

Meet the BUMG Board of Trustees: Alastair Bell, MD, President and CEO BMC Health System



What drew you to serve as a trustee on the BUMG Board?

I was “voluntold” to serve! But seriously, in my role it is really important for me to have a deep view into the challenges and opportunities facing the physicians and other licensed providers at BMC.

What do you enjoy most about serving on the board?

The talent we attract to BMC is what makes this place special, and so I enjoy the opportunity to work on how we make this a great place for people to pursue an academic clinical career.

If there’s one thing, as a board member, you’d want to communicate with BUMG clinicians, what would that be?

I really appreciate the challenges that our providers face in terms of the escalating demands on their work and the stress and pressure that brings. And that these general trends are felt more acutely when working with the patient population we serve. I’m really very appreciative for their commitment to our mission – I recognize that people could work anywhere but they choose to work at BMC.

What do you see as the biggest challenges facing BMC and BUMG?

I have been at BMCHS for over a decade and more than ever we face the challenge of meeting the moment and seizing the opportunity to lead on topics we really care about, such as health equity and providing excellent care, while overcoming really challenging financial pressures.

What is an interesting fact about you that no one would guess?

Before going to medical school, I spent a year teaching in Tanzania in a school on the foothills of Kilimanjaro. It was an incredible and transformative experience.

Do you enjoy reading books? If so, what have you read lately that you enjoyed?

I do, though most of the time at the moment they are mainly a sleep aid!! Over the holiday break I read Empire of Pain – The secret history of the Sackler Dynasty... I got lots of sleep!

What are you watching on Netflix?

I’m a bit disappointed with Netflix at the moment, but I’ve been watching Six Nations – documentary about the 2023 Guinness Six Nations Rugby Championship. Always looking for recommendations!

Do you have any hobbies?

I have three daughters who have a lot of hobbies / activities so I spend a lot of time driving them around! As a family, we enjoy traveling to visit family and friends in Scotland and Singapore, a couple of times a year.

Is there anything else you would like to share with the BUMG clinicians?

If you see me out and about around campus, stop me and say hello! I love to meet the people that work here, and hear their stories of why they work at BMC.