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CONTACT:

David Haney, Director of Strategic Communications
University of Illinois College of Medicine at Peoria
309.671.8404 | dhaney@uicomp.uic.edu

UICOMP names new head to Neurosurgery

PEORIA – [June 15, 2016] The University of Illinois College of Medicine at Peoria is pleased to announce the appointment of Jeffrey Klopfenstein, MD as the new Head of the Department of Neurosurgery effective June 16, 2016, pending approval by the Board of Trustees. After seven years as Head of the Department, Daniel Fassett, MD is stepping down in order to focus on strengthening the complex spinal surgery program.

Dr. Klopfenstein, Assistant Professor within the Departments of Neurosurgery and Cancer Biology and Pharmacology, is the Director of Academic Programs in the Department of Neurosurgery. A member of the UICOMP faculty since 2006, Dr. Klopfenstein is an expert in cerebrovascular surgery and has developed a reputation for excellence in this area. He received his medical degree from the University of Arizona College of Medicine in 1999, followed by completing residency and fellowships in complex spine and cerebrovascular/skull base at the Barrow Neurological Institute.

Dr. Klopfenstein is committed to UICOMP and the resident and medical student mission of education and research. He will sustain and grow the essential collaborations between INI, OSF and UICOMP that are necessary to sustain the educational and research missions and advance the Department of Neurosurgery.

Dr. Fassett joined the Department of Neurosurgery in 2007 as Assistant Professor and within a year was appointed Associate Head. In January 2009, he was appointed Interim Head, and in 2011 became the permanent Head of Neurosurgery. Dr. Fassett has demonstrated consistent, productive academic leadership during his tenure. The Department and its residency, which have grown under his leadership, contribute significantly to the medical education at UICOMP and the quality and scope of his clinical practice in complex spinal surgery is highly regarded both locally and regionally. Dr. Fassett has a vast record of peer-reviewed scholarship, book chapters, and a national reputation that has brought great recognition and stature to UICOMP. He was strongly supported by his department, which is a true testament to his leadership.

The University of Illinois College of Medicine at Peoria (UICOMP) is one of four campuses that make up the largest public medical school in the United States. UICOMP educates more than 150 medical students annually and offers 19 graduate medical training programs. The Peoria campus of the College of Medicine is home to the Cancer Research Center, the Center for Outcomes Research, and a collaborator in the Jump Trading Simulation & Education Center.