



UC Center Sacramento

The Covid-19 Pandemic and the Role of the Public Research University

Wednesday, September 23rd — 12:00 - 1:00pm

In light of the community concerns regarding COVID-19, this talk will be given as a webinar. The link will be provided on September 22nd to those that have registered by 5:00 pm on Monday, September 21st at uccs.ucdavis.edu.

The current public health and economic crisis has simultaneously underscored both the value and vulnerability of the public research university. Since the Covid-19 pandemic arrived in our state in late February, the University of California has played a leading role in the direct provision of health care; contributed to breakthroughs in our understanding of the of biology and epidemiology of the novel coronavirus; and organized significant public health and public education efforts aimed at combating the virus and reducing health disparities. At the same time, due to the rapidly changing trajectory of the pandemic, the University has struggled with issues such as how to maintain equity while delivering instruction remotely and when and how to re-open its campuses for teaching, research, and college life. Finally, like other institutions of higher learning, UC is undergoing profound fiscal shocks resulting from sharply diminished revenues from multiple sources.

In this UCCS special session, UC Davis Chancellor Gary May and UC Davis Vice Chancellor David Lubarsky will speak about how public research universities can contribute to public health and economic recovery in the current era. Drawing on their experiences as leaders of a UC campus and its affiliated health system, Drs. May and Lubarsky will describe how UC Davis is discharging its myriad and sometimes conflicting responsibilities to students, faculty, staff, patients and the public.

Following brief remarks, Drs. May and Lubarsky will engage in conversation with UC Center Sacramento Director Richard Kravitz, followed by questions from the audience.



Dr. Gary S. May is the seventh chancellor of UC Davis. He came to UC Davis in 2017 after serving as dean of Georgia Tech's College of Engineering, the nation's largest and most diverse school of its kind. He earned his master's and Ph.D. degrees in electrical engineering and computer science at UC Berkeley. May has won numerous awards for his research in computer-aided manufacturing of integrated circuits.

In 2015, President Obama honored him with the Presidential Award for Excellence in STEM Mentoring. In September 2018, May was inducted to the National Academy of Engineering for his success in attracting and retaining engineering students from underrepresented backgrounds and his innovations in semiconductor manufacturing. In April 2020, he was elected to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences for "educational and academic leadership."

A prominent voice in higher education, May is a Commissioner of the national Council on Competitiveness. He serves as Vice Chair of the Universities Research Association's Council of Presidents and is on the executive committee of the Association of Public and Land-Grant Universities Board of Directors.



Dr. David Lubarsky is the vice chancellor of human health sciences and chief executive officer for UC Davis Health. He oversees UC Davis Health's academic, research and clinical programs, including the School of Medicine, the Betty Irene Moore School of Nursing, the 1,000-member physician practice group, and UC Davis Medical Center.

Since joining UC Davis Health in July 2018, Dr. Lubarsky recommitted the organization to expanding care for the underserved while creating a sustainable economic model, earning UC Davis Health public acknowledgment as a leader in caring for Medi-Cal patients. He's also established groundbreaking partnerships with local governments, entrepreneurs, technology companies and other health systems to extend care into rural areas and the urban core and to address health disparities and health workforce needs.

A committed academic physician, Dr. Lubarsky is a UC Davis professor of anesthesiology and nursing, and a faculty member in the UC Davis Graduate School of Management.