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Gift creates new fund to support research awards for UICOMP medical students

PEORIA – (July 22, 2015) The University of Illinois College of Medicine at Peoria is pleased to announce the creation of the Dr. Muhammad B. Yunus Student Research Award.

A generous donation of \$25,000 to the College of Medicine by Dr. Alfonse and Nancy Masi on behalf of the MTM Foundation created the awards fund for Peoria medical students to help cover the costs of attending national meetings to present their medical research. An additional matching donation of \$25,000 was made by Dr. Yunus toward establishing the now \$50,000 endowed fund.

The fund was created to recognize the contributions Dr. Muhammad B. Yunus has made to research, teaching, and rheumatology clinical services at the University of Illinois College of Medicine at Peoria. In particular, Dr. Yunus is recognized for his pioneering personal commitment to research in fibromyalgia syndrome, related pain disorders, and the concept of central sensitivity syndromes. He is recognized as a national and international expert, while at the same time devoting unceasing attention to developing the research interests and skills of the medical students he taught.

Dr. Yunus of East Peoria has been a member of the UICOMP faculty since 1979, and is recognized by many as the “Father of Fibromyalgia”. His pioneering research included a landmark 1981 published clinical study of 50 patients which provided the first controlled study that stimulated research in fibromyalgia syndrome. A subsequent report in 1990 provided the first official criteria for its diagnoses. Dr. Yunus officially retired from UICOMP in 2005. However, he continued teaching and research activities at the University part-time, which will cease in August.

The MTM Foundation is a non-profit corporation created to support teaching, research, and various medical service activities or organizations. The Foundation was made possible from a bequest of Mary and Tony Masi, parents of Dr. Alfonse T. Masi, a UICOMP professor.

The University of Illinois College of Medicine at Peoria is one of four campuses that make up the largest public medical school in the country. Located in downtown Peoria, UICOMP enhances the central Illinois region by educating more than 150 medical students and more than 270 residents and fellows annually, performing the latest in research, attracting new physicians, and treating thousands of patients each year. Visit us online at <http://peoria.medicine.uic.edu>.