The key to successful disaster relief is flexibility in how you deliver medical care and flexibility in what role you play on any given day.”

– Dr. Barbara Zimmerman
From the Dean . . .

2020 marks the University of Illinois College of Medicine Peoria’s 50th anniversary. We entered the year eager to celebrate with a 50th jubilee and alumni reunion in September 2020. Then, Coronavirus hit. This world pandemic has changed every aspect of the work we do -- from the way we teach learners to the way we treat patients. While the September 2020 events are postponed, we still have much to celebrate!

While COVID-19 presents us with unimagined challenges, it also highlights the resiliency, strength, and commitment of our faculty, staff and learners who have risen to the occasion to continue teaching, learning, treating, and discovering, in spite of world events. The challenges of COVID-19 further emphasize the key role UICOMP plays within the healthcare backdrop of central Illinois. Our mission – “Lead Collaboration to Improve Health” – has never been clearer or more important.

In this issue of Pathways, we feature the work of Dr. Barbara Zimmerman (UICOMP Class of 1985) who is providing care in Cremona, Italy, one of the hardest hit locations in the world. Read about her important work on page 6. You can also learn more about UICOMP’s response to COVID-19 and the transitions and contributions by our faculty, staff, and learners on page 8.

This issue highlights UICOMP’s community engagement initiatives. Specifically, on page 2, we highlight our ELI²TE program that provides early clinical experiences for our M1 students and the key role of our preceptors. On page 5, see how the Family and Community Medicine Department has launched Centering Pregnancy to provide education to expectant mothers and mitigate disparities in our local community. Camp GranADA, a summer camp for youth with diabetes, is highlighted at right. See how it provides an invaluable learning experience for our learners.

We know these are challenging times, and this pandemic will forever shape the future of medicine. On the occasion of our 50th anniversary and when I think of the thousands of physicians who have earned their degrees and completed their training here, we can be assured that UICOMP is making an impact on the patients and communities it serves, whether in central Illinois, larger metropolitan centers, small rural towns, or globally. Hats off to physicians near and far for their skill and compassion in providing treatment and care to patients and communities!

Sincerely,

Meenakshy Aiyer, MD
Interim Regional Dean
Illinois Diabetes Camp Offers Unique Clinical Experience for Students

Summer camp conjures up thoughts of fun times, new friends and activities galore. But for a kid with diabetes, the idea can be a scary one, and for parents of those kids, the thought can be downright terrifying. Camp GranADA removes the fear by giving campers with diabetes the support and resources they need to have a week with minimal worry and maximum fun. Parents of campers find reassurance knowing camp staff consists of medically trained volunteers who provide oversight and manage the balancing act of diabetes.

Camp GranADA is a one-week, residential camp for children with diabetes. It is one of 71 camps nationwide offered by the American Diabetes Association. Located in Monticello, Illinois, on the picturesque grounds of 4-H Memorial Park, Camp GranADA welcomes campers ages 8-16.

The camp goal is to give children with diabetes a traditional summer camp experience while providing them education and resources about managing their disease. While the camp offers a great opportunity for its campers, it also provides a unique learning experience for UICOMP medical students and residents.

"Those who work the camp get about one year of diabetes experience in one week," says Brian Bostwick, MD, medical director of Camp GranADA and UICOMP clinical assistant professor of internal medicine. "The medical students and residents who serve as counselors learn about living with diabetes and managing diabetes. Each counselor is responsible for 10-12 children and counting carbs, dosing insulin, and treating high and low blood sugars." Monitoring occurs at breakfast, lunch, dinner and bedtime, and even overnight when needed.

"When one of the kids would go low, that can be very scary for a lot of people," Reed explains. "Instead, my response was 'Okay, let's fix it!'"

Bostwick says beyond the altruistic value of helping kids have a great camping experience, Camp GranADA provides valuable experience to future physicians. "Since 25 percent of all adult hospitalizations will involve hyperglycemia or diabetes, it is valuable for medical students and residents to know what that involves and have more insight into the care required for patients with diabetes," he says.

The American Diabetes Association is committed to having camps in which campers use the same technology at camp that they use at home, he says. "We have campers with glucose pumps, continuous glucose monitors, and state-of-the-art, hybrid closed-loop systems," Bostwick explains. "Students and residents are exposed to all of these different ways of managing diabetes. They will see vials, syringes, insulin, pens, pumps, and monitors."

In light of the 2020 Coronavirus pandemic, the ADA made the difficult decision not to bring campers, medical staff and volunteers together for summer camps in 2020. Instead, they will offer an online alternative Virtual Camp experience “ADA Imagine Camp.”
Peoria medical students are introduced to clinical experiences during their third month of medical school, and that is all thanks to the ELI²TE program. ELI²TE is an acronym for the Early Longitudinal Immersion Interprofessional Team Experience. It places first- and second-year medical students in ambulatory clinics paired with a Peoria area preceptor.

ELI²TE allows students to not only see basic sciences applied to the clinical setting, but also to experience the nuances of a medical practice and witness physician and patient interactions through diagnosis and treatment.

Preceptor Les Johnson, MD, says ELI²TE offers even more. “A large part of our initial exposure to patients is not necessarily the scientific complexity of solving the problem,” he says. “It’s getting past the social barriers as a physician. Patients are ready to tell things about themselves that no one else is told about. That can be a very sensitive area. This experience offers a beginning to appreciate that role that society has given to physicians. It’s an extremely private role, and it can be daunting.”

ELI²TE program coordinator Angela O’Bryant says student feedback on the program is favorable. “Students tell us they enjoy getting out of the classroom and into the clinical environment early,” O’Bryant says. “Students feel as though learning is strengthened when they study something in the classroom and then see it in real life.”

Jennifer Law, who is finishing her first year at UICOMP agrees. “I really enjoy ELI²TE because it provides a nice break from class and is a good reminder of why I entered the medical field in the first place. Working with real patients also helps me to better integrate the material learned in school.”

Classmate Anvesh Jalasutram shares how the patient experience provides insight beyond the curriculum with a memorable patient experience. “I had learned about fibromyalgia in depth during class lectures, but I didn’t realize until meeting this patient that understanding
a topic conceptually doesn’t necessarily
equate to understanding the reality...”
Jalasutram says. “In other words, although
I knew conceptually that fibromyalgia
causd constant pain in individuals, I
never truly realized how seriously that
pain affected someone on a personal
level until meeting that patient and seeing
her cry – not only due to the pain itself,
but also as a result of her anguish and
frustration at her inability to walk or sit
properly without suffering. It was this
patient encounter that made me acutely
aware of the human side of medicine.”
O’Bryant says ELI²TE allows students to
also learn about social determinants of
health in the classroom and to witness
first-hand how those might affect patients.
When they encounter a patient who is
unable to fill a prescription because they
cannot afford it or the patient who misses
an appointment because they have no
transportation, students develop greater
understanding of hardships patients face
in Peoria. This leads students to an in-
creased sense of responsibility to engage
with community partners to understand
available resources for patients.
UICOMP students are assigned to one
clinical preceptor for the duration of their
ELI²TE experience. Clinical preceptors
include more than 70 active primary
care physicians, physician assistants
and advanced practice nurse (APNs) in
central Illinois. With students assigned to
one preceptor, they receive a continuous,
or longitudinal, experience which allows
them to interact with the same patients
over the course of their treatment with
a clinic.

“Preceptors are the foundation for this
experience since they serve as not only a
teacher but also a mentor and role model.
Preceptor Jalayne Lapke, MD, enjoys
seeing the medical students morph from
uncertainty and hesitancy to confidence.
“As time goes on, I see them becoming
more confident in their history taking and
physical exam skills, and by the time they
are M2s and introducing the new M1 to
our office, they realize just how much they
have learned and how far they have come.
They are now the experts,” she says.

“Clinical exposure during this program is
all about reminding them about why they
wanted to become a doctor in the first
place. It gives them experience at caring
for patients, a relationship with a mentor,
and real world practice,” Lapke says.

Johnson adds, “These are extremely
intelligent young people who are insightful,
determined and anxious to do well. It’s an
opportunity for us, as physicians, to
emulate the mentors who we appreciated
in our training experience, and in my case,
that was 45 years ago. As physicians, we
take the Hippocratic Oath very seriously,
and that includes training the people who
are going to follow us.”

We can never over-estimate
the power of influence of
our preceptors. When our
students work with their
preceptors, that encounter is so profound and
establishes expectations and best practices that
our students will emulate. They see how physicians
establish relationships with their patients, and the
students will model that throughout their training and when they begin their
own practice of medicine.”

— Meenakshy Aiyer, MD
Interim Regional Dean
UICOMP
Instead of the traditional Match Day celebration and the envelope opening as a class, the COVID-19 pandemic prompted the University of Illinois College of Medicine to send match information by email to the medical students in its Class of 2020.

Match Day is the nationwide unveiling, simultaneously, by thousands of fourth-year medical students of their assigned residency program. The “match” information tells them where they will spend the next three to seven years of their residency training. Instead of gathering as a class with family and friends and opening their envelopes together, the students individually opened an email on March 20 at 11 am. This year’s social gathering was cancelled in compliance with social distancing recommendations by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in light of the COVID-19 crisis.

“This will be a memorable year that these future physicians will never forget,” says Meenakshy Aiyer, MD, interim regional dean of UICOMP. Her message to the students via video conferencing this morning was, “As we look into the future, the healthcare system is going to look to you as you move forward and begin your residencies as physicians. You are entering interesting times, and no matter the place where you are going, you will make phenomenal physicians, and these experiences will make you all better physicians than who we are today.”

The Class of 2020 took the change of plans in stride and celebrated within their own circles of family and friends and connected virtually. “This part of our fourth year is what many students look forward to most, and Match Day and graduation are culminations of years of blood, sweat, tears, and great sacrifice,” says UICOMP M4 Victoria Lu. “At the same time, I value the health of my friends and family above everything, and I would never ask them to risk getting sick just to attend an event.”

This year 56 UICOMP students matched to 18 different specialties in 27 states. Of those, 26 are headed into primary care, and 12 students will remain in Illinois with seven matching to residency programs in Peoria. The top three specialties medical students chose to pursue this year were Internal Medicine (13), Surgery (11), and Family Medicine (6).

In Peoria, 80 residency positions were filled.

Match results for the class as well as a video of highlights shared by the students can be found at peoria.medicine.uic.edu/matchday2020.

Students like Victoria Lu (above left) and Kylie Mena (below) celebrated Match Day by video calling family and friends.
“It’s like a bunch of girlfriends talking” is how Jodi Clougherty of Chillicothe describes Centering Pregnancy, a program launched in 2017 by the UICOMP Family and Community Medicine Department. Centering Pregnancy is a model for providing group pre-natal care that allows expectant mothers more “face time” with their providers and an opportunity to learn and share with other women in a similar stage of pregnancy.

“It’s an evidence-based model that we wanted to bring to Peoria because of the high rate of pre-term births and low birthweights,” says Kari Watts, DO, clinical assistant professor of Family and Community Medicine. The program was recommended by Anna Grady, MD, a fellow in the UICOMP department’s obstetrics fellowship, who had seen a Centering Pregnancy program thrive in Muncie, Indiana.

The two factors of pre-term births and low birthweights are associated with a higher risk of long-term health problems and infant death, especially in cases of extreme prematurity. The pre-term birth rate for Peoria County is 10.6 percent, compared to the national average of 9.8 percent. However the disparity for pre-term births for Black/African American babies is 13 percent compared to 9.7 percent for white babies, according to the 2017 Peoria County Maternal and Child Health Report. Additionally, the report indicated the pregnancy rate for Black/African American teens was four times higher than for White teens (ages 15-19).

Key findings also indicated the teen birth rate in the high-risk zip codes of 61603, 61604, and 61605 was 58.5 per 1,000 females age 15-19.

And, for the remaining Peoria County zip codes, the rate was 9.2.

Disparity was highlighted by the needs assessment conducted by the Peoria City County Health Department, says Rahmat Na’Allah, MD, obstetrics fellowship director with UICOMP Family and Community Medicine. “Evidence indicates the Centering Pregnancy program mitigates the racial disparities and narrows the gap for women of color,” she adds.

A Centering Pregnancy co-hort consists of women in similar gestational age and typically starts at 10-16 weeks gestation. The women attend 10 pre-natal group visits during their pregnancy. Each 90-minute meeting has the same structure and starts with the women taking their own blood pressure and weight, and charting it in their notebook which also includes educational materials. Each patient receives one-on-one time with the care provider. The co-hort participates in facilitator-led group activities and discussion with an opportunity for education and sharing. Topics may range from the discomforts of pregnancy to breastfeeding.

As a provider, Watts says Centering Pregnancy brings many benefits to her as well. “We learn so much from the things they say in 90 minutes that would never come out in 15 minutes,” she says, referring to the typical face time between a provider and patient.

Jodi says, “Having the adult interaction and talking with other women in my boat when my other friends are not pregnant is really kind of nice. It’s like I get to hang out with friends for one-and-a-half hours instead of a doctor’s appointment.”

“And believe it or not, with this being our third kid, I’ve actually learned some things. I’ve learned a lot about nutrition and other forms of birth control,” Jodi says. “There are some first-time moms in the group, and I can share my experiences.”

The curriculum for Centering Pregnancy is offered by the Centering Health Institute headquartered in Boston. Locally, the initiative is offered as a collaboration among the Peoria City County Health Department, UICOMP Family Medicine, the March of Dimes, UnityPoint Foundation, and Heartland Health Services.
UICOMP Alum Fights Pandemic in Italy

In March 2020, central Illinois physicians and healthcare institutions were ramping up preparations in anticipation of COVID-19, but Barbara Zimmerman, MD, boarded a plane and headed to a COVID-19 hotspot – Cremona, Italy.

Zimmerman (UICOMP ’85) responded as a member of Samaritan’s Purse Disaster Assistance Response Team (DART). In Italy, she worked out of a field hospital in military-style tents with four wards and one set-up as an ICU. This field hospital was designated as a Respiratory Care Unit with 68 beds for COVID patients. There, Zimmerman served as a women’s ward doctor. She also provided airway and minor surgical coverage for the cardiologist covering the ICU. When she arrived in March, 65 patients were on ventilators throughout the entire hospital, including the ER and OR, and the nurse-to-vent ratio was 1:8. “There were nurses who were caring for patients on two different floors of the hospital. They were stretched that thin,” she says.

“I’ve never experienced anything like this in 31 years of practice in an emergency department,” Zimmerman says. “Our shifts were 12 hours with most of that spent in PPE because every patient we cared for was COVID-positive. We had PPE and did not experience the shortages reported by some stateside hospitals. The PPE that we are using is a scaled-down version of what was used by Samaritan’s Purse in its response to Ebola.”

“We follow an extensive donning and doffing process,” she says and references the caps, masks, goggles and helmet shields in addition to rubber boots and multiple layers of gloves. “We have an 18-step doffing process that involves multiple steps and washing with a dilute chlorine solution between each step.”

Besides the PPE, Zimmerman says the hardest part of serving in Italy was the language barrier. “We were so blessed to have a large number of Italian medical students, whose studies have

“COVID is a thief. It can steal your sense of community, your loved ones, your job, your life, your peace of mind. It’s a disease spectrum – anything from asymptomatic to death. There was no silver bullet in Italy – not remdesivir, not hydroxychloroquine nor any combination of drugs. Washing your hands matters. Proper and readily available PPE saves lives! (Only one of our staff contracted the coronavirus, and she was relatively asymptomatic.)”

- Dr. Barbara Zimmerman
been put on hold, acting as interpreters for us," she says. "And
despite the language barrier, our patients all said they felt the
love of God from our staff. That is a universal language."
Unlike accommodations at other international relief sites, the
Samaritan’s Purse staff stayed in a lovely hotel and received
three hot meals a day in Cremona. "This was all donated by a
local man at no expense to us," she says. "The Italians were so
grateful and generous. Massive quantities of foods and sweets
poured in. We were even made honorary citizens of Cremona."
When the critical health response slowed in Italy, Zimmerman
helped to take down the tent hospital. “I carried loads of equip-
ment and supplies, scrubbed tents, sprayed chlorine on anything
salvageable, did inventory, and disassembled things,” she says.

“The key to successful disaster relief is flexibility in how you
deliver medical care and flexibility in what role you play on any
given day.” In early May, she returned to Peoria to quarantine
for 14 days.
She chose to join Samaritan’s Purse, a faith-based international
relief organization, in February 2019 following her 31-year career
in emergency medicine at both Elkhart General Hospital and
Goshen General Hospital in Indiana. Her retirement also led her
to return to Peoria to be near family. The deployment to Italy is
her second stint with Samaritan’s Purse. The first was serving in
Freeport, Grand Bahamas, in response to Hurricane Dorian in
fall 2019.”

Photos provided by Barbara Zimmerman, MD.
The Department of Medicine under the leadership of Teresa Lynch, MD, Manasa Kandula, MD, and Matthew Mischler, MD, created a patient outreach team to contact potential plasma donors recovering from COVID-19 infection. The initiative involved both residents and students. Anyone with documentation of a positive SARS-CoV-2 RT PCR test who has been asymptomatic for 28 days is eligible to donate. This outreach is in collaboration with both OSF HealthCare and UnityPoint Health. Students also worked with Heartland’s community testing to organize results and compile data for research purposes and studying epidemiology.

The Family Medicine Residency Program in conjunction with UnityPoint Health formed an Ambulatory COVID Care Team (ACCT) to monitor and track COVID-positive (both non-hospitalized and discharged hospitalized) patients tested at a UnityPoint Peoria facility. The monitoring (via telephone) occurs during the time the patient is quarantined while the tracking occurs for 30 days. All patients are provided with a thermometer while higher risk patients also receive a pulse oximeter. Patients’ social determinants of health are assessed on intake to determine what additional resources are needed while they are quarantined.

Infectious Disease faculty provided support for both OSF HealthCare and UnityPoint Health. The Infectious Disease physicians are serving as the physician liaison for OSF ministry’s COVID-19 infection preventionist teams. This provides support to both ambulatory and inpatient facilities throughout the OSF HealthCare system. Faculty also made numerous media appearances and responded to requests by journalists covering the pandemic to provide the public with accurate information.

The Center for Wellbeing within the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Medicine offers a variety of online resources from tips and strategies for coping during the pandemic to counseling support for faculty, staff, students and residents available via video, telephone or in-person.

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Tina Croland, MD, assistant professor of clinical pediatrics, describes the great need for collaboration among all care teams so everyone stays fully informed in light of the rapidly changing information and processes related to COVID-19. “We have 23 pediatric hospitalists from the Department of Pediatrics and the Medicine-Pediatrics program with an academic service that normally includes three daytime teams with medical students and residents in addition to separate teams that cover pediatric sedation and assist with newborn nursery coverage so there are a lot of moving parts with many interfaces,” Croland says. “We have developed inpatient treatment guidelines for COVID-19, and unit-specific guidelines for social distancing and conservation of PPE, conversion to online meetings and conversion of educational initiatives for medical students and residents, most of whom now have dramatically altered schedules as a result of the pandemic.”

Initial recommendations for the use of PPE during the second stage of labor was conflicting for obstetricians nationwide. Siding with caution and to preserve PPE, Neelam Verma, MD, assistant program director of the OB/GYN residency, devised a plan to construct protective face masks using a material called Halyard 600 after reading about a similar effort at the University of Florida. Typically used to wrap surgical instrument trays, Halyard 600, can block aerosols, water droplets, including bacteria. Dr. Verma reached out to Peoria hospital operating rooms to collect the fabric. With the help of two area seamstresses and OB/GYN resident Samantha Haikal, MD, who created the facemask pattern, they all went to work. Their collaborative effort produced about 100 protective facemasks that were distributed to residents and nurses.
Medical students took part in Med Supply Drive to collect Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for local healthcare frontline workers. UICOMP students organized a regional collection site for the national effort organized by medical students throughout the US. ■

The Internal Medicine-Pediatrics program created an Emergency Community COVID-19 Response Fund, led by Mary Stapel, MD. The fund raised over $5,700, generously supported by faculty and residents in the Departments of Internal Medicine, Med-Peds and Pediatrics, with other support coming from across GME. The money was used to create Compassion Kits including hygiene supplies, food and water for community residents in need, as well as support local community service agencies such as The Dream Center, Salvation Army, Crittenton Crisis Nursery, and Sophia’s Kitchen. ■

Joseph Kim, MD, PhD, with the Internal Medicine Department, assisted with the planning and execution of the local public testing sites offered through Heartland Health Services. ■

Local patients with respiratory symptoms could get answers using a Respiratory Triage Line operated by UnityPoint Health nursing staff and UICOMP medical students. This service was activated in March in response to COVID-19 and allowed patients to have questions answered and be appropriately guided for next steps, according to CDC recommendations. ■

Terry Brady, MD, Professor of Clinical Radiology and Surgery, and his team developed simulations in situ for procedural specialties in light of the pandemic. The simulations involved synchronized donning and doffing. In addition to developing a process for the care team, the simulations were the basis for training videos, boosted morale of faculty and staff, and led to collaboration with other departments. Building on this, Steven Tsoraides, MD, associate clinical professor and surgery resident program director, developed videos to provide step-by-step training for residents and faculty working in procedural areas. ■

Ryan Finkenbine, Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Medicine, worked alongside other state leaders with the Illinois Psychiatric Society to help highlight the need for a robust response to inmates in jails and prisons during the COVID-19 pandemic. According to a Sun-Times article from May 16, 2020, there has been a recent decrease in COVID-19 cases “credited the decline to interventions implemented since the beginning of the year, including opening unused divisions to accommodate social distancing, converting available cells to single-occupancy and enhanced testing.”■

PPE donors Christopher Frederick, Tony Benedetti, and Michael Weimer flew in from Chicago to deliver PPE to UICOMP students Mouneeb Choudry (far left) and Ryan Wilbur (far right).
Dr. Aarti Raut joined the Department of Pediatrics as an assistant professor of clinical pediatrics. Dr. Raut received her doctoral degree from Seth G.S. Medical College in 1974 and completed her residency at St. Vincent's in 1982. Dr. Raut is board certified with the American Board of Pediatrics in General Pediatrics and American Board of Pediatrics in Neonatal-Perinatal Medicine. Dr. Raut's expertise is in Neonatology.

Dr. Siraj Siddiqi joined the Department of Pediatrics as a visiting professor of clinical pediatrics. Dr. Siddiqi received his doctoral degree from Sind Medical College, University of Karachi in 1982 and completed his residency at Mercy Hospital of Pittsburgh in 1992. Dr. Siddiqi is board certified with the American Board of Pediatrics and Neurodevelopmental Disabilities. Dr. Siddiqi’s expertise is in Child Development.

Dr. Susovon Bayen joined the Department of Cancer Biology and Pharmacology as a post-doctoral research associate. Dr. Bayen received his Ph.D. from Bharathiar University in 2017. Dr. Bayen’s expertise is in Nuclear Medicine and Allied Sciences.

Dr. Imran Malik joined the Department of Pediatrics as an assistant professor of clinical pediatrics. Dr. Malik received his doctoral degree from Aga Khan University Medical College in 2004 and completed his residency at Golisano Children’s Hospital in 2011. Dr. Malik is board certified with the American Board of Pediatrics and the American Board of Neonatal-Perinatal Medicine. Dr. Malik’s expertise is in Neonatology.

Dr. Ismail Abbasi joined the Department of Pediatrics as a clinical assistant professor. Dr. Abbasi received his doctoral degree from Cairo University in 1969 and completed his residency at Christ Hospital and Medical Center in 1983. Dr. Abbasi is board certified with the Board of Pediatrics and the Board of Neonatal-Perinatal Medicine. Dr. Abbasi’s expertise is in Neonatology.

Dr. Rohith Jesudas joined the Department of Pediatrics as a visiting assistant professor. Dr. Jesudas received his doctoral degree from Christian Medical College and Hospital in 2003 and completed his residency at Children’s Hospital of Michigan in 2013. Dr. Jesudas is board certified with the American Board of Pediatrics. Dr. Jesudas’s expertise is in Hematology Oncology.
Wright Named Interim Dean
Amanda Wright, DO, was named interim dean of the College of Osteopathic Medicine at Marian University. She completed the UICOMP family medicine residency.

D’Souza Published on Anemia Approach for General Pediatricians
Amber M. D’Souza, MD, assistant professor of clinical pediatrics, authored a special issue article “A General Pediatrician’s Approach to Anemia in Childhood” that was published in the January 2020 issue of Pediatric Annals.

Zakharian Presents Work on TRP Channels
Eleonora Zakharian, PhD, presented her work entitled “Structure function relationship of the thermosensitive TRP Channel TRP1 from the Alga Chlamydomonas Reinhardtii” at the 64th Annual Meeting of the Biophysical Society, in San Diego, California. Also, her collaborative work with faculty from Columbia University was presented as a platform talk entitled “Structural basis of temperature sensation by the TRP channel TRPV3.”

Roberts Joins SPR
Jonathan Roberts, MD, assistant professor of pediatrics, joined the membership of the Society for Pediatric Research (SPR) in January 2020. SPR encourages and supports pediatric research endeavors by creating a network of multidisciplinary researchers to improve child health.

Kattah Published in Internal Medicine Annals
Jorge Kattah, MD, published “Thiamine Deficiency and Wernicke’s Encephalopathy” in the Annals of Internal Medicine in April 2020. This work is part of his on-going investigation effort on the early diagnosis of thiamine deficiency.

Watts Wins Writing Contest
Kari Watts, DO, clinical assistant professor, won first place in the prose category of the 2020 Society of Teachers of Family Medicine Poetry and Prose Contest. The theme of this year’s contest was “The Footsteps of Family Medicine: Expressions of Journeys Past, Present and Future.” Watts’ essay was entitled “Anyway” and is a reflection of her early experience as a resident in the UICOMP Family and Community Medicine Department.

Beckman, Bies Nominated for Outstanding Physician Award
Two physicians with UICOMP ties were nominated for the eighth annual Little Company of Mary Outstanding Physician Award by Memorial Hospital and Health Care Center in Jasper, Indiana.

Dr. Dean Beckman completed both his internship and residency at the University of Illinois College of Medicine Peoria, St. Francis Medical Center. He is a Fellow of the American Academy of Pediatrics and a member of the American College of Physicians. Beckman is an internal medicine/pediatric physician at Jasper Primary Care Physicians.

Dr. Douglas Bies (UICOMP, ’87) is board certified in pediatrics, and a Fellow of the American Academy of Pediatrics. He also completed his residency at the University of Illinois College of Medicine Peoria, St. Francis Medical Center. Bies is a pediatrician at Jasper Pediatrics.

Orcutt Receives Grant
Sonia Orcutt, MD, assistant professor of surgery, is conducting research on the use of 3D technology to prepare for the removal of tumors in the pancreas, liver and adrenal gland. Her project “Virtual Reality for Pre-Operative Surgical Planning” received an $80,000 research grant from the Warren H. and Clara Cole Advisory Board through the University of Illinois Foundation. The goal is to determine if using 3D technology to prepare for surgery improves efficiency and outcomes.

Frost Joins HSHS Medical Group
Robert Frost, MD, (UICOMP ’94) joined HSHS Medical Group Family Medicine & Obstetrics – Altamont. While his affiliation is new, he continues his established practice of providing primary care in family medicine as well as obstetric care.
Celebrating 50 Years

Medical Education • Clinical Service • Research • Outreach

Founded in 1970 by a group of local physicians and community leaders, the Peoria School of Medicine was established with the goal of training physicians who would remain in central Illinois to practice medicine. The Peoria School of Medicine has become the University of Illinois College of Medicine Peoria and proudly contributes to the vibrant, high quality healthcare for our region.

Training Future Physicians
UICOMP trains over 500 medical students, residents, and fellows each year.

Caring for Patients
Our 1,000+ faculty are physicians first who care for and treat patients in hospitals and clinics right here in central Illinois. UICOMP faculty provide clinical care to 31,000+ patients annually.

Innovating and Discovering
Our researchers diligently work to seek innovative solutions to prevent disease, develop more effective treatment, and improve patient outcomes.

Service and Outreach
Faculty and students serve local communities through clinical settings and service projects as well as participate in global initiatives.
Recognize These Photos?

To learn about these photos, or to share your UICOMP stories go online to
go.uic.edu/uicomp50

• Your favorite class?
  Or faculty member?
• A special memory, experience or recollection?
• The story of a mentor or attending who influenced you?
• Ways UICOMP impacted your practice of medicine?
The current pandemic has forced us to postpone the class reunions and the 50th anniversary fall celebration.

Watch your mail or go online for updates go.UIC.edu/JUBILEE50 or go.UIC.edu/REUNION

Upcoming Events

August 14
PRC Night at the Peoria Chiefs
Harry Potter Night plus fireworks
Call PRC to purchase your tickets – (309) 624-9595

September 26
Mark Linder Walk for the Mind
Brain Cancer Research Fundraiser
Peoria Riverfront
www.marklinderwalkforthemind.org

October 17
PRC Hope for Kids Fundraiser
Embassy Suites, East Peoria – (309) 624-9599

November 7
Theresa Tracy Trot
Pancreatic Cancer Research Fundraiser
East Peoria Riverfront
www.theresatracytrot.com

November 19
12th Annual Celebration of Excellence
UICOMP Lobby -- (309) 671-8402