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**Date:** Thursday, March 28, 2019 at 3:15 PM  
**To:** UCSD Health Communications <HealthSciComm@ucsd.edu>  
**Subject:** VC and CEO Message: Anthenelli Named New Interim Chair of Psychiatry Department

*This message is sent on behalf of Dr. David Brenner, Vice Chancellor, UC San Diego Health Sciences; Patty Maysent, Chief Executive Officer, UC San Diego Health; and Dr. Steve Garfin, Interim Dean, UC San Diego School of Medicine.*

We are pleased to announce that Robert M. Anthenelli, MD, has been named the interim chair of the Department of Psychiatry at UC San Diego School of Medicine, succeeding Igor Grant, MD. Dr. Anthenelli's appointment becomes effective April 1.

Dr. Anthenelli earned his baccalaureate degree from Johns Hopkins University and his MD degree from Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, with a subsequent internship in internal medicine at Mercy Hospital in Baltimore. His residency training in psychiatry was conducted at UC San Diego and VA San Diego Healthcare System, with an additional post-doctoral fellowship in addiction psychiatry research funded by the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Dr. Anthenelli returned to UC San Diego School of Medicine faculty in 2011 after an earlier term from 1992-1996. In between, he was professor of psychiatry, psychology and neuroscience at the University of Cincinnati College of Medicine, where he founded and directed the Center for Treatment, Research & Education in Addictive Disorders and the Addiction Sciences Division.

Dr. Anthenelli is a professor of psychiatry. He was formerly vice chair for VA affairs in the department. He also served as the first associate chief of staff for mental health at VA San Diego Healthcare System. In 2014 he was appointed to serve as the department's executive vice chair of the department. Dr. Anthenelli also directs the Pacific Treatment and Research Center, which conducts studies investigating the neurobiology and treatment of addictive disorders (notably tobacco and alcohol) and associated psychiatric disorders.

He is the author or co-author of more than 200 peer-reviewed articles, book chapters and published abstracts. Support for his research is provided by the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism, National Institute on Drug Abuse and various industry sponsors.

Dr. Grant steps down after five years as just the third chair in the Department of Psychiatry's 50-year history. During that time, he has overseen a period of significant growth and change, most notably in the focus and expansion of the clinical enterprise, with significant advances in UC San Diego Health programs and quality, including patient access, satisfaction and experience.

The department has also launched several academic initiatives, including a collaboration with UC San Diego Jacobs School of Engineering to begin developing a Mental Health Technology Center. Recent years have also witnessed new faculty recruitments in basic and translational science, as well as expansion of multidisciplinary training. The department's research portfolio has also grown: UC San Diego now enjoys a top-three ranking in National Institutes of Health funding among psychiatry departments nationwide.

Dr. Grant will remain active in a number of other positions and projects, including as director of the HIV Neurobehavioral Research Program, which includes the California NeuroAIDS Tissue Network, the Translational Methamphetamine AIDS Research Center, the HIV Neurobehavioral Research Center, the CNS HIV Anti-Retroviral Therapy Effects Research and at the Center for Medicinal Cannabis Research, one of the few academic entities in the nation conducting active research on the therapeutic potential of cannabis, with numerous active and planned clinical trials.

We would like to thank Dr. Grant again for his superb leadership and guiding hand over the last five years, and to ask everyone to join us in welcoming Dr. Anthenelli in his new role and in the expectation of great things to come as the Department of Psychiatry enters its second half-century of excellence and achievement.

A national search is already underway for the next permanent chair.