

## **William M. Roberts, MD, MBA**



Dr. William Roberts, an emergency physician and retired Navy Flag Officer, is acting President at the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences (USU) in Bethesda, Maryland. As such, he is responsible for the academic, research and service mission of the university. His responsibilities also include oversight of the University's graduate health professions education and healthcare research, to include emerging technologies and treatments, in support of the Military Health System and Department of Defense.

Prior to serving as acting President, Dr. Roberts served as the Senior Vice President for the University's Western Region. He represented the University in matters pertaining to its students, faculty, and staff who are training or serving in the Western Region, and coordinated University partnerships within the Western Area of Responsibility. Dr. Roberts also served as the interim Director for USU Academic Operations.

Before his appointment with USU, Dr. Roberts served as a member of the Senior Executive Service as the Military Health System (MHS) Functional Champion. In that role, he was the senior functional liaison among the clinical, business, information technology, and readiness communities across the MHS and Program Executive Office,

Defense Health Management Systems, with a focus on configuration and deployment of DoD's recently acquired Electronic Health Record (MHS GENESIS).

A native of Washington DC, Rear Adm. (Ret) Roberts was raised in Europe while his father served as a diplomat in the U. S. Foreign Service. He graduated cum laude with a bachelor's degree from Princeton University in New Jersey. He earned a Doctor of Medicine degree from George Washington University, and was subsequently commissioned as a lieutenant in the Navy's Medical Corps in May 1979. Dr. Roberts completed his surgical internship at the Naval Regional Medical Center, San Diego, and is a graduate of the University of Chicago Emergency Medicine residency, where he served as chief resident 1987-1988. Dr. Roberts later earned a Master of Business Administration degree from the Edinburgh Business School, Edinburgh, Scotland.

Prior to his Functional Champion appointment, Rear Adm. Roberts served as the Commandant, Medical Education and Training Campus, Fort Sam Houston, Texas which oversees 49 separate basic and advanced Army, Navy and Air Force enlisted medical courses of study and graduates over 20,000 medics, corpsmen and medical technicians per year; and as inaugural director, Education and Training, Defense Health Agency, Falls Church, Virginia. Earlier assignments included senior medical officer tours onboard USS NEW ORLEANS (LPH-11) and USS DURHAM (LKA-114) with deployments to the Western Pacific and Indian Oceans; clinical and leadership positions at the Naval Station, Marine Corps Recruit Depot and Naval Training Center Clinics in San Diego; and emergency medicine staff tours at Naval Medical Center San Diego and U.S. Naval Hospital Guam, during the latter of which he also served as director, Medical Services and as chief of the Medical Staff.

Rear Adm. Roberts later served as chair, Emergency Medicine Ambulatory Care Department, Naval Medical Center San Diego (which comprised the Navy's first Emergency Medicine residency) and as commanding officer, Medical Treatment Facility, USNS MERCY (T-AH 19). In 1998, he was appointed deputy commander, Naval Medical Center San Diego, and, subsequently served as force surgeon to Commander, Naval Surface Force, Coronado, California. He commanded Naval Hospital, Bremerton, Washington, one of the Navy's five Family Medicine teaching hospitals serving the Navy's third largest area of fleet concentration, from 2003 to 2006.

## *Learning to Care for Those in Harm's Way*

Following a one-year tour as deputy director, Medical Resources, Plans and Policy Division (OPNAV N931) at the Pentagon, Rear Adm. Roberts' first Flag assignment was as Medical Officer to the Marine Corps from 2007 to 2008. He was subsequently assigned as director, OPNAV N931 at the Pentagon from 2008 to 2010, then as Fleet Surgeon, U. S. Fleet Forces Command, Norfolk, Virginia. Roberts also served as specialty leader for Emergency Medicine to the Navy Surgeon General from 1995 to 1998, and as chief of the Navy's Medical Corps from 2007 to 2010.

Dr. Roberts has earned a number of awards and honors throughout his career, including the Defense Superior Service Medal, Legion of Merit (five awards), Meritorious Service Medal (two awards), Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal (two awards), and the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal. He also earned the Stitt Award for graduate medical education from the Naval Medical Center San Diego in 1989, the Hero of Emergency Medicine award from the American College of Emergency Physicians (ACEP) in 2008, and the Excellence in Emergency Medicine Award from the ACEP Government Services Chapter in 2008.