We want to provide our patients with the best possible care; educate, recruit and retain a highly qualified workforce; and give our community access to a wide array of services, including advanced care.

There is no doubt that today’s financial and regulatory pressures do not make this easy. But we can look to the successful approach taken by other cities facing similar opportunities and challenges. In Pittsburgh, Minneapolis/St. Paul and elsewhere, universities, hospitals and practitioners are teaming up in new ways to creatively and collaboratively achieve shared goals.

The formation of Great Lakes Health—governed jointly by our region’s larger hospitals, the university and the community—provides the platform for just such an approach here in Buffalo.

By leveraging our strengths, we will be able to create outstanding facilities for health care providers, foster best-practices approaches, give providers a competitive edge and keep patients in the region. We also will stimulate growth in the biosciences industry and create new markets for ancillary businesses within the community, including suppliers, vendors, stores and restaurants.

The partnership between UB and its affiliated teaching hospitals also provides hope for a stronger regional economy. Today, our joint efforts generate some $3.7 billion in annual economic activity in Erie and Niagara counties, according to the Associated Medical Schools of New York. The “eds and meds” model works, and we can use it here to contribute even more to our region’s economy.

We’re off to a good start, and we need to keep the momentum going and continue to work together to innovatively address the future of health care in our region.

To become part of the effort, contact David L. Dunn, MD, PhD, UB vice president for health sciences, at 716-829-2100.
At UB, our five health sciences schools are working together more closely than ever to prepare students to succeed in this increasingly collaborative practice environment.

We've established the state-of-the-art Behling Simulation Center on the South Campus to better integrate the training of future physicians, nurses and pharmacists, among others, providing them with hands-on opportunities to practice working collaboratively using advanced techniques including computerized mannequins and virtual reality. This world-class facility also will be used to educate area first-responders and practicing providers—from physicians, nurses and physical therapists to emergency medical technicians and firefighters—fully preparing them to act in all health care situations, applying the teamwork, communications and treatment skills they have acquired to produce positive patient outcomes.

Our five schools—Medicine and Biomedical Sciences, Dental Medicine, Nursing, Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences, and Public Health and Health Professions—also are working with area health care professionals to find new ways to collaboratively improve programs and increase our impact on the community, enhance research and transform the education of our students.

With the goal of reducing patient-handling injuries, UB and the Western New York Council on Occupational Safety and Health have established the Safe Patient Handling Lab and Training Center to train UB medical and nursing students, as well as students studying occupational and physical therapy. It also will do outreach training for hospitals, nursing homes and other organizations.

We work in partnership with our region’s leading hospitals—Erie County Medical Center (ECMC), Kaleida Health’s four hospitals, the Buffalo VA Medical Center and Roswell Park Cancer Institute (RPCI)—teaming up to educate the next generation of caregivers, improve patient outcomes and apply research-based insights to enhance prevention and treatment.

In one such partnership, UB and Kaleida Health are jointly constructing a 10-story building in downtown Buffalo that will bring together Kaleida Health physicians and UB researchers. It will house UB’s Center for Clinical and Translational Research, a UB biosciences incubator and Kaleida Health’s Global Vascular Institute, further strengthening ties between the university and the region’s largest hospital network.

Another example is the collaboration between the Center for Robotic Surgery at RPCI and UB’s School of Engineering and Applied Sciences that has produced a new device, the Robotic Surgical Simulator (roSS), which gives RPCI and similar institutions a new tool to educate doctors in the rapidly expanding field of robot-assisted surgery.

And UB’s affiliation with ECMC helps make it possible for the hospital to provide the region with high-quality emergency care, advanced surgical procedures and a broad array of psychiatric care services. In one example, UB and ECMC together have created one of the largest telemedicine systems in the nation, improving care for people in some of New York State’s most remote locations.