Loyola names med school dean to lead health sciences division
By Anthe Mitrakos
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(Crain's) — Loyola University of Chicago said Monday that the dean of the Stritch School of Medicine has been named the head of its restructured health sciences division, which encompasses the medical and nursing schools, as well as the university's health research programs and initiatives.

Richard Gamelli, dean of the medical school since 2009, is leaving that post to take the title of senior vice-president, overseeing a division that includes the Cardinal Bernardin Cancer Center and four additional programs, including a new public health center.

He takes over from former Loyola University Health System CEO Paul Whelton, who is stepping down as part of the sale of Loyola's hospitals to Novi, Mich.-based Trinity Health System, which has 46 hospitals nationwide. The transaction is expected to close June 30.

Linda Brubaker, 55, a senior associate dean of clinical and translational research and vice-chair of the department of obstetrics and gynecology, has been named interim dean of the medical school. Vicki Keough, 57, will continue as dean of the Marcella Niehoff School of Nursing.

The restructuring of the health sciences division aims to encourage collaboration between the medical and nursing schools, according to an internal announcement from the Rev. Michael Garanzini, Loyola's president.

“We decided to move forward pretty vigorously,” he said. “As we are now about to spin off the hospitals to Trinity, this is going to give us an opportunity to focus on research and teaching.”

Dr. Gamelli, 62, a surgeon, has been chief of Loyola's Burn Center since 1990. He also is the founder and director of the medical school's Burn and Shock Trauma Institute and has served as chair of the department of surgery.

As head of the health sciences division, Dr. Gamelli's duties also will include overseeing three existing programs: the Center for Service and Global Health, a service-learning program for health care providers in underserved areas; the Institute for Collaborative Advanced Skill Training, which brings medical students and nurses together to practice their skills; and the Neiswanger Bioethics Institute, a section of the medical school focused on ethics.

The associate dean of the medical graduate school, Richard Kennedy, 58, also has been promoted, to vice-provost for research and graduate programs. A professor in the department of physiology, he has been with Loyola since 2004, previously serving as vice-president of health sciences.

Ms. Keough, 57, who has a doctorate in nursing, has been with the school of nursing for 20 years. In 1993, she started the first acute cure practitioner program in the Midwest. In addition to
being dean, she serves as a professor in the department of disease management and risk reduction.