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there is a renewed strength and vitality as our Medical Center continues to recreate itself.

The past year has been filled with dramatic examples of this momentum. In addition to the Smilow Research Center, we have merged with the Hospital for Joint Diseases, officially de-merged with Mount Sinai Hospital, and recruited five new department chairmen. These recent developments, and others that I am proud to have played a role in (*see page 14*), have set the course for our Medical Center for many years to come.

Needless to say, I would never have been able to advance our institutional agenda without the tremendous support, dedication, and hard work of many members of our community, including the Board of Trustees, administration, faculty, staff, and students. These are the people who make NYU Medical Center such a special place.

As I begin my final academic year as Dean, it gives me particular pride to preside over two ceremonies that I established in recent years and that I hope will become enduring traditions: the White Coat Ceremony, which welcomes incoming medical students, and the Dean's Honors Day, to celebrate the many accomplishments each year of our faculty.

It's too soon for farewells; there is still much to do before I turn over the reins to my successor, and I know I can count on your help, as I always have.

ROBERT M. GLICKMAN, M.D.

Celebrations, Traditions, and Transitions

Last May I had the pleasure of hosting a luncheon for a small but distinguished group of scientists from across the nation whom we had invited to help us celebrate the opening of the new Joan and Joel Smilow Research Center. The gathering, which included two Nobel laureates, represented an important milestone for me, both professionally and personally.

It was, indeed, an auspicious occasion for our Medical Center, heralding a new era of research—focusing on the

emerging field of translational medicine—that will ensure that we remain in the forefront of academic research institutions. In every way, the Smilow Research Center is a worthy home for the physician-scientist of the 21st century.

Now that the Smilow building is a reality, it is attracting many first-class scientists from all over the country who are engaged in the kind of cutting-edge research that may one day improve lives—or, to put it another way, turn science into hope.

In March I announced to the NYU community my decision to step down as Dean and CEO of NYU Medical Center, effective June 2007, some nine years after I arrived. I chose the timing of this announcement to permit adequate time for a search for my successor.

That person's challenges and rewards will be many, as they have been for me. Yet, across all levels of our institution,