UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS COLLEGE OF MEDICINE
CAREING FOR THE STATE

Without the College of Medicine, physicians in the state of Illinois would be considerably fewer and farther between. The University of Illinois College of Medicine and its four campuses train and retain physicians across the state who serve nearly 90 percent of the counties in Illinois. Our mission is to produce new knowledge in the medical sciences, develop best practices in health care delivery and educate the next generation of physicians and biomedical scientists committed to serving the needs of Illinois and the nation.

1 of 6 physicians in Illinois have received their M.D. or resident training from the College of Medicine.

12,411 total alumni in Illinois

Nearly 70% of minority physicians in Chicago received College of Medicine training.

60% of Illinois’ minority physicians are trained at the College of Medicine.

47th in NIH funding among 128 medical schools

3rd among all U.S. medical schools graduating primary care physicians

Producing Primary Care

UICOMP ranks No. 11 nationwide for producing primary care physicians from its Graduate Medical Education programs.
On June 17th 1970, the Board of Trustees of the University of Illinois established the Peoria School of Medicine (now UICOMP) to accomplish the “interweaving of the resources of the University with the resources in the Peoria community to achieve common goals of conducting programs of medical education, improving the quality and delivery of health care services, conducting research in health and related fields and responding to other health related needs of the community.”

This issue of Pathways describes how UICOMP residencies and fellowships, interwoven with our hospitals, have impacted central Illinois.

During medical training, physicians-to-be spend four years as a medical student, followed by 3-8 years as a resident, sometimes followed by additional years as a fellow before entering medical practice. UICOMP works with its major academic affiliate hospitals, OSF Saint Francis Medical Center and UnityPoint Health – Methodist to train about 260 residents and fellows. These residents and fellows often stay in Central Illinois. In fact, about 60 percent of the primary care providers in Peoria have trained in a UICOMP sponsored residency.

On a national level, the success of UICOMP’s primary care residencies was recognized in a recent issue of "Academic Medicine." UICOMP sponsored residency programs at OSF and Methodist ranked 11th among 161 academic training programs in terms of the number of primary care physicians trained. This is a tremendous accomplishment, fulfilling one of the purposes for which UICOMP was created.

On a personal level, my presence here as Regional Dean is a direct result of a UICOMP residency. I came to Peoria in 1978 in order to complete an internal medicine residency. At the time, I anticipated that I would return to Wisconsin to practice. Instead, like many other former residents, 35 years later I’m still here in Peoria working to fulfill UICOMP’s vision “Lead Collaboration to Improve Health.”

Although we are justifiably proud of our primary care training, we also are proud of our subspecialty residencies and fellowships. We train physicians in diverse specialties from pediatrics to geriatrics. Some of these subspecialty-trained physicians also practice in central Illinois and the presence of residencies and fellowships inside our academic hospital partners attracts talented physicians from across the country to Peoria for practice.

Resident and Fellow education is one of the many ways that the University of Illinois College of Medicine benefits our community. We are proud of the physicians we train and of the faculty who teach them. They make a tremendous impact on the quality of medical care here in Central Illinois and across the entire country.

Sincerely,

Dr. Sara L. Rusch
Regional Dean
The College of Medicine honored more than 60 faculty for their dedicated teaching, award-winning research and outstanding service at the annual Celebration of Excellence held Nov. 13, 2013 on campus.

"Faculty are critical to the success of our medical school and medical student education," Dr. Meenakshy Aiyer, Associate Dean of Academic Affairs, told the crowd of more than 130 people. "Students spend three out of their four years of medical school training here in Peoria, and during these three years, many teachers – clinicians, basic scientists, mentors – touch the lives and have a significant impact on both the professional and personal growth of our medical students. Faculty give students their time, share with the students their thoughts and wisdom, and above all encourage and challenge them to excel."

Among the honors presented this year include the prestigious award for Faculty of the Year which went to Dr. Stephen Lasley, a 27-year member of the UICOMP faculty who has published more than 45 peer reviewed manuscripts, five book chapters and 72 abstracts. Awards were presented by Dr. Aiyer, Regional Dean Dr. Sara Rusch and Dr. Ryan Finkbine, who chaired the committee on faculty fellowships and awards.

The annual ceremony also recognized an individual and organization in the community with the Community Health Awards for their special contributions in the areas of patient care, health-support services, medical education, research, wellness programs and disease prevention.

The recipients of the Community Health Award were Dr. Jack F. Gilligan and the First United Methodist Church Loaves and Fish program. Gilligan is the president of the Fayette Companies and played a critical role in building the foundation for mental health services now available in the Peoria-area. The Loaves and Fish ministry program at the First United Methodist Church in Downtown Peoria has provided warm meals, clothing and education – and for the past two years a free medical clinic – for some of the city’s most needy for the past 19 years.

Recipients of the Community Health Awards are nominated and chosen by a panel composed of past recipients and area social service and health agency representatives.

To see the list of award recipients, go online to UICOMP homepage www.medicine.peoria.uic.edu and click on “Faculty and Community Health Awards are Presented” in the upper right-hand corner.

Learn to see, learn to hear...

New eye and ear examination simulators are just a small part of the anatomy making up a newly renovated Donald E. Rager, M.D. Clinical Skills Laboratory.

When built in 2005, the Rager Lab was the first human patient simulation laboratory within the University of Illinois system with some of most sophisticated simulation equipment, elevating the level of training in emergency care and intervention. So when the Jump Trading Simulation & Education Center opened its doors this year, the Rager Lab was eyed for a change.

"We looked at the needs of the second-year students and found they would benefit from a dedicated area to practice their physical exam skills," said Glenn D. Miller, M.D., Professor of Clinical Family Medicine and Assistant Dean for Preclinical Curriculum and Evaluation, who was assigned the task of overseeing the Rager Lab’s transformation.

"Learn to see, learn to hear, learn to feel, learn to smell, and know that by practice alone you can become expert"

– Sir William Osler, the Father of Modern Medicine

Thanks to last year’s fundraising campaign and donations by UICOMP supporters, the Rager Lab, located on the second floor of the UICOMP campus, is equipped with two examination tables, two sets of otoscopes and ophthalmoscopes (to examine ears and eyes), a scale and new simulators.

A new eye simulator allows students the chance to practice and become more proficient at a relatively difficult part of the physical exam which is challenging to teach using traditional methods. When using the eye simulator, students can visualize the fundus (back of the eye) through a scope while an instructor monitors the student’s view through the scope on a computer monitor. Both normal and abnormal findings can be shown. A new ear simulator works in a similar fashion. Both medical students and nursing students (those enrolled in the University of Illinois APN graduate program) already are using this space and equipment. "The response has been positive," Dr. Miller said. "We use the Rager Lab at least twice a week for medical student small group physical exam instruction."

Still headed for the lab are male and female pelvic simulators, an ultrasound device, as well as access to simulated heart and lung sounds. The room is accessible by key card, meaning students can visit and use it at their discretion. Second-year medical students will be able to practice “seeing, hearing, and feeling” using simulation in the Rager Lab, and with these core skills, students will be better prepared to gain additional expertise at the patient bedside and during advanced simulation activities at the Jump Trading Simulation & Education Center.
In a ceremony that emphasizes the humanistic qualities desired of physicians, 54 medical students were presented with personalized white coats on August 9, 2013, at the Jump Trading Education & Training Center auditorium in Peoria.

Over 200 guests, including family members of the students, were in attendance at the event, which included the induction of seven senior medical students into the Gold Humanism Honor Society. Dr. Robert Sawicki, Senior Vice President of Supportive Care for the OSF HealthCare System, gave the keynote address, emphasizing the skills of listening, comforting, and caring as among paramount as the technical skills of treating and prescribing.

The white coats, which represent the transition to increasing clinical activity, were purchased for students by the Peoria Medical Alumni Council. Each coat is emblazoned with a UICOMP patch on one sleeve and the name of the student embroidered over the chest pocket. Donations from the graduating class of 2013 covered the cost of the embroidery and a copy of Maxwell Quick Medical Reference Guide for each student.

In welcoming students and their guests, Dr. Sara Rusch, Regional Dean for the Peoria campus, said, “This white coat ceremony marks the beginning of an important transition; the transition from a student soaking (or perhaps drowning) in a sea of biochemistry and anatomy to a physician responsible for caring for patients. The white coat you receive today is a symbol that you are a member of the profession of medicine. This is a tremendous honor as ours is a great profession, a profession of service and caring, a profession that will give you unequalled opportunity to impact the lives of your patients. It is also a profession that will give you great opportunities and incredible responsibility, a profession that will give you unequalled opportunity to impact the lives of your patients.”

Dr. J. Eric Lomax, President of the Peoria Medical Society and Dr. Robert Sparrow, president of the Peoria Medical Alumni Council, provided additional words of welcome and encouragement. Both groups distinguished themselves through public service.

The August 9 White Coat Ceremony included the induction of seven members of the UICOMP class of 2014 into the Gold Humanism Honor Society.

Senior students Brian Andonian, Benjamin Claytor, Lisa Fosnot, Charlie Jain, Meghna Motiani, Ganesh Nagaraj and Abimbola Olayinka were tapped for their “demonstration of commitment to humanism in medicine and the highest standards of patient care.”

The Gold Humanism Honor Society was established by the Arnold P. Gold Foundation to perpetuate the tradition of the caring doctor by emphasizing the importance of the relationship between the practitioner and the patient. The students honored were nominated by peers and selected at the conclusion of their M3 year, having had sufficient opportunity to distinguish themselves through public service, leadership, and patient contact.

By Azeem Rehman
UICOMP M2 student

Halloween and the typical transcendent sugar rush may leave some kids sick, but children with juvenile diabetes are at risk for more than just a tummy ache because of their body’s inability to produce insulin.

As a result, kids with diabetes may feel excluded and disheartened while listening to their peers discuss an upcoming binge of candy as Halloween approaches. But that doesn’t mean Halloween still can’t be a treat.

Medical students at UICOMP recently hosted a Halloween party for local children with diabetes through the Pediatrics Interest Group. On Saturday, Oct. 26, more than 100 costumed children and their families crowded the second floor of the medical school, engaging in a wide array of festivities organized and conducted just for them.

Overnight, a classroom was transformed by medical students into a Haunted House plagued with frightening zombies, a “wall of hands,” and dark, winding tunnels. After the scare, children competed for prizes in various games and decorated Halloween-themed arts and crafts, while enjoying pizza, bananas, popcorn, and sugar-free candy—all donated by local businesses and community members.

Joshua Valverde, an M2, said the party benefited parents as much as children. “In addition to the children enjoying themselves, several parents interacted with each other, sharing their own personal stories and forming support groups,” he said.

Riana Ruffin, also an M2, was the primary organizer for this year’s event: “Because sugary candy is the hallmark of Halloween, even in the school setting, diabetic children can feel left out. Through this event, we strive to alleviate these concerns by offering healthy alternatives while maintaining the Halloween spirit.”

The Halloween party allows medical students to interact with community members outside of the hospital and classroom setting. We often forget that the hours spent studying are not just to pass exams; it is also the basis for teaching students how to best serve and care for others.

When asked if he would participate in next year’s party, M2 Jerome Tiu replied, “I wouldn’t miss it for the world.”
Pancreatic Cancer Research at UICOMP

The American Cancer Society’s estimates for pancreatic cancer in the United States for 2013 are:

- About 45,220 people will be diagnosed with pancreatic cancer.
- About 38,460 people will die of pancreatic cancer.
- Rates of pancreatic cancer have slowly increased over the past 10 years.

Research in pancreatic cancer at UICOMP is producing discoveries that could lead to better bedside treatments while also providing experience at the bench for budding physicians.

A $25,000 grant from the William E. McElroy Foundation, the second of two such grants in as many years, is helping fund work in the lab to identify how some pancreatic cancers are resistance to chemotherapy as well as identifying methods to overcome that resistance.

“We found a molecule that cancer cells secrete – a molecule which degrades the surrounding tissue,” said Christopher Gondi, Ph.D., a research assistant professor in the Department of Medicine, who is leading the project. “This protein is secreted and goes into the nucleus of normal cells, recruiting them to be tumor-supporter cells.”

The research findings, published in the July issue of Molecular Biology Cell, proved that regulating the expression of this particular gene contributes to the cells’ cancer-promoting properties.

Dr. Gondi said another group made the same discovery, so they collaborated on the publication, which also will be presented during the 9th Annual Academic Surgical Congress in February at San Diego.

But the research also has been an opportunity for student involvement and promoting research among tomorrow’s physicians. Gondi added.

Maria Rossi, a second-year UICOMP medical student, had the job of collecting the pancreatic tumor cells, isolating them and culturing them in the lab.

“It’s been a lot of hands-on work,” Rossi said about the work, the bulk of which took place between June and early August, thanks to a stipend through the Carrie M. Craig Fellowship. “I’ve done a lot of research, but I think this is the most interesting work I’ve ever done, and I can actually see the clinical applications for it.”

Despite the extreme study requirements of the second year in medical school, Rossi said she fits the work in when she can.

“I’m thinking beyond medical school, so as much time as I can devote to it, I will. I’d like to end up in an academic setting, so it’s nice to have the experience now.”

Gastrointestinal disease affects an estimated 60 to 70 million Americans annually, and is on the rise, while the number of physicians training to fill the growing patient need is flat.

Looking to help bridge that critical gap in provider care and maintain central Illinois’ status as a leader in the medical community, the University of Illinois College of Medicine at Peoria in conjunction with OSF Saint Francis Medical Center announce the establishment of a new Gastroenterology Fellowship Training Program.

“This has been an incredible undertaking with a tremendous support by many people that will have all sorts of future ripple effects, including sustaining the high quality of medical care for patients in downstate Illinois,” said Michael D. Cashman, M.D., a gastroenterologist at OSF Medical Group and Clinical Professor of Medicine for the University of Illinois College of Medicine at Peoria, who has worked several years to establish the training program in Peoria and who will be among the fellowship’s faculty.

The gastroenterology fellowship is a 3-year training program. Recruiting for the first fellow is underway. They will begin training July 1, 2014. Physicians must complete a residency program in internal medicine in order to apply.

Gastroenterologists are responsible for diagnosing and treating digestive diseases, including areas affecting the esophagus, stomach, small intestine, colon, liver, gallbladder and pancreas. Frequently, they are called to assist with cases of abdominal pain, rectal bleeding, and a change in bowel habits when a diagnosis is unclear or a special procedure, such as a colonoscopy, is necessary.

Dr. Cashman said the fellowship program will sustain and improve patient care in central Illinois by providing patients better access to gastroenterologists by reducing the time patients must wait. The fellowship also will maintain and elevate the already high level of care by attracting new physicians from outside the area to come here to train or teach within the program.

“Right now, we’re not graduating enough gastroenterologists in the country,” Dr. Cashman said, noting as an example the increasing rate of Inflammatory Bowel Disease. We can’t sustain the GI demands with our current resources.”

Sonu Dhillon, M.D., a hepatologist, was tapped to become the Director of the Gastroenterology Fellowship Program.

Announcement of the gastroenterology fellowship comes one year after the College of Medicine and OSF announced the creation and approval for a fellowship training program specializing in cardiac disease.

James Graumlich, M.D., Professor and Chair of the Department of Medicine for the University of Illinois College of Medicine at Peoria and at OSF Saint Francis Medical Center, said the new training programs are “part of a long-term, strategic plan to train the next generation of specialty physicians to take care of the patients in Central Illinois.”

The gastroenterology fellowship received formal approval by the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education, the agency responsible for authorizing such programs nationwide.

Where residency programs train doctors in a variety of fields after medical school, fellowships offer an additional one to four years of training in specific areas of medicine.

The GI fellowship makes 10 the number of fellowship training programs that the University of Illinois College of Medicine at Peoria sponsors with its two primary affiliates, OSF Saint Francis Medical Center and UnityPoint Health – Methodist. UICOMP also has 11 residency training programs.

60 to 70 million people are affected by all digestive diseases, according to the National Digestive Diseases Information Clearinghouse, a service of the National Institutes of Health.

In 2010, 48.3 million ambulatory care visits and 21.7 million hospitalizations were attributed to digestive diseases.

Spending on gastrointestinal diseases in the United States has been estimated at $142 billion per year in direct and indirect costs, according to a 2004 report.

Nationwide, there are 158 accredited gastroenterology training programs.

About 1,400 resident physicians were enrolled last year in GI residency training programs, representing only a 7 percent increase in enrollment compared to five years ago.
Providing for tomorrow’s Primary Care

The University of Illinois College of Medicine at Peoria was named among the top 15 producers of primary care graduates across the U.S., according to a study this fall in the medical journal, Academic Medicine. The College of Medicine ranked No. 11 of 161 U.S. institutions sponsoring graduate medical education with more than 200 residency graduates between 2006-2008, according to the report that appeared in the September issue of Academic Medicine. Rankings were based on the rate of residency graduates who entered primary care compared to total number of residency graduates.

“Not only are we providing accountable health care education, and the quality of education being provided by the University of Illinois College of Medicine at Peoria is commensurate with societal needs, which is ever so important,” Thomas Santoro, MD, UICOMP’s Associate Dean of Graduate Medical Education, said of the study.

“We’ve never had any level of accountability, so this is a look at what the return on investment is in the physician workforce,” he said. “It’s been proven time and again that effective medical therapy requires a director, an orchestra leader and that’s what the primary care physician – but also where they’re needed geographically. We’re fulfilling our mission and doing what the College of Medicine in Peoria was created to do,” says Santoro.

The study showed UICOMP had 201 residency graduates between 2006 and 2008 – the years the study focused on to allow graduates time to become established in practice – with 78 of those graduates, or 38.8 percent, entering primary care, the report cited. While the federal government provides nearly $10 billion annually in subsidies toward graduate medical education, “the physician workforce is struggling to meet the nation’s health care needs, particularly in primary care and geographically underserved areas,” the study’s authors noted. The research study provides a method for looking at institutional outcomes in terms of primary care.

Santoro says the report provides documentation of accountability, but he adds some caution.

To read the report from Academic Medicine in full, go online to http://peoria.medicine.uic.edu click on the story at the center of the page and follow the link to “Toward Graduate Medical Education (GME) Accountability: Measuring the Outcomes of GME Institutions”.

A Brief Glance at Graduate Medical Education

At right is a list of the ACGME-approved programs sponsored by the College of Medicine and dates of original of accreditation, according to the Accreditation Council of Graduate Medical Education website. Please note dates provided may vary with the actual establishment of programs, including affiliation with the College of Medicine. Some programs predate the existence of the College of Medicine. Other programs that no longer exist and fellowships not approved by the ACGME are not listed below. UICOMP, together with its two major affiliates – OSF Saint Francis Medical Center and UnityPoint Health – Methodist – currently have about 260 graduate students in 11 residency and five fellowship training programs accredited by the ACGME, not including an additional five fellowships programs that the ACGME currently does not possess an accreditation process for.

*According to the ACGME website
**No date provided. The Family Medicine Residency, previously known as the Family Practice Residency, was the first residency program under the auspices of the College of Medicine in 1971.
***No date provided. The Surgery Residency began in 1950 at OSF Saint Francis Medical Center, and was affiliated with the University of Illinois in Chicago, until 1965, when the hospital became holder of program. In 1981, the Surgery Residency was affiliated with UICOMP.
****Data first independently accredited separate of Medicine and Pediatrics.

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### Top producers of primary care graduates

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Program</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>2006-08 Total No. of Graduates</th>
<th>No. of specialties trained</th>
<th>No. in primary care</th>
<th>% primary care</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>University of Nevada School of Medicine</td>
<td>Reno, Nev.</td>
<td>239</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>129</td>
<td>54</td>
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<td>2.</td>
<td>Bronx-Lebanon Hospital Center</td>
<td>Bronx, NY</td>
<td>286</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>143</td>
<td>50</td>
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<td>3.</td>
<td>Kaiser Permanente Southern California</td>
<td>Los Angeles, Calif.</td>
<td>286</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>140</td>
<td>49</td>
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<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>Brooklyn Hospital Center</td>
<td>Brooklyn, NY</td>
<td>227</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>109</td>
<td>48</td>
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<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>James H. Quillen College of Medicine</td>
<td>Johnson City, Tenn.</td>
<td>240</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>113</td>
<td>47.1</td>
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<td>6.</td>
<td>University of Kansas School of Medicine (Wichita)</td>
<td>Wichita, Kan.</td>
<td>233</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>108</td>
<td>46.4</td>
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<td>7.</td>
<td>Atlantic Health</td>
<td>Florham Park, NJ</td>
<td>244</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>110</td>
<td>45.1</td>
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<td>8.</td>
<td>UCSF Fresno Medical Education Program</td>
<td>Fresno, Calif.</td>
<td>206</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>86</td>
<td>41.8</td>
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<td>9.</td>
<td>Advocate Lutheran General Hospital</td>
<td>Park Ridge, Ill.</td>
<td>205</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>85</td>
<td>41.5</td>
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<td>10.</td>
<td>Kaiser Permanente Medical Group</td>
<td>Oakland, Calif.</td>
<td>227</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>94</td>
<td>41.4</td>
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<td>11.</td>
<td>University of Illinois College of Medicine at Peoria</td>
<td>Peoria, Ill.</td>
<td>201</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>78</td>
<td>38.6</td>
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<td>12.</td>
<td>New York Methodist Hospital</td>
<td>Brooklyn, NY</td>
<td>256</td>
<td>14</td>
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<td>38.3</td>
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<td>13.</td>
<td>Southern Illinois University School of Medicine</td>
<td>Springfield, Ill.</td>
<td>268</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>98</td>
<td>36.5</td>
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<td>14.</td>
<td>Long Island College Hospital</td>
<td>Brooklyn, NY</td>
<td>203</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>72</td>
<td>35.5</td>
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<td>15.</td>
<td>Wright State University School of Medicine</td>
<td>Dayton, Ohio</td>
<td>340</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>120</td>
<td>35.3</td>
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ATTRACTING AND BUILDING MEDICAL TALENT

Whether keeping homegrown talent at home or attracting the finest physicians and faculty from across the country, Graduate Medical Education is vital. The stories vary and the benefits to the community may be too many to know, but Graduate Medical Education programs are, and have been, significant to providing and meeting community health care needs, a higher level of care, and a pipeline for future physicians.

Read on to hear just a few of the stories...

John Vozenilek, MD
Chief Medical Officer for Simulation at Jump Trading Simulation and Education Center Duane and Mary Cullinan Professor in Simulation Outcomes, UICOMP

After initially providing some consulting work at the early stages of designing the Jump Trading Simulation and Education Center, Dr. John Vozenilek ultimately came to Peoria from Northwestern to head the facility. So how much of a role did having the GME programs here play in that?

"Graduate medical education programs provide exceptional value in direct patient care man-hours, keeping professional staff current, quality and safety initiatives, research capacity and recruiting," says Dr. Vozenilek. "Locations with residencies are more likely to attract docs who like to have (those features), especially if they are interested in research."

"Residencies and fellowships provide service and are high-quality clinical extenders. People like to be in the mentor role, and you are not an academic medical center without residents," says Vozenilek.

Richard C. Anderson, MD
Associate Professor of Clinical Surgery, UICOMP
Chief, Section of Cardiothoracic Surgery, Department of Surgery
Surgery Clerkship Director

"My first experience here in Peoria was because of the (residency) match," says Anderson, now 20 years later, a surgeon at the Peoria Surgical Group and faculty member at UICOMP. "I cannot tell you how much I appreciate the opportunity to have trained here, I had some great mentors."

Even after Dr. Anderson left to complete a general thoracic surgery fellowship program at Washington University in St. Louis, he returned to Peoria.

"Peoria is such an incredible community – one of the other ones I wanted to come back," said Dr. Anderson. "The Graduate Medical Education program here in Peoria is huge. It brings a lot of people here and provides an incredible service to the state. Primary care is a huge necessity, and it's more than internal medicine. It's equally important for keeping homegrown talent at home.

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Kay Saving, MD
Professor of Pediatrics, UICOMP
Medical Director, Children’s Hospital of Illinois

"I didn't have any ties here but when I finished my training in hematology-oncology in Kansas City, I wanted to stay in the Midwest. The things that made me choose here? I would be able to do a wide variety of Hem Onc services and the number of patients; this Pediatrics Chair, Dr. Bill Albers, was highly supportive of faculty and building the program; and I wanted to go to an academic center.

The university affiliation and being a faculty member was very important to me. A place that has an academic affiliation or is an academic medical center in general is where you tend to find the highest quality of care, where patients are receiving the best, cutting-edge therapies that are best for them and tend to be incorporated more quickly. I also wanted to do scholarly activity, do clinical research and I wanted to teach, as well as see patients. You need to go to an academic medical center to be able to do that."
Making an Impact Today for Tomorrow

As 2013 comes to a close we pause to reflect. The University Of Illinois College Of Medicine is grateful to all the donors who have contributed.

The reasons to make gifts to the College of Medicine are as varied as our donors. You may feel deep gratitude for the care you or a loved one received. Perhaps a faculty member’s teaching continues to affect your life in a positive way. Maybe you received financial aid in the form of a scholarship and would now like to help fund education for a new generation of students. You may feel passionately about a discipline, a social cause or an area of research supported by the university or wish to fund new endeavors. Whatever your reasons for giving, your gift has or will make a difference.

On December 9th a check for $50,000 will be presented to Dr. Andrew Tsung in order for his team to continue research on Brain Cancer understanding. A fundraiser was held in late September when over 725 participants attended the Walk for the Mind on the Peoria Riverfront. The walk is an annual memorial event in honor Mark Linder and all those who are deceased or have survived brain cancer.

The Pediatric Resource Center, a UICOMP advocacy program has recently announced that their annual fundraiser earned $57,000 to support their program. PRC provides specialized medical evaluation and case coordination services to children who may have been abused or neglected in Peoria and at satellite clinics in Galesburg, LaSalle and Bloomington. In affiliation with Children’s Hospital of Illinois and during its 20 year history of serving central Illinois children, the PRC has evaluated over 6,000 children from 53 counties.

On November 13, the College officially signed a $50,000 endowed scholarship fund agreement with Dr. Jack L. Gibbs and Francenia Gibbs who have chosen to provide financial support for students who plan to enter the practice of primary care in rural Illinois. Dr. Gibbs is an alum and longtime friend of the College of Medicine and influential in the building of our Peoria Campus and the Rural Medicine Program.

True, the University of Illinois College of Medicine is a public university, but donor support is needed now more than ever. Maintaining academic excellence and cutting-edge programs, and keeping talented, award-winning faculty is an investment that will pay enormous dividends now and in the future. Be assured that your gift makes a significant impact by creating a secure, concrete foundation for future success.

Warmest Regards,

Dolores Metzger
Director of Development
University of Illinois College of Medicine at Peoria
N. Kenneth Furlong, MD is among the “founders” of what today is the University of Illinois College of Medicine at Peoria. Dr. Furlong lived in Peoria for 13 years and made a lasting mark before leaving in 1975. He recently made a return visit to Peoria and the College of Medicine. Just a bit about what he had to share:

What’s Dr. Furlong think of Peoria and the College of Medicine now?

"Overwhelmed is overused. I was shocked at how far we’ve gone,” said Furlong of the College of Medicine and the hospitals. “It was a crapshoot when we first started. But look now. It’s been a great pleasure to see what’s been accomplished. I’m glad it’s continuing like it is. "We had a very successful, very satisfied practicing community, essentially supported by Caterpillar,” Furlong says of Peoria at the time. "Teaching interns and residents is like having an assistant with you, but teaching students is like having a child in your practice; they don’t know anything – and that’s a big jump for a teacher," Furlong says now. He had replied in the positive but noted it would be a big job requiring a lot of convincing.

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More conversations began around forming a medical school campus outside of Chicago in downstate Illinois, where none at the time existed. We had a good residency program but we needed to expand because there was going to be a manpower problem," Furlong said. "Peoria looked like a good place. Rockford looked like a good place. And it was probably because we had the residencies. I think the residencies were crucial to the development of the undergraduate medical education here in Peoria." The conversations led to committees being formed and several key central Illinois physicians led the charge.

Eventually, the Peoria Board of Medical Education was formed. Their goal was to increase the number of quality physicians, including mobilizing resources within the Peoria area toward the production of medical education and healthcare manpower. A U.S. Navy veteran, Dr. N. Kenneth Furlong received his medical degree from the University of Cincinnati in 1951. He is a fellow of the American College of Physicians and received a master’s degree from Bradley University in 1974. He is a former Associate Professor of Medicine for the University of Illinois College of Medicine and former Professor of Medicine and Associate Dean at the Creighton University School of Medicine. He was the Director of Medical Education at St. Francis Hospital from 1962-1968 and the Medical Director at Methodist Hospital from 1968-1975. Married to wife Helen for 65 years, the couple has four daughters.
WALK RAISES MONEY FOR BRAIN CANCER RESEARCH at UICOMP

More than 750 people turned out on Saturday, September 28 at the Peoria RiverPlex for the 11th Annual Mark Linder Walk for the Mind. In an effort to reach out to brain tumor survivors and help raise funds for brain tumor research, Mark Linder founded the Walk for the Mind in 2003. That first walk attracted over 150 walkers on the Peoria Riverfront and raised over $12,000 for research programs. While Mark died in 2005, at age 31 from brain cancer, the Walk lives on and to date has raised more than $330,000 for research.

On December 9th, a check for $50,000 was presented to the College of Medicine and Dr. Andrew Tsung, the Patrick W. Elwood Endowed Assistant Professor of Neurosurgery at University of Illinois at UICOMP, who leads the Brain Tumor Program and serves as the Director of the Brain Tumor Research. Mark Linder founded the Walk for the Mind in 2003. That first walk attracted over 150 walkers on the Peoria Riverfront and raised over $12,000 for research programs. While Mark died in 2005, at age 31 from brain cancer, the Walk lives on and to date has raised more than $330,000 for research.

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The University Of Illinois College Of Medicine at Peoria is grateful to receive these funds from the Mark Linder Walk for the Mind as we advance our research for Brain Cancer.

Celebrating 20 years at PRC

The Pediatric Resource Center (PRC) celebrated 20 years of services to Central Illinois children during their Harvesting Hope annual fall fundraiser, held on November 2, 2013 at the Country Club of Peoria. More than 140 supporters attended the evening, which included hors d’oeuvres, music, silent and live auctions. The event was sponsored by OSF Saint Francis Medical Center and featured entertainment by 3 1/2 Men.

The PRC Advisory Board honored Stephanie Johnson, who has worked for PRC as a Case Coordinator for over 19 years. Johnson, who was recently promoted to Executive Director of the Pediatric Resource Center, reviewed the accomplishments of the past 20 years and shared goals for the future of the PRC.

The PRC, a University of Illinois College of Medicine at Peoria program in the Department of Pediatrics, provides medical evaluations and specialized social services to Central Illinois children who may have been sexually or physically abused or neglected. To donate to the Pediatric Resource Center and help raise awareness of child abuse, or to learn more about the PRC, call (309) 624-9595.

American Cancer Society funds UICOMP research to reduce childhood obesity

How doctors talk to children and their families about nutrition, obesity and physical activity could have a lasting, positive impact on their future health. A pilot project using Motivational Interviewing (MI) paired with a screening tool for lifestyle behaviors already has shown promising results, but a larger study examining this approach and its impact on behavior change will soon get underway thanks to a two-year, nearly $250,000 grant from the American Cancer Society as part of the Cancer Control and Population Science Grant initiatives.

Called “Family, Nutrition, Physical Activity (FNPA) Tool: A Motivational Interviewing-based Practice Intervention to Address Pediatric Health Behaviors Practice Intervention,” the research focuses on a practice intervention aimed at reducing behaviors which increase childhood obesity, which is also linked to increased cancer risk in adulthood. Amy Christison, MD, Clinical Assistant Professor of Pediatrics at UICOMP, is the lead faculty advisor on the project, assisted by Dr. Jane Kim, Pediatric Residency Associate Program Director.

“We are very excited to pilot this project, hoping that it will be positive, effective and replicable in the future,” Dr. Christison said.

The 2014-15 Healthy Active Living, Supporting Healthy Families grants are supported by the MetLife Foundation. The CFCI grant is supported by the Community Works Endowment Fund and the Rinkenberger Community Works Fund.
Memorial Garden Flourishes

First memorialized four years ago, the HIV/AIDS Memorial Garden, located just outside the College of Medicine, flourished this summer – and late into the fall – thanks to a lot of sweat and muscle by clients, volunteers and staff.

The Memorial Garden was first created in 2009 to honor those with the disease or those who have passed away from the disease. The Heart of Illinois HIV/AIDS Center (HBHAC) Client Advisory Board designed and built the first garden along with the help of donations and volunteers. However, once the new section of the College of Medicine started going up in 2010, it was realized the garden would need some restoration.

Included in the beautification project this year, the Client Advisory Board sought to make the garden more self-sufficient, adding new rock, natural grasses, roses and other hardy, perennial flowers. HBHAC has provided medical services, social services, education and outreach since opening in 1994. It is a program within the College of Medicine’s Department of Medicine and serves individuals within a 15-county area who are infected with HIV.

Flinn Lecture

More than 70 people turned out in October to hear some of the latest – and oldest – facts about Vitamin D at the Robert A. Flinn, MD Endowed Lectureship Series.

Dr. Russell Cheney, MD, Professor of Pediatrics and former Chair of the Department of Pediatrics at the University of Tennessee Health Science Center College of Medicine in Memphis, Tenn. was the guest speaker at a free community forum, held this year at the Jump Trading Simulation & Education Center. He also held grand rounds on Randomized Intervention for Children with Vesicoureteral Reflux.

The Robert A. Flinn, MD Endowed Lectureship Series was established in 2011 to honor the late Dr. Flinn for his many distinguished years of excellence in and dedication to patient care and education. Income from this fund enables prominent scholars to enhance the training and education of medical students, physician residents, and practicing physicians in our community. The endowment also provides funds for an annual lecture geared to educating the community that is open to the public.

Stepping out of the Chair

After more than 30 years as Chair or Interim Chair of the Department of Radiology at the University of Illinois College of Medicine at Peoria, Dr. Thomas J. Cusack says it’s time to step aside.

Beginning his medical career as a first-year medical student at the University of Illinois at Chicago in 1963, and joining the faculty at UICOMP in 1973, Dr. Cusack says he’s thankful for the opportunities he’s received but feels it’s time for a new leader for the department.

“I wouldn’t have ever imagined it to last this long but I enjoyed it, “ says Dr. Cusack, whose resignation took effect December 1. “I began practice working with many of my University of Illinois professors and I leave practice working with many of my University of Illinois students.”

Dr. Cusack is not calling it quits, he adds. He wishes to continue teaching med students and residents.

But with a 50-year career in medicine – 40 years of that spent working in Peoria in radiology, including overseeing the creation and growth new clinical divisions, curricular sections, residency and fellowship training programs – Pathways sat down with Dr. Cusack in his office at the North Building to hear a few of his career highlights.

He noted the nine Golden Apple awards; receiving Faculty of the Year among all four College of Medicine sites in 1997; being elected to the all-site Executive Committee 22 years straight; giving four convocational addresses; the many sonograms of the world’s 13th set of surviving quintuplets; the technological changes ( ultrasound, CT, MRI, PET Scanning, etc); serving as Regional Vice Dean under Dr. Michael Bailie. He also had the opportunity to meet University of Illinois internal medicine resident Sara Rusch, as his office was across from the film room and the film finding system was slow in those days resulting in many house staff waiting outside his office.

Just some of what he had to say:

“When I finished my radiology residency in 1973, I was pleased to accept employment with the group of radiologists at OSF Saint Francis Medical Center. The Peoria School of Medicine was just being established, and the first class of medical students graduated that same year. The radiology department also was established that year with Dr. Robert Tucker as chair. I joined the faculty as a clinical associate in radiology.

In 1974, the radiologists and administration of OSF agreed to purchase their first ultrasound machine, which was brand-new technology. Since I had some training in this area during residency, I was chosen as director. The first ultrasound examination in Peoria was performed in the radiology department at St. Francis on January 15, 1974. It was an abdominal aortic study ordered by a primary care resident. The patient happened to be one of the Sisters of the Order of Saint Francis.

Over the next 15 years, I became involved in expanding the ultrasound services at St. Francis, particularly obstetrical sonography. There were no office ultrasound machines at the time and the referring physicians provided a strong referral base allowing the division to expand.

In 1983, I was appointed to acting chair and became chair in 1986. Shortly after, there developed a strong need for a radiology residency. This was required to maintain the new neurosurgery residency and strongly recommended to maintain the surgery residency. Numerous faculty were recruited in national searches. The first radiology residents began training in 1992. Initially, there were two residents per year but the cohort doubled eight years later. Many of the residents who trained in this program now are active faculty members and practice in central Illinois.

I anticipated the new residency would be a long and time-consuming process. However, my choice of Dr. Terry Brady to be program director worked so well that it was not necessary for me to concentrate on the effectiveness or stability of the residency. Dr. Brady and the new faculty covered their areas so well that it freed me to do what I liked best – teach.

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UICOMP is pleased to announce Dr. Andrew Bland as Assistant Dean for Faculty Development.

Dr. Bland, a nephrologist and member of the UICOMP faculty since 2004, was named to the position in June. In this capacity, he will ensure faculty have the tools they need to prepare medical students for residency and for faculty to prepare residents to become attending physicians. Dr. Bland said he wants to ensure faculty also have access to the latest educational theory, the ability to give feedback, to understand new healthcare realities, and generally make sure they have access to whatever resources they need to accomplish their goals.

Dr. Bland received his medical degree from UICOMP in 1997, completed the Combined Internal Medicine & Pediatrics Residency Program at UICOMP and OSF Saint Francis Medical Center in 2001 and fellowship training in adult nephrology from the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics in 2003. He received his MBA through the University of Massachusetts ACPE program in 2010.

After serving as a CMO for a 300-bed hospital, Dr. Bland returned to academics earlier this year to develop a structured curriculum centered on patient safety and outcomes based medicine. His primary research interest is the intersection of medical education, simulation, outcomes research and patient safety.

He is married with five children.

Library Of The Health Sciences Names Featured Authors

Peoria’s Library of the Health Sciences recognizes the following Featured Authors:


Faculty News

The following is a summary of recent faculty additions and promotions:

- **Robin A. Alley, MD** has accepted the new position of Visiting Assistant Professor of Clinical Surgery
- **Saad Alvi, MD** has a new title, Assistant Professor of Clinical Medicine
- **Sharjeel Ahmad, MD** has accepted the position of Assistant Professor of Clinical Medicine
- **Andrew Bland, MD** has accepted the position of Assistant Professor of Clinical Medicine
- **Brian P. Bradlow, MD** has accepted the new position of Assistant Professor of Clinical Medicine
- **Matthew Bramlet, MD** has accepted the new position as Assistant Professor of Clinical Pediatrics
- **Kumud Dahal, MD** has accepted a new position, Assistant Professor of Clinical Medicine
- **Vamsi K. Enani, MD** has accepted the position of Assistant Professor of Clinical Medicine
- **Heather E. Hermann, BS** has added the position of Director, Medicine/Pediatrics Program
- **Alexander M Labelt, MD, PhD** has accepted the position of Research Assistant Professor
- **Vimal Master Sankar Raj, MD** has accepted the position of Assistant Professor of Clinical Pediatrics
- **Francis McKea Owalah, MD** has resigned his position as Associate Residency Program Director and added the position of Director, Medicine/Pediatrics Program
- **Rahmat Na Allah, MD** has two new titles, Clinical Associate Professor and Director of the Women’s Health Fellowship
- **Christina Nulty, MD** has resigned her position of Director of the MedPeds Program
- **Janet Patterson, MD** has two new positions, Assistant Professor of Clinical Peds
- **Shweta Ramshahi, MD** has added a new title, Associate Program Director, Medicine
- **Mary Ross, MD, PhD** has a new title, Assistant Professor of Clinical Peds
- **Smita P. Tanpure, MS** has accepted the position of Research Specialist in the Department of Medicine
- **Gerald Wickham, EdD** has accepted the position of Assistant Dean for Medical Education & Evaluation

upcoming UICOMP events

**March 9**
Snowball 2014
Peoria Marriott Hotel Pere Marquette
6 p.m. – Midnight
For more information, call 309-495-8161