This is about how we change clinician education to inspire students to be catalysts for changing healthcare.

— Dr. Sarah Stewart de Ramirez
From the Dean . . .

The University of Illinois College of Medicine Peoria continues to adapt and innovate in carrying out our mission through education, research and clinical care. Under the recent shadow of the COVID-19 pandemic, we are challenged in unimaginable ways, but the resiliency, commitment and hard work of our faculty, staff and learners have paid off.

The Class of 2020 will be forever remembered as the first class to celebrate graduation virtually as you can see on page 2. This summer our third and fourth year medical students returned to clinical rotations, and in August, we welcomed 65 members of the Class of 2024 who have launched their medical school path with remote learning. The M2s continue with the curriculum using a hybrid model that combines both in-person experiences with remote learning.

In this issue of Pathways, we highlight UICOMP’s unique Innovation in Rural Global Medicine elective and the two-week immersion in Uganda. With over 2,000 alumni, UICOMP is having an impact in Peoria and beyond. We showcase our 2020 Distinguished Alumni Award recipient, Pierre Johnson, MD (Class of 2008), on page 6. See how Dr. Johnson is making his mark in his hometown of Chicago.

Finally, I want to invite you to our 50th Virtual Celebration – “UnMasking the 50th” – on October 15. This is a pandemic-safe way for us to kickoff the celebration of UICOMP's history, hear from alums and leaders, and connect virtually! When I pause to think of all of the alumni who have passed through our classrooms and clinical rotations and launched into their careers in medicine, I am proud of the vision of our founders and the impact that UICOMP is making. Our graduates are making profound differences in the lives of their patients and in the health of their communities. Certainly, our 50th Anniversary is a reason to celebrate! Please check out the “UnMasking the 50th” invitation in this issue, and join us online!

Sincerely,

Meenakshy Aiyer, MD
Interim Regional Dean
Community Garden Allows Family Medicine Program To Address Local Food Insecurities

Paulo Michelini, MD, chief resident with the Family and Community Medicine Residency Program, led the effort to establish a community garden near the UICOMP campus this summer. This summer’s garden is the first of many for the green space adjacent to the UICOMP visitor’s parking lot.

“This is a difficult environment for health food and access to fresh, nutritious food,” he says. “We wanted a way to serve our patients more by providing fresh food. Utilizing this land made sense for the production of fresh produce as well as beautification of the space.”

The fruits of their labor helps more than just the citizens of downtown Peoria. “This garden can also help our medical students who sometimes face their own food insecurity. After you consider the cost of school and paying rent, students may not be able to afford healthy food,” explains Michelini.

Last fall, the project launched thanks to a grant from the UnityPoint Health Methodist-Proctor Foundation. That funding allowed the garden planning and creation to begin. Synergy for the project came from Drs. Kelvin Wynn, Anton Grasch, Dejan Maksimovic, and McKenzie Wiley as well as a joint research project on culinary medicine by Michelini and Wiley.

Bob Streitmatter with Luthy Botanical Garden helped create the master plan by focusing on low maintenance, native plants. This includes raised beds for seasonal vegetables and fruits and a food forest with fruit trees, ranging from peaches, pears and apples to lesser-known persimmons, service berry, and chokeberry.

Future plans for the space include an outdoor classroom as well as raised beds that community members may be able to put to use to grow their own garden.
With the COVID-19 pandemic, Convocation for the Class of 2020 held May 2 took on an entirely different feel and form. Offered virtually, the event was livestreamed with the program’s key presenters located in the Lecture Hall at the UICOMP campus while graduates and their families and friends joined the live webcast from their own devices at their homes or locations of choice.

UICOMP welcomed 61 new doctors to the list of alumni. An early graduation option April 10 was offered to fourth year students who had met the academic requirements, and 37 students chose this option. All graduates were honored during the virtual ceremony which included greetings from UI COM Dean Mark Rosenblatt, MD; UICOMP Interim Regional Dean Meenakshy Aiyer, MD; and Associate Dean for Academic Affairs Jessica Hanks, MD. The convocation address was provided by Matt Mischler, MD, clinical professor of medicine and pediatrics, and Class of 2020 remarks were given by Alex Matelski. Graduate names were announced as the screen included their photograph and residency match information.

Dean Aiyer’s message to the class reviewed lessons learned from the pandemic and applied those lessons to their future careers in medicine. She spoke of the values of endurance and resiliency which provide the strength to forge ahead and adapt to change. “Change, adaptability, and adversity will be part of your journey as physicians,” she said. “These are values that serve us well during a pandemic and will continue to serve you well in your future practice of medicine.”

Aiyer reminded the graduates of the importance of friends and family and finding that work-life balance. “Never forget the need for and importance of those family connections, even among all of the obligations and responsibility of your profession.”

She encouraged the Class of 2020 to apply the lessons from the pandemic to their clinical work in their residencies and throughout their medical careers to ultimately make a difference in the lives of their patients and the communities they serve.
Innovative Faculty Lead Innovative Learning

The UICOMP Dean’s Innovative Curriculum Awards provide financial support toward curriculum development and technology needs. Faculty proposals are evaluated and awarded from an application process. In the 2019-20 year, this program awarded more than $437,000 toward curricular development and an additional $210,000 to fund technology. Learn more about three projects selected for the award:

One award recipient is Trina Croland, MD, associate professor of clinical pediatrics, who is principal investigator for “Use of an augmented reality curriculum to address EPA10 and 12 for pediatric code cart and resuscitation training.” The objective of Croland’s project was to develop and introduce a mobile app to familiarize learners with the cart within the capstone course. It is an augmented reality (AR) app that allows learners to explore a code cart by opening and closing the drawers of the cart to freely explore the contents. As well, learners can challenge themselves with a “timed search” in which they are prompted to find a piece of equipment on or in the crash cart or with a scenario that requires location of key medications and equipment for a given child’s weight. The interactive, guided experience was designed by UICOMP faculty in partnership with Jump Simulation.

William Bond, MD, professor of clinical emergency medicine, is principal investigator for “Use of Interactive Intelligent Avatar-Based Simulation Cases to Learn High Value Care,” a Dean’s Innovative Curriculum Award-funded project currently in its third phase. High Value Care relies on good history-taking and physical examination balanced with the risk profile of the patient to determine needs for testing and treatment. Learning to balance the variables and discern the appropriate evidence-based plan can be challenging in health professions education. This project examines the effectiveness and perceived utility of virtual (avatar) standardized patients for education in High Value Care. The study enrolled more than 60 medical students and tracked their decision-making with both standardized (actor) patients and virtual standardized patients.

Jonathon Fisher, PhD, clinical assistant professor of health sciences education, received a Dean’s Innovative Curriculum Award to develop a histology gaming app to train students how to logically analyze tissue slides to identify their originating organ. Fisher says students often struggle with histology because it’s not a common undergraduate course. Histology occurs throughout the curriculum, and struggling students are constantly seeking more study resources. This app will teach students to identify tissues, structures and special characteristics in a systematic way using a gaming platform. Correct answers score points, but answering quickly earns the user more points. The questions gradually increase in difficulty until the students are challenged to identify organ slides that look extremely similar. Fisher will collaborate with Jump staff to develop the app itself.
Jump online Thursday, October 15, at 7pm (CST) for a 30-minute Kickoff Celebration of UICOMP’s 50th anniversary!

- Celebrate UICOMP history
- Hear from alums and UICOMP leaders
- Get a sneak peek of the 50th Anniversary Jubilee, (an in-person celebration) postponed to 2021

Go to go.uic.edu/uicomp50 today, and pre-register. The “Live Event” link will be emailed to you.

Join us for this virtual celebration!
When we arrived in Peoria in September 1971, we were met with open arms by the medical and civic leaders of the city, who had hoped and planned for a medical school for many years. We were 18 third year students – 17 men and 1 woman, and we came for a variety of reasons. Some students were from central Illinois and wanted to be closer to home, but primarily we came because we were seeking a good education and had heard about the high quality of medicine in Peoria. We were welcomed into the doctors’ homes and invited to ball games and concerts. Although we didn’t have the benefit of today’s technology, we did have the valuable experience of being up close and personal with many of Peoria’s finest physicians.

The medical school “building” was an office in the First National Bank Building, but the real school was in the 3 hospitals, where we were personally taught by the best doctors in their field. I remember when I first met Dr. William Albers. His office was lined with poignant pictures of young patients. I knew then that he had a true “heart” for children. At that time, he was the only cardiologist in town, and occasionally performed cardiology catheterizations on adults as well as many children with congenital cardiac malformations. He showed us how to be physicians first and specialists second. Our clinical experience was excellent. We were fortunate to assist in many complicated operations with Dr. William Marshall, Dr. Robert DeBord, and Dr. Bob Eastman. We delivered many babies under the tutelage of Dr. Ed Saad, Dr. Heiberger, and Dr. Dan Murphy. There were no neonatologists or ventilators in Peoria at that time, so we put in many umbilical catheters and manually ventilated many premature babies until they were able to make it on their own.

The internal medicine department was led by Dr. Don Rager, who showed us how to be critical thinkers and to understand the pathophysiology of our patients’ diseases. Another “giant” was Dr. Pat Elwood. He set a standard of excellence in his pursuit of understanding his patients’ problems and caring for them.

Although I was the only female medical student in Peoria at that time, I never felt any discrimination. My role model was Dr. Alice Ferdinand, who was a spunky, no nonsense lady as well as an excellent pediatrician. The only time my femininity was a problem was in the operating room, where I was often misidentified as a nurse. I tried hard, but made a very poor substitute!

Overall, our experience in Peoria far exceeded our expectations. We are grateful to all the people who worked so hard to make that happen. To everyone involved ... thank you.

Joyce Wise, MD, UICOMP Class of 1973

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?
Pierre Johnson, MD, UICOMP Class of 2008, is the 2020 Distinguished Alumni Award recipient as selected by the Peoria Medical Alumni Council. Johnson, of Chicago, was selected for embodying the mission and values of UICOMP with his commitment to addressing healthcare disparities and his passion for giving back to his community. He is a private practice obstetrician/gynecologist in Chicago, Illinois, where he grew up on the South Side. His challenging childhood circumstances and personal struggles did not prevent him from achieving his professional goals, and he now focuses on helping the under-represented.

After graduating from UICOMP, he completed residency training at Washington Hospital Center in Washington DC and Southern Illinois University School of Medicine in Springfield. In addition to his work as a physician, Johnson is one of three founders of a Chicago-based organization, Pulse of Perseverance, which aims to “empower and inspire young black men to work towards their goals by giving them a blueprint and resources for success, and in doing so, redefine the portrayal of the black male.”

Pulse of Perseverance reaches out to under-resourced young people through school visits, public speaking, YouTube videos, a Facebook page, and television appearances. The organization also administers a scholarship fund to help high school and college students lower the economic hurdles on the path to education.

His co-founders are also black male physicians who completed their undergraduate education at Xavier University. In reflecting on their own challenges and successes, the three men recognized the importance in their lives of caring mentors and strong role models. With Pulse of Perseverance, they set out to become the mentor and role model that many young black men never find. Johnson authored a book, Pulse of Perseverance: Three Black Doctors on Their Journey to Success (by P. Johnson with M. Madhere, and J. Semien; Uplifting Visions, 2018).

Learn more about Dr. Johnson and Pulse of Perseverance at www.thepulseofp3.com.

WTVP Highlights 50 Years of “Peoria School of Medicine”

WTVP-TV highlighted UICOMP’s 50 year presence in Peoria with a 30-minute show that aired on July 30. Host H. Wayne Wilson interviewed four UICOMP guests, including -- Meenakshy Aiyer, MD, Interim Regional Dean; Jessica Hanks, MD, Associate Dean of Academic Affairs; Don Rager, MD, Former Dean; and current UICOMP student Dave Jackson. The show may be streamed online from the WTVP website at https://wtvp.tv/atissue.
UICOMP Welcomes New Faculty

Dr. Abeer AlMajali joined the Department of Medicine as assistant professor of clinical medicine/physician surgeon. Dr. AlMajali received her doctoral degree from Weill Cornell Medical College in 2015 and completed her residency at University of Central Florida in 2018. Dr. AlMajali is board certified with the American Board of Internal Medicine, and her expertise is in Infectious Disease.

Dr. Adam Cross joined the Department of Pediatrics as assistant professor of clinical pediatrics/physician surgeon. Dr. Cross received his doctoral degree from Southern Illinois School of Medicine in 2016 and completed his residency at University of New Mexico in 2019. Dr. Cross is board certified with the American Board of Pediatrics, and his expertise is in pediatrics serving as a hospitalist.

Dr. Prachi Syngal joined the Department of Pediatrics as assistant professor of clinical pediatrics/physician surgeon. Dr. Syngal received her doctoral degree from Kasturba Medical College in 2010 and completed her residency at Elmhurst Hospital Center in 2017. Dr. Syngal is board certified with the American Board of Pediatrics, and her expertise is in pediatric infectious disease.

Dr. April Jones joined the Department of Pediatrics as clinical assistant professor. Dr. Jones received her doctoral degree from Des Moines University in 2011 and completed her residency at Advocate Children’s Hospital in 2014. Dr. Jones is board certified with the American Board of Neonatology and the American Board of Pediatrics. Her expertise is in pediatric neonatology.

Dr. Shoji Samson joined the Department of Pediatrics as an assistant professor of clinical pediatrics/physician surgeon. Dr. Samson received his doctoral degree from Ursinus College in 2010 and completed his residency at Wyckoff Heights Medical Center in 2017. Dr. Samson is board certified with the American Osteopathic Board of Pediatrics, and his expertise is in pediatric neonatology.

Dr. Tracy Soltesz joined the Department of Health Science Education and Pathology as a Visiting Clinical Professor. Dr. Soltesz received her doctoral degree from Marshall University in 1990. She is a member of the American Association of Anatomists and the American Association of Clinical Anatomists, and her area of expertise is in anatomy.

Dr. Imdad Ullah joined the Department of Pediatrics as assistant professor of clinical pediatrics/physician surgeon. Dr. Ullah received his doctoral degree from Baqai Medical University in 2005 and completed his residency at Charleston Area Medical Center in 2017. Dr. Ullah is board certified with the American Board of Pediatrics with expertise in pediatric gastroenterology.

“White Coats for Black Lives” Gather on Campus

On June 8, UICOMP medical students, residents, faculty and staff gathered for “White Coats for Black Lives: A Movement for Racial Justice in Medicine” on the front lawn of the campus. The demonstration included brief remarks and 10 minutes of kneeling/silence in remembrance of all black lives lost due to intolerance and racism and to promote racial justice and equality.
In February, eight UICOMP third year students completed a two-week rural global rotation as part of the Innovation in Rural Global Medicine (IRGmed) program. Six traveled to the African country of Uganda and were based at Mbarara University of Science and Technology while two others were based at OSF Center for Health in Streator in north central Illinois.

IRGmed is a four-year elective that teaches the tools and techniques of innovation that are required to create sustainable change, improve access to health care, and reduce health disparities in underserved rural communities. Rural communities around the globe are faced with limited resources, and these austere environments create unique health challenges, not only in administering health care but also in mitigating the disparities that exist for rural communities.

Prior to the rotation, students were assigned problem statements provided by community stakeholders specific to their placement site. Once they arrived, under the guidance and mentorship of local innovation lab faculty, students worked in pairs to present research summaries, learn from local subject matter experts, identify gaps in care delivery and observe existing processes. At the conclusion of their rotation, they developed and presented prototype solutions to a panel of experts.

The problem statements included such topics as improving access to prenatal care; early screening and diagnosis of depression; empowerment and education of “patient attendants” (like a family caregiver); food insecurity and utilization of a mobile clinic to reach vulnerable populations.

"In a clinically austere environment, clinicians may not have an MRI or access to a subspecialist," explains Sarah Stewart de Ramirez, MD, co-director of the IRGmed program. “When we started looking at problem statements surfacing from global communities in rural areas, we realized they were in alignment with the issues facing our rural communities here.”

“If we can prepare students to practice in clinically austere environments, regardless of location, they will have the tools and skills to make meaningful changes and approach these unique challenges in new ways,” she says.

“It requires an understanding of population health, and the realization that the problems are not unique to any one geographical area. We want to teach students how to innovate and how to be humble enough to learn from rural populations. This is not only about creating sustainable solutions, but this is about how we change clinician education.

The fundamental goal of IRGmed is to equip the next generation of physicians with the skills to be leaders in health equity innovation. Whether they eventually practice in a global, rural, or urban environment, the skills required to identify, define, and solve complex health challenges remain the same and can be applied to create new solutions that eliminate health disparities.”

– Nicole Robertson
IRGmed program coordinator
to inspire students to be catalysts for changing healthcare,” says Stewart de Ramirez.

The IRGmed program accepts 8 - 12 first year UICOMP students each year through a competitive application process. During the first two years of the elective, students experience healthcare delivery and public health from expert practitioners and spend focused time in rural primary care clinics. In the third year, students complete an intensive two-week course that includes a variety of classroom and simulation sessions to provide them with an understanding of clinical care practice in austere settings, cultural humility, and the innovation design process. Students then complete the two-week immersive rotation in either a rural U.S. or rural global environment where they work with stakeholders to develop innovative solutions to address local health challenges. Some prototypes will then be further developed in partnership with the OSF Innovation Labs. Fourth year students complete a capstone project, including a paper, poster and presentation.

Stewart de Ramirez commended the leadership and collaboration opportunity provided by Dr. Data Santorino of Mbarara University of Science and Technology (MUST). Not only did Dr. Data meet with UICOMP students in Peoria months before their travel to Uganda, but he and his team of experts generously gave of their time to mentoring and guiding the IRGmed students throughout the innovation process. “Mbarara was a key partner and essential to the success of this rotation. MUST is known for medicine as well as innovation,” says Stewart de Ramirez. “This is really a partnership around innovation. The huge thrust is that patients in auster settings face the same challenges and obstacles. We can learn and innovate with each other regardless of geographic location.”

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Markewycz Awarded Scholarship

UICOMP’s Hanna Markewycz (MD candidate Class of 2024) received a scholarship from the Dr. Walter and Olha Prokopiw Scholarship Fund from the Ukrainian Medical Association of North America (UMANA) Foundation for the 2020-21 academic year.

Bland Joins Grand River

Andrew Bland, MD, (UICOMP Class of 1997) joins the staff of Grand River Medical Group, Dubuque, Iowa. He completed his nephrology fellowship at the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics. He is board certified in general pediatrics, internal medicine and nephrology.

Moole Joins Stormont Vail

Vishnu Moole, MD, joins Stormont Vail Health in Topeka, Kansas, as a hospitalist. He completed his internal medicine residency at UICOMP in 2020.

Cameron Joins Staff in Pocatello, Idaho

Vanessa M. Cameron, DO, FACOG, recently joined the medical staff at Pocatello Women’s Health Clinic (PWHC) in eastern Idaho. Dr. Cameron is a board-certified obstetrician and gynecologist (Ob-Gyn) and is also board certified in obesity medicine and weight management. She completed her residency in obstetrics and gynecology at UICOMP.

Share Your News

We love to follow the careers and successes of our graduates! Alumni of UICOMP (med school, residencies and fellowships) are invited to submit their news. Submit news of new positions, honors, awards, and publications to adv-peoria@listserv.uic.edu or send it to: Advancement & Community Relations, UICOMP, One Illini Drive, Peoria, IL 61605. Or, call us at (309) 680-8613.

UICOMP Researchers Author COVID-19 Review

UICOMP research scientists and physicians authored a review entitled, “A potential role for Galectin-3 inhibitors in the treatment of COVID-19,” that was accepted and published June 15 by PeerJ, a peer-reviewed journal of life and environmental sciences. The open access journal publishes primary research and reviews in biology, life sciences, environmental sciences, and medicine. Authors include John L. Caniglia; Maheedhara R. Guda PhD; Swapna Asuthkar, PhD; Andrew J. Tsung, MD; and Kiran K. Velpula, PhD.

Sarah Donohue Leads UICOMP Research Services

Sarah Donohue, PhD, joined UICOMP as Director of Research Services where she will provide leadership and oversight on research initiatives and statistical analysis for students, residents and faculty. In addition, she will provide training and guidance to researchers to stimulate research development, projects and related publications while providing mentorship, development and enhancement of research skills for junior faculty. She will also assist with grant writing and research proposals.

Dr. Donohue brings a wealth of research and mentoring experience and a global perspective. Most recently, she was a postdoctoral fellow at the Clinic for Neurology at Leibniz Institute Neurobiology at Guericke University Magdeburg, Germany, and has conducted research in labs at Leiden.

The Pediatric Resource Center received a $1,000 Opportunity Grant through the Community Foundation of Central Illinois. The funds were used to create new child-friendly artwork that adorns the walls of one of PRC’s exam rooms where children who may have experienced child sexual abuse are evaluated by PRC’s expert staff. PRC recently moved into new space, and the grant helped to create a mural, similar to the well-loved one in their previous location. Artist Jody Tockes of The Hive provided the creative direction and artistic talent. The mural, seen here, includes realistic depictions of Central Illinois flora and fauna and was inspired by the art selected for the new building. The new office is located at the OSF Center for Health located at 1800 N. Knoxville, Suite B, Peoria.
Toth Leading American Society for Preventative Cardiology

Peter Toth, MD, clinical professor of Family and Community Medicine, was interviewed by Healio in July 2020 as president-elect of the American Society for Preventative Cardiology on the organization’s virtual congress focusing on cardiovascular disease prevention.

American Hospital Association Awards Two Grants to UICOMP Faculty Projects

Two projects led by UICOMP faculty were awarded grants from the Institute for Diversity and Health Equity program in collaboration with the American Hospital Association and Blue Cross Blue Shield Illinois.

Rahmat Na’Allah, MD, and Kari Watts, DO, received a $75,000 grant for their work focused on reducing the preterm and low birthweight rates among infants born at UPH Methodist and reducing racial maternal health disparity among blacks and whites. Drs. Na’Allah and Watts are collaborating with Kathy Lehman, diversity and inclusion officer at UPH, as well as two Heartland clinics.

Sarah Stewart de Ramirez, MD, serves as project lead with Abby Lotz of St. Gabriel Digital Health for a $75,000 grant centered on reducing income and geographic-driven disparities in breast cancer screening (mammography) in an effort to reduce racial disparities in breast cancer mortality. This project will use an innovative Digital Health Worker model to overcome health literacy and social determinants of health combined with “hot spot” pop-up community outreach events to reduce these disparities over the course of 2020-21. A secondary research study with Harvard School of Public Health will examine the most effective outreach methods (digital, phone, in person, etc.) by which to overcome these screening disparities.

UICOMP Presence in OSF Center for Health

UICOMP joined OSF HealthCare in the ribbon cutting for OSF Center for Health, its newly renovated space located on North Knoxville, just blocks from Peoria’s medical hub. This new location is home to UICOMP’s University Pediatrics practice as well as the Pediatric Resource Center. In addition, four UICOMP residency programs provide ambulatory care at this location in partnership with Heartland Health Services. These include: internal medicine, pediatrics, combined internal medicine-pediatrics, and obstetrics and gynecology. During her remarks, UICOMP Interim Regional Dean Meenakshy Aiyer, MD, expressed gratitude for the on-going ways that OSF HealthCare collaborates with UICOMP.

Rana Receives Weigel Scholarship from Elks

Iemaan Rana, (MD Candidate, Class of 2024) was selected to receive the 2020 Gunther and Lee Weigel Medical School Scholarship. The scholarship offered by the Elks National Foundation is exclusive-ly open to Elks scholars who are pursuing a degree in medicine. The scholarship award Rana was one of eight students nationwide who will each receive a $26,000 award.

Huckleby Receives AMA Scholarship

Congratulations to Jeremy Huckleby (MD Candidate, Class of 2021) for being awarded a $10,000 scholarship from the American Medical Association for Under-represented Minorities in Medicine.

Na’Allah Speaks at NAACP Forum

Dr. Rahmat Na’Allah, director of Family Medicine Obstetrics Fellowship, was one of the featured speakers at the Peoria NAACP Young Adults Committee Prevention and Education Forum entitled “Please Wear Your Mask” held in early August.
UICOMP Business as "Usual" During COVID-19

Campus activity ramped backed up under a "new normal" in light of the COVID-19 pandemic. In June, third and fourth year medical students returned to clinical rotations that started with donning and doffing training using Personal Protective Equipment. In August, first and second year students completed their orientation sessions and resumed the academic curriculum. First year students start the year with remote learning, and second year students are in a hybrid curriculum that combines remote learning with face-to-face instruction, following CDC guidelines and University protocol. The start of the academic year also marks the beginning of the cycle for Graduate Medical Education interviews as well as the interview process for medical school applicants. This year those processes will be completely changed due to the pandemic, with all interviews and tours taking place virtually. Consequently, the residency and fellowship programs have been hard at work developing videos and updating websites to showcase their programs and all the advantages of training in Peoria. Similarly for student recruitment, the Peoria campus worked with the UI College of Medicine admissions team to develop a College-wide approach to student interviews and tours as the admissions cycle to select the Class of 2025 will begin soon. Interested applicants will get a sneak peek of the Peoria campus with a video tour led by UICOMP medical students who graciously volunteered their time to showcase the campus and provide their own personal insight to being a medical student in Peoria.
Recognize These Photos?

To learn about these photos, go online to
go.uic.edu/uicomp50
Recently, these UICOMP deans (past and present) gathered to reflect on the impact of the College’s 50 year presence. From left to right: Drs. William Albers, Donald Rager, Sara Rusch and Meenakshy Aiyer.

Upcoming Events

October 15
UnMasking the 50th – A Virtual Celebration
Pre-register at go.uic.edu/uicomp50

October 17
Hope for Kids Fundraiser
Pediatric Resource Center – (309) 624-9599

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

Please Wear a Face Mask
Help Stop the Spread