

Keck School of Medicine of USC

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DATE: March 19, 2018

TO: Faculty, Staff and Students
Keck School of Medicine of USC

FROM: Laura Mosqueda, MD,
Interim Dean
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RE: Sofia Gruskin, JD, MIA, Director of the USC Institute for Global Health



It gives me great pleasure to announce that Sofia Gruskin, JD, MIA, has been appointed as Director of the USC Institute for Global Health effective March 16, 2018.

Professor Gruskin is nationally and internationally recognized for her work in global health, in particular her research to foster the development of effective public health policy and programs at the intersection of health, human rights, gender and sexuality. She is recognized as one of the founders of the field linking human rights to health, and a pioneer in demonstrating conceptually, methodologically and empirically how human rights are intrinsically linked to health outcomes.

Often working with socially and culturally charged themes, she is internationally known for leading multi-disciplinary research that informs policy and practice, using the strengths of academia not only to create new knowledge but to address inequalities and leverage change within the United States and in countries around the world. Working with academic partners, government agencies, civil society organizations, the World Health Organization and other arms of the United Nations, her work has been instrumental in determining how to understand scholarship of consequence in ways that resonate both inside and outside the university setting.

She is a member of the United States President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) Scientific Advisory Board, the founding Chairperson of the UNAIDS Global Reference Group on HIV and Human Rights, sits on national and international research and development committees for leading global health organizations including WHO, UNDP, and various other programs at the United Nations, and serves as Chair of the Durex Global Advisory Board on Sexual Health and Well-Being. Moreover, she has served on several NIH study sections, most recently a Special

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Emphasis Panel addressing Ethical, Legal and Policy issues in Research on HIV/AIDS. She has received two Fulbright Fellowships (Australia and Brazil), and in 2016 she was named a Senior Practical Justice Fellow by the UNSW Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences in Australia, and in 2017 received the United Nations Association Global Citizen Award.

Professor Gruskin's numerous peer-reviewed publications have appeared in such high impact journals as *PLOS Medicine*, *JAMA*, and *Lancet*, as well as excellent quality journals in other fields, such as *Global Public Health* and *Human Rights Quarterly*. She has been an author, editor, or co-editor of six books, and authored highly-cited policy reports, on-line publications and blogs. Professor Gruskin served as Editor-in-Chief of the journal *Health and Human Rights* for over a decade, and currently serves as an Associate Editor for the *American Journal of Public Health*, is on the editorial boards of four additional journals, and a Trustee for the journal *Reproductive Health Matters*.

Professor Gruskin is currently a Professor in the Department of Preventive Medicine at the Keck School of Medicine, with a joint appointment at the Gould School of Law, as well as the Director of the Program on Global Health and Human Rights, at the USC Institute for Global Health. She was recruited to USC in 2011, after having been on the faculty at the Harvard School of Public Health since 1999. Gruskin has been very active since coming to USC in promoting multi-disciplinary scholarship and training, including teaching courses at the graduate level that bring together medicine and public health students, law students, and doctoral students in policy, international relations, the humanities, social work and beyond. Additionally, she serves as Division Chief for the Division of Disease Prevention, Policy and Global Health in the Department of Preventive Medicine at the Keck School of Medicine, holds appointments with the Spatial Science Institute and the Department of American Studies and Ethnicity, both at the Dana and David Dornsife College of Letters, Arts and Sciences, and she is the Convener of the Law and Global Health Working Group of the University of Southern California.

Please join me in welcoming Professor Gruskin to her new leadership role.