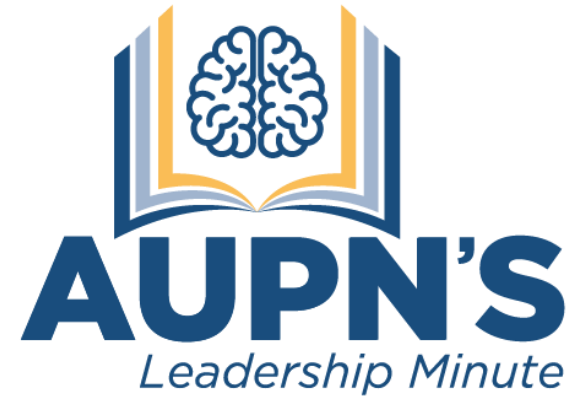




**Rohit Das, MD**  
Oregon Health  
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*So, you want to be a  
Chair? Pros, Cons, Joys  
and Tribulations*



**David Greer, MD**  
Boston University

## Leadership Minute Podcast Episode Description

- Being a Neurology department chair can be a wonderful experience, but is also filled with challenges, obstacles and struggles. This podcast will explore the pros, cons, joys and tribulations of being a chair, hopefully setting new or prospective chairs up for success.

# Being a Department Chair - Pros

- You can have a major impact on people's lives and careers, helping them to grow, succeed and become contributors themselves
- You can share your vision and create an environment that matches your goals for the field
- You can mentor many people, at many levels
- You can advocate for change
- You can organize and mentor others to lead
- You become part of a larger community of chairs that are affecting positive change on both local and national levels

# Being a Department Chair - Cons

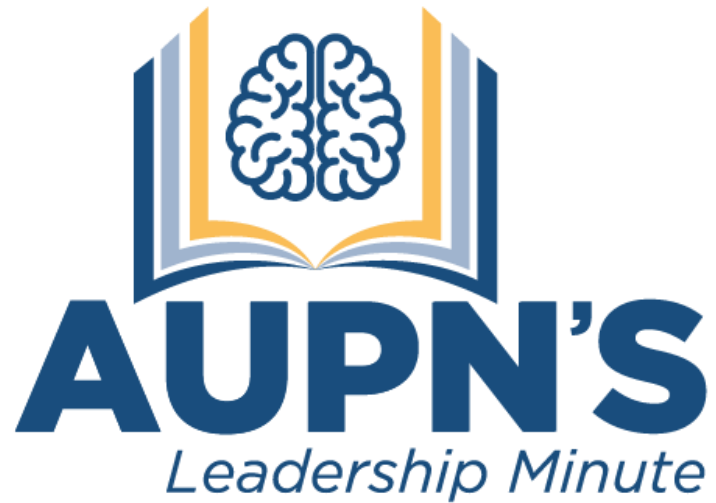
- Medicine (and Neurology) have become more of a business
- You have to balance the needs of your department/faculty/residents with the constraints of the system – hospital and medical school
- There are never enough resources to go around
- Most of don't have an MBA or get much training in budgets P&L sheets, etc.
- Building trust with your leadership can be challenging at times

# Being a Department Chair - Joys

- Seeing your department succeed! Especially individuals!
- Seeing your vision come to fruition – building lasting programs
- Mentoring people through difficult times
- Guiding your department through difficult times
- Building a great team that embraces distributed leadership
- Teaching recognition, research grants, major publications
- ***Excellent clinical care!***

# Being a Department Chair - Tribulations

- Failures – you will have them!
- Use your failures as examples that everyone can learn from – own them!
- Your personal accolades really don't matter – your success is measured by the success of your department
- The sooner you can align your goals with those of the hospital and medical school, the better
- At the end of the day, it's the personal connections that matter the most



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