

**Annual Report
UICOMP
AY 2018-2019**

The University of Illinois College of Medicine Peoria (UICOMP) mission statement is ***Lead Collaboration to Improve Health***. This mission is the focus for this regional campus and fits within and is consistent with the larger mission of the University of Illinois College of Medicine.

The vision for this campus: *The University of Illinois College of Medicine Peoria makes measurable improvements in personal and population health through integrated innovative research, education and patient care programs.*

The following actions occurred to support this vision:

EDUCATION

This was the second year the Peoria campus educated M1 students and delivered the Phase 1 curricular transformation. In addition, we began the roll out of the Phase 2 curriculum for the M3 students that included an earlier transition to clerkships. We continued to adapt to these changes with space renovations, adding a new philanthropy funded interactive classroom.

***Undergraduate** – The Department of Health Sciences Education (HSE) continued as the core of our Phase 1 teaching faculty. We merged our pathology faculty into HSE and will add another pharmacology faculty member this summer. This second iteration of the curriculum was smoother as highly motivated faculty on all campuses worked very hard to modify and teach the new curriculum. The emphasis on student research is increasing as residency match becomes more competitive. Our research day continues to expand with increasing research based posters and fewer case reports. Three students were James Scholars. We were ecstatic that all of our May graduates matched. We have aggressively expanded our Student Affairs area under the leadership of Eileen Doherty. We now have two advisers, one financial counselor and we are hiring one person for academic skills. We also now have a member of the Admissions Office located on our campus. The campus remains engaged in educational scholarship, providing six Dean's Innovative Curriculum Awards. The ELIITE program places students in the clinic in October of the M1 year and they remain in the same office until the end of their M2 year. This requires active engagement of private practices and the program was able to expand to meet the needs of both M1 and M2 students. We increased our entering class size to 66 students at least in part to be able to bring in the revenue to support the rising costs of campus maintenance and the expanded needs of the new curriculum.

***Graduate Medical Education** – There are currently 292 residents and fellows in eleven residency programs, five ACGME approved fellowships and three fellowships for which ACGME standards do not exist. All residencies are fully accredited with OB-GYN moving off warning status and becoming fully accredited this year. A new transitional residency was approved this year but will begin in July 2019 with a limited number of residents as it was approved only 2 weeks before match submissions. All existing residency positions were filled through the 2019 match. We also filled thirteen fellowship positions. GMED continues to use a Standardized Institutional Review of Programs that has been very effective at identifying areas for improvement. GME is exploring starting additional residencies including pediatric neurology and a fellowship in Point of Care Ultrasound. Other possible residencies are in the very early stages. New proposed common requirements are due to take effect in July 2019.

***Postgraduate–CME/Faculty Development** – The 9th cohort of Caterpillar Scholars began in September of 2018. There are 12 very engaged faculty in this cohort. A series of seven presentations for faculty development have occurred with the goal of enhancing faculty performance particularly as it relates to the new technology and new teaching styles. The “Residents as Teachers” Program was also provided as a require experience for all residents. On the CME level, we continued to actively provide CME with 59 activities delivered including 18 newly approved activities. There has been a change in leadership for CME both locally and at the central campus.

LIBRARY

*The library is very active teaching students, residents, and faculty as well as serving as a resource for literature searches and a study site for students. There was significant remodeling of the circulation desk, expansion of study spaces, and a larger computing/printing area. The conversion to 24-hour key card access has been a major asset with nearly 20% of people entering the library after hours. The number of print journals is declining, as most journals are available electronically. The library has become more involved in the student wellness initiative. The library has a two-week medical informatics elective, which was taken by 40 students in the M4 year. The library is also active in bringing people to the library with the science treasure hunt and various exhibits/events emphasizing key parts of medical history. The library also participated with the Riverfront Museum in an exhibit about medical inventions.

IRB/IACUC/IBC

*The IRB submitted its paperwork and had its site visit for AAHRPP accreditation. A positive outcome is expected. The IRB also had a routine FDA audit with no citations. Dr. Rusch is serving as the Institutional Official. The Human Research Protection Program has assumed additional compliance activities and is conducting routine audits. The IRB has become the IRB of record for all of OSF HealthCare. The IACUC and the IBC both continue to assure compliance with regulatory standards and best practice for animal care and institutional biosafety. Dr. Gyarmati is now the head of the IBC. The radioactive material used for research has been removed from the facility and the license is being ended.

DEPARTMENT and PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

***Cancer Biology and Pharmacology:** The Department now consists of eleven full time faculty with responsibilities for basic science research and for teaching pharmacology. The Department received \$1,798,358 of annual grant and gift awards (including ICR). Of note, two junior investigators obtained their first RO1. The Department remains focused on the UICOMP basic science research strategic goals of cancer and neuroscience research. The Department published 18 articles, 27 abstracts and 1 book chapter and made 28 presentations at national and international meetings. The Department is strengthening its research collaborations both within the University system and with nationally recognized departments across the country. The Department continues to support students engaged in basic science research and is exploring participating with the Chicago campus to develop PhD training.

***Center for Outcomes Research:** COR published 9 articles and 16 abstracts so far in 2018-2019. The PCORI Pipeline to proposal was not funded and the possibility of resubmitting the grant is being explored. An internal review of the department occurred this year and there was

concern regarding the sustainability of the current model. A strategic plan for research overall is a high priority for the new Interim Dean.

***Dermatology:** Dr. Kentosh is the new chair of Dermatology. The Dermatology Elective has been revised and Dr. Kentosh has increased the amount of clinical time the students spend. He has also been an effective teacher in the M1 dermatology segment. Dr. Kentosh is mentoring a student over the summer and has had two publications and given one national presentation. We are thankful to have Dr. Kentosh assume the responsibilities of Chair of Dermatology.

***Emergency Medicine:** The academic Department of Emergency Medicine continues to evolve and this year made the initial draft of a strategic plan. They are very engaged in medical student and resident education, including “Sim Wars” which brings teams of students from across Illinois to Jump. This year they also had a Clinical Ultrasound Course. The Department also independently offered a 2-week M3 elective. In the past, this was administratively handled by medicine. The Department is developing a new fellowship in Point of Care Ultrasound

***Family Medicine:** The family medicine clerkship is including more case based learning and fewer didactics. These changes may have contributed to the fact that six students selected family medicine as their career path, the most since 2010. Two new DO faculty have been added with one of them becoming the osteopathic track director. The Department expanded its community outreach with an enlarging number of community initiatives. The Women’s Health Fellowship continues to do well under Dr. Na’Allah’s leadership. Efforts to increase faculty scholarship appear to be paying off with presentations and posters.

***Health Sciences Education:** The Department continues its focus on curriculum development and student education. This year the pathology department is merging into HSE creating a single Department focused purely on education. The faculty felt that the curriculum went smoother the second time around and they continued to make modifications based on student feedback. Several faculty presented both regionally and nationally. The Department is establishing a culture of student focused, innovative education. A pharmacologist will be added to the roster of faculty in July to support pharmacology teaching when Dr. Lasley retires.

***Medicine:** The Department was active in the phase 1 curriculum and restructured its M3 clerkship to shorten it to 8 weeks. In addition, the Department is taking the lead in using student’s notes as part of the documentation in accordance with the new CMS guidelines. The Department conducted a self-study in preparation for a 2020 site visit of the residency and the established fellowships. The UHATS service expanded to six teams and recruited sufficient faculty to staff the services and meet educational needs. Both ID and Medicine had increasing numbers of encounters. There also is a growth in faculty in both the volunteer and salaried portions of the Department putting increasing pressure on resources needed for faculty development, scholarship and promotion. PHS continues to serve the needs of HIV positive patients and was able to put in place a 340B program this year. The pulmonary critical care, cardiology and GI fellowships continue to mature. The hospice Palliative Care Fellowship is in its first year. A new transitional medicine residency was approved in early 2019 and the first residents will matriculate in July. There is growth in the research portfolio but this needs continued emphasis and a streamlined process. The Medicine Department is also working to improve its ambulatory education as part of the move of the Heartland clinic and through use of OSFMG offices.

***Medicine-Pediatrics:** The Medicine-Pediatrics Program has continued its tradition of retaining physicians in Illinois with six of its 2018 graduates being retained (one OSFMG, 2 hospitalists, 1

chief and 2 in surrounding rural communities.) In 2019, 4 graduates are staying and two prior graduates are joining local practices. Med/Peds faculty occupy critical leadership roles in UGME, GME and curricular programs. Dr. Hanks won the UICOMP Outstanding Service Award and Dr. Vazquez Melendez won the UICOMP golden apple from the 2018 and 2019 class as well as the 2018 Faculty of the Year. There is a very positive collaborative environment between pediatrics, medicine/pediatrics and IM and they have jointly worked to improve resident perception of the service to teaching balance. Medicine/Pediatrics faculty made 14 conference presentations and had seven publications. Med/Peds faculty provide leadership to the rural global effort. Together with Heartland FQHC and OSF, they are working with the other residencies to assure that the ambulatory clinic functions more effectively following the transition to its new location.

***Neurology:** The Neurology Department has 30 neurologists in twelve neurology specialties. Recruiting and retaining sufficient faculty to meet the clinical and teaching demands has been challenging. There are 17 residents in neurology. The neurology medical student clerkship was originally going to be a required rotation but it is now an elective instead as there were not enough neurology rotations available across all campuses of the COM. Work continues on the AVERT NIH trial and there are also several pharma based trials ongoing. The Department had 14 publications and 8 presentations. There needs to be increasing emphasis on a broader number of faculty engaged in scholarly productivity to expand the recognition of the Department.

***Neurosurgery:** Dr. Jeff Klopfenstein remains Head of Neurosurgery. The residency program is under the guidance of Dr. Julian Lin. There were eight publications with five of the eight being done in conjunction with the Department of Cancer Biology. Notably, Dr. Veeravalli of CBP collaborated with Dr. Klopfenstein and Dr. Wang to obtain NIH funding. The program is benefitting from the pilot funding the INI is providing for research. However, research growth is critical to sustaining the residency. The specialty programs continue to grow including vascular, complex spine, brain tumor, and pediatrics. A functional/epilepsy neurosurgeon was recruited to start this summer. The neurosurgery program remains active at Unity Point as well as OSF and needs to continue to attract cases from a wide area in order to assure adequate volume of specialty cases.

***OB-GYN:** Dr. Steve Thompson continues to serve as Interim Chair. The Department has continued to recruit faculty in order to maintain a strong educational environment and support the laborist service, resident/student education and Heartland Clinic. Recruiting talented educator/clinicians is critical to continued success. The Department also includes a minimally invasive gynecologic surgeon and two gyne-oncologist as salaried faculty. The scholarly activity of the residency has increased with 11 posters presented. All members of the class of 2018 passed their Boards. Two members of the faculty are in the CAT Faculty Development Fellowship. During their Feb 2019 review of the residency, the ACGME changed the accreditation status to full accreditation. However, the program remains fragile with a significant number of citations. In July 2019, Dr. Byler Dann will step down as Program Director and Dr. Elkattah will take over that role.

***Pathology:** The Pathology Department is in the process of merging with the Department of Health Science Education. Dr. Yong took over for Dr. Joseph and assumed the pathology teaching responsibilities. In the future, there will no longer be any salaried members of the Department and the State dollars allocated to the Department of Pathology will be transferred to HSE. Until the merger is complete, the Pathology Department will still contain about 15 volunteer clinical faculty.

***Pediatrics:** The Department continues to expand its faculty in order to establish a full service Children's hospital. A focus this year has been on developing financial sustainability for the pediatric department. The department continues to utilize the JPAC as an advisory group to help evaluate the effectiveness and efficiency of the various components of CHOI in order to maximize revenue, quality, service and teaching. JPAC makes recommendations to the Department Chair and the Regional Dean. The department's focus on research is increasing as it strives to recruit and retain academically oriented faculty. Dr. Keith Hanson and Dr. Vimal Raj are replacing Barry Gray as the Associate Head for Research. The Department's scholarly work includes 77 presentations/posters, 51 publications, and 5 books/chapters. The Department is working with OSF HealthCare leadership to create a stronger regional presence for pediatrics including delivering services in the Urbana area.

***Psychiatry:** The psychiatry residency remains strong and fully accredited with its next site visit in 2023. Resident recruitment is going well. The Department continues to be challenged by the difficulty of recruiting additional psychiatrists to meet both clinical and teaching obligations. Despite this, the number of clinic visits continues to grow. The Department was actively engaged in delivering and leading the brain and behavior block for the new Phase 1 medical student curriculum delivered for the first time in fall 2018. Deb Disney was hired with responsibility for medical student counseling and development of the Center for Well Being. Scholarship is slowly advancing with eight ongoing research projects and three presentations. Psychiatry continues to play a key role in UnityPoint's behavioral health strategy and is examining how to work with Unity Health. There is consideration of a community psychiatry track within the residency.

***Radiology:** Dr. Sean Meagher remains the Chair of Radiology as well as President of CIRA. The Department is approved to start an Interventional Radiology/Diagnostic Radiology Residency in 2020. A M3 elective in radiology was developed and had an enrollment of 32 students. There is continued interest in the radiology electives with 39 students taking diagnostic radiology, 24 taking interventional radiology, 6 taking advanced radiology and three taking radiation oncology. The Department teaches in five of the six clerkships. Dr. Amanda Cross will be taking over Dr. Cusack's teaching responsibilities when he retires 5/15/19. The radiology residency is doing well with the primary program and subspecialties fully accredited.

***Surgery:** The surgery department has remained under the leadership of Dr. Steve Marshall. Dr. Marshall's goal is to build the resident's surgical experience by enhancing regional referrals through strengthening surgical specialization while still maintaining a strong general surgery base. The Surgery Department continues to provide a very strong surgical clerkship and good mentorship. The surgery residency is fully accredited and has been able to place its residents in good fellowships.

PATIENT CARE

*Overall quality of patient care is strong and the overall number of patient encounters is increasing. Continual effort goes into assuring that our coding is compliant and that we are capturing all charges. OSF Healthcare and UICOMP are implementing a Physician Services Agreement specific to the pediatric department. It more closely integrates the academic department and the patient care delivery system. This agreement was extended for two years in March and now lasts until 2020. Medicine (including ID), pediatrics, OB, Med/Peds and Psychiatry are all seeing increases in patient billing reflecting rising demand for services.

RESEARCH

UICOMP continues to strive to advance its research mission with a particular focus on four strategic research areas: Cancer Biology, Neuroscience, Education (particularly Simulation) and Health Outcomes. The research committee worked to host the Annual Research Day at UICOMP. This has continued to grow and included residents and faculty. The James Scholar Committee continues to select and mentor students in their James Scholars projects. In May 2019, three students graduated with James Scholars honors. Some promising collaborations with the Chicago campus have begun. Two of our CBP faculty received their first NIH grant this year and we were thankful for their success. Research overall remains a weakness of this campus and we have limited financial resources and relatively few mentors to support its growth. A new strategy for research will need to be developed.

FISCAL

UICOMP is currently fiscally solvent and should complete the year without significant deficits. This assumes that the reconciliation for the pediatrics PSA is completed prior to fiscal year end. UICOMP still owes \$500,000 to the Foundation for the adjacent land once occupied by the VA, but money is set aside for purchase of the land in January 2020. The added cost of the renovations necessary for the M1 expansion and the transformed curriculum are largely being supported by reserves and philanthropy. Additional gifts were obtained to support the second active learning classroom built next to A100-2. The first bolus of ICR rescission dollars was returned this year and the gradual return to this campus should continue for the next 6 years. In response to LCME citations, additional dollars are now being spent to expand the number and variety of staff to support medical student services. These new hires increase our annual budget and need to be supported from a change in the allocation of tuition dollars across campus. This type of strategic financial planning is a high priority for the campus and the college. The State's poor fiscal health continues to impede our growth with very little investment in higher education. We do not yet have a budget for FY20. So far, growth in the MSP (and therefore Dean's tax) and the growth in class size has allowed us to keep the budget in balance. This is not a sustainable model and allows limited resources for investment in new programs, research development or capital needs.

LCME

The LCME visit resulted in continued accreditation but with significant citations. These citations were addressed in an action plan that was submitted by the College in April. All the campuses of the UICOM are credentialed as one college. We anticipate that the action plan will be accepted and that we will have another smaller site visit in 2020.

CHANGING ENVIRONMENT

Meeting the demands of M1 education, transforming our curriculum, tighter cross campus collaborations, addressing LCME citations, changing healthcare environments and a lack of State support for higher education have profound and challenging impacts on our campus. We have enhanced our community engagement, strengthened our identification as a community asset, reaffirmed our commitment to training physicians for downstate Illinois, enhanced our focus on rural student and resident training and continued to "Lead Collaboration to Improve Health. Staying true to our mission is the path to our future.

CONCLUSIONS

- The University of Illinois College of Medicine Peoria remains focused on medical student and resident education in the context of patient care delivery and research/scholarship. We are committed to our mission “Lead Collaboration to Improve Health.”
- The 2019 academic year continued the curricular transformation, created a new active learning room, expanded student services and had the largest class of students ever at the Peoria campus.
- Our research and scholarly activity are slowly growing in clinical departments and within Cancer Biology. It is time to re-examine our research strategic plan. We recently set up a research subcommittee of the OSF JOCAP to try to further share strategic planning in research.
- Fiscal health remains an issue with rising expenses, declining margins for healthcare, rising overhead costs and an Illinois budget that is static at best.
- UICOMP continues to work to create mutually beneficial strategic alignments with our academic partner hospitals while still maintaining a level of autonomy.
- There are significant opportunities for innovative educational projects and programs that will benefit our students, residents and faculty.
- We are thankful for a highly motivated, committed and energetic faculty and staff.
- This is my last annual report as Regional Dean as I will retire after May 15. Dr. Meenakshy Aiyer is the Interim Regional Dean and we have worked together to assure a smooth transition in leadership. I would expect UICOMP faculty and staff would offer her the same advice and support that I have always received. This is a wonderful campus with outstanding faculty and an important mission. I am confident that it will continue to overcome its challenges and progress to an outstanding future.