April 24, 2015

Dear 2015 Mini Medical School Graduate:

I want to express my heartfelt congratulations at your completion of “Aging and Medical Science: A Mini Medical School to Prepare for Life’s Second Half.” I hope you thoroughly enjoyed your brief stint in medical school, and that you found the time well spent.

Judging from the course evaluations so many of you submitted, as well as the letters and e-mail I have received, this year’s class series was appreciatively received. It does sound like the return to a full six Saturday mornings, following a carefully integrated curriculum, was a positive step.

I was delighted that 98% of the graduates felt the program substantially met or exceeded their expectations. Three quarters indicated feeling “empowered” to better interact with their physician. 98% felt the level of teaching was “just right”. Two thirds of responders indicated a definite plan to change diet or activity habits.

Some of you have made extremely helpful comments regarding future class subjects (dermatology may have been the most frequently suggested) and other ideas for making Mini Medical School even better. Know that our planning team and our community advisory council have already met to consider your valuable input.

Our vision is to make the UC Davis Mini Medical School on preparing for aging available to the broader community in Greater Sacramento and beyond. We are in discussion with key community leaders on developing a parallel series to attract more underserved and culturally diverse mini medical students. Simultaneously, we want to be able to offer recent and past graduates opportunity to attend a “second year” mini medical school with more focused topics. We hope to see our companion website (www.agewell.ucdavis.edu) grow into a valuable adjunct to the program, with abundant, reliable information on remaining vital in later life. And we are exploring other ways to add tangible value to the Mini Medical School diploma.

If you are able to help support “Aging and Medical Science” and future related programs to assure healthy aging in our community, we would deeply welcome your gift. Please click to see how you can help. (http://www.ucdmc.ucdavis.edu/minimed/giving.html)

Sincerely,

Michael K. McCloud, MD
Founder and Course Director of “Aging and Medical Science: a Mini Medical School”
Senior Director of the Older Adult Outreach Program
UC Davis Health System