank you today, and every day, for the work you do to ensure that patients receive excellent care and an excellent experience. Together we can uphold standards of conduct that represent the best of our enterprise, and which make it possible for UCLA to be the great place of healing, learning and discovery that it is.

You can find more information about this matter at www.uclahealth.org/heaps.

Sincerely,

John Mazziotta, MD, PhD
Vice Chancellor,
UCLA Health Sciences
CEO, UCLA Health

Johnese Spisso, MPA
President, UCLA Health
CEO, UCLA Hospital System

Kelsey Martin, MD, PhD
Dean, David Geffen School of
Medicine at UCLA