



Department of Medicine  
Department of Orthopaedic Surgery

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**University of Pennsylvania Health System**  
**University of Pennsylvania Perelman School of Medicine**

**Robert J. Pignolo, M.D., Ph.D.**

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Director, Ralston-Penn Clinic for Osteoporosis and Related Bone Disorders  
Ian Cali Distinguished Clinician Scientist, Center for Research in FOP and Related Disorders  
Fellow, Institute on Aging

July 5, 2016

Dear patients, colleagues, and friends of the FOP community,

It is with mixed emotions that I write to inform you that after 15 years of patient care, clinical studies, and basic research at the University of Pennsylvania **Center for Research on FOP & Related Disorders** in Philadelphia, I will be leaving to accept a new position – Kogod Professor of Geriatrics and Chairman of Geriatric Medicine and Gerontology - at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota.

I am very grateful for my years at Penn that have taught me so much about FOP, and I am blessed to have had the opportunity to get to know patients, families, and dedicated colleagues. I am especially grateful to have been welcomed so warmly by all and to have been allowed to serve an integral role in the global FOP community.

Although my new position as Chair of Geriatric Medicine will involve new commitments and challenges, I intend to remain active in the FOP community. I have worked diligently with Dr. Fred Kaplan to assure that my transition from Penn will be as seamless as possible and to assure that my involvement in the FOP clinical, educational, and research programs will not suffer from my departure.

It is my intention to explore development of FOP programs at the Mayo Clinic and to maintain my close ties and collaborations with the FOP Center at Penn.

As I move forward with my new clinical and academic responsibilities, I will remain close to the FOP community. Although my relationships with all of you will change in some respects, it will also remain strong. I look forward to what lies ahead and to discover the varied ways in which I can continue to serve those who I consider part of my extended family.

Sincerely,

Bob

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robert J. Pignolo".

Robert J. Pignolo, M.D, Ph.D.