UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS COLLEGE OF MEDICINE
CARING 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 MD 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.
Did you know the College of Medicine was 1 of 10 sites selected nationally by the Association of American Medical Colleges to lead a pilot project to better prepare medical students for entering residency? Learn more about this exciting innovation in education on page 13.

The University of Illinois College of Medicine at Peoria is blessed with innovative, creative faculty. Medicine is changing rapidly. Our faculty are not only adapting to those changes but often leading the way with innovative educational programs, devices, clinical care and curriculum. This issue of Pathways highlights some of these innovations.

Education is the core of how UICOMP meets its mission to improve health. Our educational commitment crosses the continuum of medical education, extending from medical students to residents to faculty and then on to our community and the other health professions. Several innovative educational projects center around the theme of enhancing physician communication skills – with each other, with their patients and with other members of the health care team. Jump Trading Simulation & Education Center is a great tool for simulating real life challenges and helping learners find solutions. And we are particularly proud to have been chosen as one of 10 medical schools in the country to participate in an American Association of Medical Colleges (AAMC) pilot project.

Our faculty also are innovative in the area of device development. Some of these devices are used to teach procedural skills such as the combination of 3D printing and animal tissue to teach rarely used skills in airway management. Other devices are created to meet clinical needs. An example is the oxygen regulator which may help prevent the toxicity that can be caused by high levels of oxygen.

In the patient care arena, our faculty bring the latest and most innovative ideas to Peoria where they are deployed to meet the needs of our patients. Talented faculty assure that our Peoria patients have access to the best treatments and technologies such as those used to treat liver cancer. Our Fellowship programs with our partner hospitals also help recruit and retain physicians. We are proud of the Department of Medicine and the new GI Fellowship – adding to the Cardiology Fellowship that started last year.

The heart of a medical school is not the buildings, the location, the administration or even the students. The heart of the medical school is the faculty. I am proud to have such an innovative, creative and dedicated faculty. Students, residents, patients and those who live in our community are blessed by their presence and their innovations will bring us to a brighter tomorrow.

Sincerely,

Dr. Sara L. Rusch
Regional Dean
Eight members of the class of 2015 and one faculty member were selected for membership into the UICOMP chapter of the Gold Humanism Honor Society. They are:

Mohammed Uzair Admani of Arlington Heights, IL
Lauren Arditti of Arlington, TX
Matthew Chia of Boxborough, MA
Imran Chishti of Dover, MA
Alissa Conde of Miami, FL
Jayme Kwak of Bartlett, IL
David Lauterbach of Chicago, IL
Cesar Menchaca of Chicago, IL

Matthew Mischler, M.D., Clinical Assistant Professor of Medicine

The honorees were inducted in conjunction with the White Coat ceremony on August 8, 2014.

GHHS exists to recognize outstanding humanistic activity among students. The Gold Humanism Honor Society is sponsored by the Arnold P. Gold Foundation. The Gold Foundation’s central mission is to foster humanism in medicine.
To say that Azeem Rehman has an interest in research would be a gross understatement. Even before the end of his M2 year, Rehman has co-authored more articles than many veteran university faculty members. A recent search of the online scientific library Pubmed showed Rehman’s name attached to 12 scholarly articles. Adding to his uniqueness, his research activities are not isolated to one specific type or topic. They range from basic science, to comparison studies, to metanalysis and review articles. They also range from rheumatoid arthritis to various forms of cancers, even developments on the use of “graphene-based metamaterials.” In fact the later research topic, a review article, which was published in the May issue of Neurosurgery, made the medical journal’s cover.

“I just really enjoy research, I feel it keeps me rounded,” says Rehman during a break over coffee. “Once I’m out in the real world, I may not get the same opportunity that I have right now to build these skill sets.”

In addition to the Neurosurgery article, Rehman and Tobias Mattei, MD, a neurosurgeon at the Brain & Spine Center of InvisionHealth in Buffalo, NY, together wrote a review article detailing the potential applications of nanotechnology in the field of neurosurgery.

Rehman also has two abstracts with Dr. Alfonse Masi that were recently accepted for the annual American College of Rheumatology conference. This is the third consecutive year they will be presenting abstracts at ACR, with the past two years having an additional three abstracts accepted with accompanying poster presentations. The abstracts are related to their long-standing exploration of relational patterns among adrenocortical hormones, sex steroids, inflammatory cytokines and acute phase proteins and whether they might predict rheumatoid arthritis incidence along with its outcomes, in particular mortality.

“We hope to eventually synthesize all of our findings in an attempt to produce a comprehensive neuro-endocrine-immune framework that expands upon the current understanding of RA pathogenesis,” Rehman said of his work with Dr. Masi.

Rehman, a native of the Peoria area, remarks that it is the hardworking nature of his father, a family physician in Chillicothe, that continues to motivate him to devote considerable time to not only his studies but research endeavors as well. He said he chose to attend medical school at the University of Illinois and specifically the Peoria campus because of the opportunity to work alongside seasoned researchers, both within the medical school as well as his undergraduate alma mater, Bradley University.

“Despite any personal accolades I receive, my success has been entirely dictated by two loving parents who continue to offer their unremitting support as well as advisors, beginning with Dr. Sherri Morris at Bradley University and Dr. Krishna Veeravalli at the Cancer Research Center, who not only took an interest in who I was as a person but also believed in me when they had very little reason to do so.”

The University of Illinois College of Medicine at Peoria welcomed 59 new, incoming M2 medical students on August 8 during the annual White Coat Ceremony.

“The white coat is a symbol of the profession,” says Linda Rowe, EdD, UICOMP’s Assistant Dean for Student Affairs. “This is a memorable way to welcome the newest members of the UICOMP family.”

“It symbolizes their lifelong commitment to providing excellence in patient care,” said UICOMP Regional Dean Sara Rusch, MD. “It is a special ceremony that faculty are privileged to share with our students and their families.”

Robert Sparrow, MD, President of the Peoria Medical Alumni Council and Dr. Rusch, presented students with their white coats. Dr. Robert Sawicki, MD, Senior VP of Supportive Care at OSF, provided the keynote address.

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In terms of advice, I think the research experience is more enjoyable when done for the sake of lifelong learning. Of course, having publications is nice for the CV, but the time commitment and patience required for any given project is considerably less overbearing when one is working towards personal growth rather than a name on a paper.

Additionally, I feel that the advisor you select should be of equal importance to the research topic itself. As students, we become accustomed to having someone from whom we can continually seek advice. Moreover, even if conducting research is not a particular interest you may have, clinical practice continues to shift towards more evidence-based medicine. As an attending, the onus is on you to actively seek the appropriate knowledge to best care for your patients. How can we possibly assess the validity of randomized control trials and metanalyses without at least having somewhat of a research background ourselves?
Outcomes Research and Multiple Sclerosis

Did you know about a quarter of the MS patients in central Illinois have hypertension and high cholesterol and 1 in 5 suffer or have suffered depression? Or that some drive as many as 150 miles to the Illinois Neurological Institute MS Center?

That’s just a quick snapshot of some of the initial data gleaned by UICOMP’s Center for Outcomes Research. And it’s also just the start.

The Center for Outcomes Research is gearing up for a collaborative project with INI’s MS Center to put the neurological facility on the cutting edge in terms of the data available to physicians. Providing real-time data ultimately would lead to better and faster diagnoses, reduced hospital visits for patients, reduced costs, and more importantly better patient experiences.

“We’re talking about is having a fully-integrated system that will give physicians a complete clinical picture of a patient even before they walk in the door,” said COR Director Carl Asche, PhD. “Even the Mayo Clinic has not done something like this.”

Asche says current electronic medical records contain the information physicians need but not in specific data fields that are easily accessible. For example, adding specific fields to include the type of MS a patient suffers, when they were diagnosed, motor assessments and other information would vastly cut the amount of time spent needed to retrieve the data, thereby speeding up insurance authorization required when treatment modifications are needed, such as when a MS patient relapses and time is of the essence.

“The nurses I’ve consulted with say anything we can do to speed up the insurance authorization process ultimately means the patient gets their new MS medication sooner. Our goal is to stop disease activity,” adds Asche. Information such as comorbidities among MS patients are significant in providing the best care as well, said Asche, noting that too also becomes part of the equation.

Having the additional data available for analyses also means improved research capabilities, adding to an already excellent research program that INI is renowned for and becoming part of the equation.

“We want to provide good, quality care to our patients and that starts with having the most complete and accurate data at our fingertips,” said Asche.

“Developing Innovation

UICOMP pediatric intensivist to present findings on his patented portable oxygen blender to help reduce chances for oxygen toxicity

Oxygen is critical to life. But too much oxygen also can be toxic. For Dr. Girish Deshpande, associate professor of pediatrics for UICOMP and a pediatric intensivist at Children’s Hospital of Illinois, seeing the occasional young patient come into the PICU unnecessarily receiving too much oxygen inspired him to come up with a solution.

“My feeling about oxygen is that we use it excessively,” says Dr. Deshpande. “It’s an essential element that we all need but if you look, more and more articles are recommending use of less (than 100 percent) oxygen. Including the moment a patient regains respiration following resuscitation for cardiorespiratory arrest.”

The problem with current oxygen blenders, Dr. Deshpande says is they are either not portable – large and mounted to walls in the hospital – or they are incorporated into oxygen masks and are not reusable or adjustable in terms of the amount of oxygen the patient is receiving.

What he came up with was a novel design for a portable, handheld oxygen blender to reduce early oxygen toxicity that is adjustable, reusable, able to fit into any standard oxygen tubing, and cheap to reproduce.

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“It’s all in the design,” said Dr. Deshpande, pointing to one of his drawings and holding an acrylic plastic prototype.

The device incorporates some vital elements found in current oxygen blenders – namely a venturi nozzle. But where it differs is where the innovation is found: With a simple twist of the device, more room air is allowed to enter the central chamber, saturating the amount of oxygen a patient receives. Nozzles at both ends of the device allow it to be plugged into any standard oxygen tubing.

Dr. Deshpande, who holds a provisional patent for the design, says it could be used during transport in an ambulance or even between departments within a hospital, and it’s ideal whether in an urban or rural setting, or in a third-world country because of its simplicity and the ability to use it again and again.

While still in the prototyping stage, Dr. Deshpande was able to bring his design to life with the help of engineers from the University of Illinois at Chicago. He is presenting the device and initial results at the International Mechanical Engineering Congress & Exposition in Montreal in November.

“This is significant. Working in the ICU, I see the need for us to reduce the chances for oxygen toxicity,” says Dr. Deshpande. “Newborns are extremely vulnerable. We know it can cause damage to brain, eyes, lungs and other organs. With this device, we would be able to have a patient at 40 percent oxygen even before they get to me, then we could turn it down further. It just makes sense.”
Emergency Medicine establishes own department

Emergency Medicine at UICOMP has long had an academic mission with a large and successful residency, significant student teaching responsibilities and a dynamic faculty. Until recently, Emergency Medicine had been a section of the Surgery Department. But that changed earlier this year with approval by the Illinois Board of Higher Education for Emergency Medicine to become a new, independent Academic Department – the first new Department at this University campus in decades.

Following a search, Dr. Timothy Schaefer was selected as the first Chair of the new Emergency Medicine Department. “The new Department of Emergency Medicine will coordinate and support emergency medicine education, research and scholarship at the undergraduate, graduate and post graduate level,” said UICOMP Regional Dean Dr. Sara Rusch. “With Dr. Schaefer’s guidance, the Department of Emergency Medicine will build on current successes, working with both UICOMP and OSF, to align academic and institutional goals in order to advance emergency medicine locally, regionally and nationally.”

Dr. Schaefer first joined the UICOMP faculty in 1991. Since that time he has served in multiple leadership roles both at the University and at OSF. These include serving as Interim Associate Dean for Graduate Medical Education, Associate Emergency Medicine Residency Program Director and Vice Chair of the Emergency Medicine Department at OSF-SMAC.

“I’m very excited to be the new Chair of Emergency Medicine at UICOMP,” said Dr. Schaefer. “Emergency Medicine is a dynamic and ever-changing field. As a new Department, our role is to build a strong foundation for the future. This is a huge honor. I just hope that my part in the program allows it to be successful and flourish over the next three years,” said Dr. Schaefer.

Establishing an airway is a key job in emergency medicine when dealing with a critically ill patient. When a traditional airway is out of the question because of a patient’s anatomy, or because of trauma or some other condition, you have to have back-up options.

Emergency Medicine residents got a chance to practice some of those rarely used but need-to-know methods for establishing an airway using simulation. In fact, they were the first to try out a new hybrid simulator model that blended live animal tissue with plastic and silicone materials.

“They are rare procedures, so we thought it would be good that everyone was comfortable with some of these advanced methods – the Plan B and Plan C that you hope you don’t have to get to but if you do, you better know how to do them,” said Greg Tudor, MD, Associate Program Director and Clinical Assistant Professor for the Department of Emergency Medicine. “I’ve used them all in real situations.”

Using the simulators, residents were able to practice performing a cricothyrotomy, transtracheal jet ventilation, using a fiber optic intubating scope and a glidescope (a camera attached to a breathing tube). The simulators themselves consisted of a plastic-like material for the neck and head area, which were created using a 3D printer. A pig’s larynx was then placed in a hollowed-out section of the neck and covered by a section of skin-like silicone. The equipment used to perform the emergency airways is the same as what they would use in the hospital during a real emergency.

Dr. Nur-Aln Nadir, Lisa Barker, Greg Tudor and Bob Wolford put together the advanced airway lab.

“There are different animal models you can use and different manikin models but I think this was a high-end use of simulation that was very, very realistic,” Tudor said. “This lab is a great example how the Residency program is really moving more toward this type of education, using simulation, versus the traditional format.”

LEARNING THE EMERGENCY Backup Plans

“GI is a very competitive field to get into, so it’s a huge honor. I just hope that my part in the program allows it to be successful and flourish over the next three years,” said Martin.

Martin’s fellowship is extremely important and vital part of any academic program I think. Having so many different residents here and then allowing them to stay in the same environment and the opportunity for them to go into subspecialty care will only help the complement of residents we’re able to recruit. From a community standpoint, the fellowship brings in people who have a strong and robust academic profile who want to be a part of the program, to be teachers and clinicians and physicians who oversee those fellows. And we have a significant GI need in central Illinois.”

Resident Rounds

When Daniel Martin learned Peoria could be in store for a new gastroenterology fellowship, the central Illinois native thought this was the perfect fit for both him and his family.

“GI is a great mix of acute care and chronic disease. It allows for work in the office and the hospital and gives opportunity for both procedure and clinical-based medicine,” said Martin during a brief fall between the end of residency and the beginning of the new fellowship this summer. “There also is a subset of patients with chronic diseases such as IBD and liver disease with whom long-term healing relationships can be established.”

Born and raised in Eureka, Ill., Daniel resides in Morton with his wife, Megan, and their two children, Abram and Eme.

“Since high school, I wanted to be a physician,” says Martin, who first enrolled in a pre-pharmacy program at Drake but transitioned to pre-med before attending the University of Illinois. He opted for the Rockford campus specifically to enroll in the Rural Medicine (RMED) program.

Martin said he’s grateful to have been selected as the first fellow for the GI program.

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A fellowship program is extremely important and vital part of any academic program I think. Having so many different residents here and then allowing them to stay in the same environment and the opportunity for them to go into a subspecialty care will only help the complement of residents we’re able to recruit. From a community standpoint, the fellowship brings in people who have a strong and robust academic profile who want to be a part of the program, to be teachers and clinicians and physicians who oversee those fellows. And we have a significant GI need in central Illinois.”

Resident Rounds provides a snapshot of one of the 270 residents and fellows at UICOMP.

Candidate suggestions for a future Resident Rounds can be directed to dhaney@uicomp.uic.edu.
As medical education continues to shift toward more competency-based models in both graduate and undergraduate education, so too is the teaching in Peoria. Just this past year, UICOMP M2s are now being put into simulated environments to learn pathophysiology, M3s are “rounding” in simulated wards with standardized patients, M4s are going through a two week “boot camp” to prepare them for residency, and all the medical students are training alongside other professions in the health spectrum to improve patient outcomes.

What’s more, recognizing the innovating education already taking place here, the College of Medicine learned it was among just 10 U.S. medical schools chosen to participate in a highly competitive pilot study. That project, by the Academy of American Medical Colleges, aims to better prepare medical students for entering residency and providing patient care without direct supervision – part of the 13 core Entrustable Professional Activities the AAMC adopted earlier this year.

“We’re trying and doing new things that very few others have,” said UICOMP Associate Dean for Academic Affairs Meenakshy Aiyer, MD, noting UICOMP students are using Electronic Medical Records to enter orders as part of their sub-internship OSCEs, and team-based learning activities have been modified to include high-fidelity manikins and simulation, for example to determine if students can identify side effects of a possible overdose. “This past year has been very busy for us.”

Matthew Mischler, MD a Clinical Associate Professor of Medicine who has led many of the new simulation-based activities and changes in curriculum for UICOMP, says there is greater emphasis on the preparedness a student needs when graduating medical school, as residency programs no longer have the luxury of time to bring students ‘up to speed’ in residency.

“Simulation exercises such as these give us a chance to directly observe the students’ level of clinical skill when interacting with patients and other ancillary staff, and allows us to provide formative feedback in a controlled environment, and then to witness the response to that feedback through their performance,” said Mischler.

Weaving elements of direct observation, graduated responsibility, and repeated exposure to concepts of professionalism, communication, patient care, systems-based practice and practice-based learning throughout the curriculum from M2-M4 year in the classroom, the wards, and the simulation lab will allow UICOMP to ensure as best we can that our graduates are prepared for any field of medicine that they choose, he continued.

“High-fidelity, experiential and accelerating our students’ clinical skills are the common strands with all of these innovations. The discovery of medical knowledge is accelerating so it’s imperative to innovate curricula and to equip students with skills that will transfer into whatever medicine will hold for us all in the future,” Dr. Mischler said.

College of Medicine to lead AAMC pilot project in medical education

The College of Medicine is among a select few U.S. medical schools chosen to lead a highly competitive pilot program to better prepare medical students for entering residency and providing patient care without direct supervision. Called the Core Entrustable Professional Activities for Entering Residency, the project’s goal is to close the gap between expectations and performance that medical students have on day one of their residency training.

“We are thrilled to be among the chosen few who will help lead this critical project. I think it illustrates the significant innovation already taking place within our four campuses at the College of Medicine,” said Meenakshy Aiyer, MD, Associate Dean for Academic Affairs at UICOMP.

More than half of the U.S. LCME-accredited medical schools applied to the AAMC to participate, however, only 10 were selected. The University of Illinois College of Medicine and its four sites – Peoria, Chicago, Urbana and Rockford – applied as a single entity. Among some of the other institutions selected to participate: Yale University School of Medicine, Vanderbilt University School of Medicine and Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons.

The AAMC recently adopted 13 EPAs that every graduating medical student should be able to perform at the end of their medical school training. Each school will focus on different areas as part of the pilot. It is anticipated the College of Medicine will focus on four key areas: communication and care during patient transition, such as when a patient checks out of a hospital; recommending and interpreting common diagnostic tests as they relate to cost and safety; learning to work with varying health care professions as part of a team; and identifying areas of system failure to initiate improvement and a culture of safety.
M4 INTERN
Preparedness Course Is a “Must”

By Gerry Wickham, Ed.D., Assistant Dean for Medical Education and Evaluation

The continuum of medical education – from matriculation and long into professional practice – is marked by a sequence of transitions for the student, resident and practitioner.

This spring, UICOMP faculty piloted a new offering called the “Intern Prep Course” that aims to facilitate a smooth transition from the M4 year into the intern year of residency. Eighteen pioneering students signed up for this elective, and now because of its success, the course has been approved by the UIC faculty senate to become a required 2-week experience for all UICOMP graduating seniors.

Match competitiveness, national leaders paying close attention to transitions in medical education, residency directors expecting greater consistency in their new interns and changes in how medicine is being delivered to patients are four “perfect storm” factors that call for innovation with the M4 year. Therefore, the intern prep course is a key educational asset for UICOMP seniors.

The course, which will be taken by all 56 seniors in the 2-weeks leading up to Match 2015, relies on simulation pedagogy and utilizes standardized patients, simulator technology and high-fidelity space at Jump Trading Simulation & Education Center. Students learn to hone their skills integrating ultrasound with physical diagnosis, hear from experts on cutting-edge infection control, discuss the impact of changes to current systems of care and how to envision the future of healthcare, as well as spending a complex and equal challenge in rapid succession, that kept me on my toes. The whole morning taught me that I needed better antiperspirant but also taught me that I could actually do all these things and survive. I’ve described the whole experience to my fellow interns and nowhere else has offered an experience quite like that.”

– Charlie Jain, MD (UICOMP Class of 2014) an intern in the internal medicine residency program at Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston.

The Intern Prep Course was a unique experience to end the fourth year. The lectures, discussions, teaching, and simulation really came together to provide a good platform for my intern year. What I most enjoyed was probably the hardest day of the course – the multi-part simulation challenge. Having to reascertain a patient then immediately go and give the bad news yourself to the ‘family’ and have them challenge you and get angry was nerve-wracking. Then, to go and have three more equally tricky challenges in rapid succession, that kept you on your toes. The whole morning taught me that I needed better antiperspirant but also taught me that I could actually do all these things and survive. I’ve described the whole experience to my fellow interns and nowhere else has offered an experience quite like that.”

– Eric Velasquez, MD (UICOMP Class of 2014) an intern in the pediatrics residency program at Medical College of Wisconsin Affiliated Hospitals in Milwaukee.

Innovating at the third-year

The annual nearly weeklong of activities synonymously known among faculty and students as M3 Orientation is changing more and more each year using simulation to advance those “hard to teach” skills.

Presenting to an attending is as much art as it is science, so simulating with attendings in the Virtual Patient Unit at Jump is proving invaluable. Among the orientation activities – both procedural and other – included arterial puncture, inserting a naso-gastric tube, injections, IV placement, intubation, CPR, suturing, order writing and patient interview. New this year included simulations in rounds the wards – using upperclassmen to assist in the role play – and scrubbing and gowning for surgery.

The M3 orientation also used technology to augment the human eye. This year, 3D camera technology being developed by Peoria-based VirtuSense Technologies was used in Jump’s Virtual Operating Room to enhance feedback from expert surgeons and at the same time educating students to sterile environment techniques (as seen on the Pathways cover).

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A Healthy Dose of Optimism

Dolores Metzger is the Director of Development at the University of Illinois College of Medicine at Peoria. You can contact her at 309-671-8481 or dmetzger@uic.edu.

Countless studies have been conducted on optimism, and the vast majority of them conclude that optimism is healthy. Perhaps there’s hidden science, perhaps it’s the placebo effect. Regardless, I can sell you we are very optimistic this will be a successful fundraising year in Peoria for the College of Medicine. We have received significant contributions to begin and grow funds toward three potential Professorships, we have funded named scholarships, and we are working on several bequests that will leave named endowments in honor of those donors and their areas of interest!

I have been privileged to work with and had the chance to get to know many in our Senior Scholars Group who return monthly (or more) to teach medical students, assist with applicant interviews or continue their own learning. These nearly 100 medical professionals are mostly retired faculty, physicians or alumni who offer such a legacy of academic medicine for our current faculty and students. We are truly lucky to have them. In fact, we are currently collecting their updated CVs for our library so they may be viewed and used by our students for projects, mentoring or research. Many of these physicians have graciously offered financial and volunteer contributions in various areas throughout the college and we cannot thank them enough for their support.

Dr. Al and Marjorie Novotny recently were inducted into the William Root Society when they attended the annual University of Illinois College of Medicine Alumni Reunion held in Chicago. This award honors individuals who have made cumulative lifetime gifts of $100,000. Those who give annually over $10,000 are recognized as either lifetime or annual William W. Root or “Root Society” members. We are extremely grateful to all our donors, who support our major funds such as our Professorships and our academic funds. We rely on the ongoing support of many generous individuals and organizations who are committed to education and medical advancement. Please contact me if you need advice on how you can leave a legacy in your name. You also can make your gift online at peoria.medicine.uic.edu/giving.

With Warmest Regards,

Dolores Metzger
Director of Development
University of Illinois College of Medicine at Peoria

The interest on endowed funds provides a continuous flow of money to support academic activities. These funds allow faculty to focus on teaching, programs and/or research within the area designated by the donors. This critical ongoing support advances the mission of the medical school and enhances our ability to meet the needs of our students, residents, patients and community. Below are three endowed funds that were recently initiated – one in dermatology, one in surgery and one in general pediatrics. Please help us build these foundational resources!

Retired Peoria Dermatologist Dr. Harry C. and Sally Stone recently donated shares of stock to help start an endowed fund for Skin Cancer and Skin Disease at UICOMP. Dr. Allan Campbell the current Chair of Dermatology along with Rennie Atterbury are leading the drive to help find funding and name the professorship.

In the event the fund reaches the level of professorship, its goal is to improve skin health through the education of medical students, residents, practicing physicians and the community in the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of skin disorders.

If you would like to help by supporting this fund, please use fund number (774163) for your contribution.

It was an exciting evening in May when Dr. Steven Tsoraides announced at a surprise reception and symposium that several residents, past students and colleagues along with family secretly donated to start the Norman C. Estes Fund. Dr. Estes was surprised and honored to learn about the contributions. We hope that the fund can grow to reach $500,000 in order to establish it as a professorship in Dr. Estes’s name. Dr. Estes has served as the Chair of the Surgery Department at UICOMP since 1998.

If you would like to help support this fund to reach professorship level, please reference fund number (771908) for your donation.

Dr. Umesh C. Chatrath along with Raj and Indu Soin recently made significant contributions to open and start the Umesh C. Chatrath Endowed Fund.

In the event that the fund reaches Professorship level, the Umesh C. Chatrath Endowed Professorship in Academic General Pediatrics will promote and support innovation in the field of general pediatrics. This academic work could be in the form of new educational programs or research in education, clinical practice, health outcomes, translation of basic science to clinical practice or systems health delivery or basic research within the Division of Academic General Pediatrics.

Dr. Chatrath has made significant contributions to Pediatrics in both teaching and clinical practice in the Peoria community for nearly 40 years.

If you wish to support this fund please use fund number (774131) for your contributions.

You can help support the College of Medicine by using the envelope provided in Pathways or online at giving.peoria.uic.edu/yourgift and simply enter the fund number you wish to support.

Dr. Estes was surprised and honored to learn about the contributions.

If you would like to help support this fund to reach professorship level, please reference fund number (771908) for your donation.
An Inspiration to All
New award honors Family Medicine graduate for his humanitarianism

A 1981 graduate of the Family Medicine Residency, Steven Befus, MD, dedicated his professional career as a medical missionary in West Africa. Dr. Befus joined SIM Ministries and in 1981 with his wife, Sue, went to ELWA Hospital in Monrovia, Liberia where they raised their four children.

For twenty years, Steve served the poor of Liberia as a physician and leader at this 45-bed hospital, providing surgical OB coverage, overseeing a very busy outpatient clinic and the emergency room, as well as rounding on the inpatient wards at least twice a day. He was committed to primary care and on many instances fought the push of some to develop the hospital into a multi-specialty hospital, believing that strong primary care was essential to the health of the area. In 1986, civil war broke out in Liberia, and over the next 14 years, they had to be evacuated three times, to return and each time rebuild the hospital that had been repeatedly destroyed during war.

Dr. Befus is recognized as a bit of a legend among many local physicians for the dedication he held for his patients and the people of Liberia, despite being surrounded by civil war, being shot at and even having a knife put to his throat. He intermittently returned to Peoria to teach during those times of unrest but twice helped to reopen the hospital; he once narrowly escaped armed captors only to have to walk barefooted more than 11 miles to safety.

In many ways, the work he did there was more than simply patient care. His career inspired others. Dr. Befus died in 2003 from cancer, but he and his legacy are being remembered. A new award was created by the UICOMP Department of Family and Community Medicine and UnityPoint Health – Methodist Proctor Foundation.

On June 27 at the Family Medicine Residency graduation, the inaugural Steven Befus, MD Humanitarianism Award was posthumously given to Dr. Befus’ widow, Sue Befus. In subsequent years, the award will go to a faculty member or student of the family medicine program who promotes human welfare and the happiness of people. The award includes a plaque and $1,000 monetary gift from the UnityPoint Health – Methodist Proctor Foundation to be given to the charity of choice of the recipient.

Lectureships Bring in the Best and Brightest

Dr. Deborah Erickson, a urologist at the University of Kentucky who has spent more than 20 years conducting research, teaching and providing urological care for patients, was the guest speaker for the 2014 Robert A. Flinn Endowed Lecture.

Dr. Erickson spoke in September at the College of Medicine, providing self-help strategies for female incontinence for her presentation titled “Female Bladder Control Problems: What You Can Do and What Your Health Professional Can Do.”

The Robert A. Flinn, MD Endowed Lectureship 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. A 1958 graduate of the University of Illinois College of Medicine, Dr. Flinn and his accomplishments in urology are known by many throughout the country. He served Peoria as a physician and partner with Affiliated Urology Specialists until 1995, and was instrumental in acquiring Illinois’ first lithotripter, providing patients non-invasive treatment of kidney stones. Dr. Flinn passed away in May of 2011, but his passion for education and medicine continue.

The Robert A. Flinn, MD Endowed Lectureship was established in 2011 to honor the late Dr. Robert Flinn; Eleanor Flinn, wife of Dr. Flinn; Steve Flinn, son of Dr. Flinn, and Dr. Churphena Reid.

Dr. Charles Mullighan, a world-renowned child cancer researcher, was the guest speaker for the Robert D. Hart, MD Lectureship in August.

Dr. Mullighan, an associate member of the St. Jude Pathology Department and a Pew Scholar in Biomedical Sciences, presented “Your Genes and Cancer: The role of Genome Sequencing in Understanding and Treating Cancer” to more than 100 people at Jump Trading Simulation & Education Center.

The Robert D. Hart, MD Endowed Lectureship was established in 2002 to honor the late Dr. Hart for his distinguished medical career and all he did for the community. Known as “Peoria’s Pediatrician,” Dr. Hart provided care to thousands of children in the Peoria area for more than 50 years. With a kind smile and warm heart, he served as an advocate for both children and adults with disabilities, championing many community efforts to improve health care services and quality of life for those with physical and mental challenges. Though Dr. Hart passed away in 2002, his passion to improve health endures.
Radiology core faculty ushers along liver cancer treatment

Not long after Matthew Scheidt, MD came to Peoria in late 2012, he saw an opportunity to provide patients with liver cancer in central Illinois with another option for treatment.

Called radioembolization, the minimally invasive procedure involves using a catheter positioned within the hepatic artery to deliver tiny beads which are used to block the blood supply to the tumor(s) and at the same time administer high dose radiation to liver tumors from the inside.

“It’s pretty high-tech and saves a lot of the healthy liver,” says Dr. Scheidt, Associate Program Director of the College of Medicine’s Vascular/Interventional Fellowship Program. He adds; “I just think it’s a good procedure to bring to patients in order to improve their quality of life and provide hope for this patient population.”

Dr. Scheidt is an Assistant Professor of Clinical Radiology and core faculty member of the fellowship, a program now in its 17th year. A member of the Central Illinois Radiological Associates, Dr. Scheidt sees and treats patients at OSF Saint Francis Medical Center.

Prior to coming to Peoria, Dr. Scheidt worked and trained at the Medical College of Wisconsin in Milwaukee, where he also completed a fellowship in vascular and interventional radiology. He completed his residency in diagnostic radiology at Indiana University.

Historically, liver cancer often is treated by systemic chemotherapy, surgery, or even liver transplant, but some people fall into categories where they cannot have surgery to remove the tumor because of its size or location, says Dr. Scheidt. In addition to providing a better quality of life, the targeted treatment option offers an opportunity to shrink tumors so that patients may ultimately become a candidate for surgery or transplant in the future.

Patients who undergo the one-time procedure can go home the same day, he said, contrasting standard chemotherapy regimens which are often 14 to 16 weeks long. The type of radiation material used in the targeted embolization procedure is active for only up to 11 days.

“It’s not a cure but it does provide people with an improved, more prolonged quality of life, and sometimes can help bridge the patient until surgery or transplant,” Dr. Scheidt said.

New Chair of Radiology

Sean Meagher, MD was appointed Chair of the Department of Radiology at UICOMP in June.

Dr. Meagher, a 1998 graduate of UICOMP, has been a member of the Radiology faculty at the College of Medicine since 2006. He completed his radiology residency and neuroradiology fellowship at the University of Michigan. Following that, he completed a fellowship in Interventional Neuroradiology at the University of California – San Francisco. A Peoria native, Dr. Meagher returned to Peoria in 2006, joining the Central Illinois Radiological Associates (CIRA) and the faculty at UICOMP.

“Dr. Meagher brings diverse skills to his role as Chair,” said UICOMP Regional Dean Dr. Sara Rusch. “He is committed to UICOMP and to our resident, fellow and medical student mission of education and research. He will sustain and grow the essential collaborations between CIRA, OSF and UICOMP that are necessary to sustain the educational and research missions and advance the Department of Radiology.”

Dr. Meagher’s appointment officially began in July, taking the place of Dr. Terry Brady who served as the Interim Chair of the Radiology Department since December when longtime former Chair Dr. Tom Cusack retired after more than 30 years as Chair or Interim Chair.

The UICOMP Department of Radiology has a longstanding tradition of outstanding teaching at the undergraduate and graduate level and includes a nationally recognized residency training program and fellowship programs in breast imaging, vascular/interventional radiology and neuroradiology.

William Bond, MD, MS

William Bond, MD, MS was named Director of Simulation Research for Jump Trading Simulation and Education Center, a new position that will oversee simulation-based education and simulation research at Jump. Dr. Bond also will mentor others in the production of research, focusing on educational and simulation research as well as lead his own projects and existing projects.

Dr. Bond, who also holds the title Visiting Professor of Clinical Emergency Medicine at UICOMP, was previously Medical Director of Education Technology in the Division of Education in at Lehigh Valley Health Network (LVHN), a role that included direction of the LVHN Interdisciplinary Simulation Center (LVHNISC). He also served as Designated Institutional Official (DIO) and Chair of the Graduate Medical Education Committee (GMEC) for LVHN.

Dr. Bond led the development of LVHNISC from its opening in 2009 to a facility of over 10,000 square feet serving learners at all levels and all sites within LVHN. He was deeply engaged in the formation of the regional medical campus at LVHN and the SELECT (Scholarly Excellence, Leadership Experiences, Collaborative Training) third and fourth year medical student curriculum. Within the field of simulation Dr. Bond has developed areas of expertise including patient safety and cognitive error.

A graduate of Jefferson Medical College and of the U.C. Davis Emergency Medicine Residency, Dr. Bond also holds a Masters in Health and Biopharmaceutical Economics from Lehigh University.
Sequelae. At most, nine children in the U.S. are diagnosed each year with neuroblastoma; have low-stage neuroblastoma and survive their tumor but are handicapped by neurological impairment. Dr. de Alarcón said the clinical trial was inspired in 1999 by a primary investigator for the clinical trial, which is the only randomized clinical trial ever done on the neurological impairment. Dr. de Alarcón said the clinical trial was inspired in 1999 by a patient of his who suffered severely from the neurologic disorder; adding that the clinical trials got underway in 2003 and concluded in 2014. OMA, an immunologically mediated paraneoplastic syndrome, affects 2-3 percent of children with neuroblastoma. Most children have low-stage neuroblastoma and survive their tumor but are handicapped by neurological sequelae. At most, nine children in the U.S. are diagnosed each year with neuroblastoma and associated OSA.

Treasure Hunt brings kids to campus
Faculty member shares his children’s book “Germ That Became a Hero”

More than 110 elementary- and middle-school-age students visited the College of Medicine and Library of the Health Science this summer to participate in the Peoria Academy of Science’s annual “Treasure Hunt.” This year, Dr. Richard Macdonald, a retired podiatrist and clinical instructor for the Department of Family and Community Medicine, also shared his book “The Whipping Cough Germ That Became a Hero.” In the book, Dr. Macdonald, explains how his father, Dr. Hugh Macdonald, tested the whooping cough vaccine on Richard Macdonald’s four older brothers with the help of his mother, nurse Edith Macdonald. The tests provided proof the vaccine worked.

Students participating in the treasure hunt were asked a question from the book in addition to other questions about vaccines and the College of Medicine. This is the second year that the College of Medicine and Library of the Health Sciences have teamed up to be one of nearly 20 host sites for the Peoria Academy of Science’s annual “Treasure Hunt.”

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

Mural F. Abdullah, MD accepted a new position as Assistant Professor of Clinical Medicine
Peter Allday, MD was promoted to Professor of Clinical Psychiatry
Mohammad Al-Buhairan, MD was promoted to Associate Professor of Clinical Pediatrics
Averylee Anthony, MD, MD is a new employee in the Dept. of Neurosurgery
Sanjeev Banerjee, MD is a new employee in the Dept. of Medicine
William F. Bond, MD is a new employee in the Dept. of Emergency Medicine
Julio Borrell, MD was promoted to Professor of Clinical Surgery
Daniel Fassett, MD was promoted to Associate Professor of Clinical Pediatrics
Kathleen A. Hackett, MD, MPH accepted a new position as Research Associate II in the Dept. of Pediatrics
Venkat S. Kakolis, MD is a new employee in the Dept. of Medicine
Lydia S. Klein, MD is a new employee in the Dept. of Pediatrics
Mikael Koo, MD, PhD is a new employee in the Dept. of Medicine/Health Outcomes
Andras Ladai, MD, PhD is a new employee in the Dept. of OB/GYN
Andrew Scaglia, MD added the title Director of Academic Programs
Jalaluddin Luka, MD was promoted to Professor of Clinical Pediatrics
Kanishka Mazumdar, MD was promoted to Associate Professor of Clinical Pediatrics
Mohammed M. Mammad, MD is a new salaried employee in the Dept. of Pediatrics
Francis Mihich, MD was promoted to Associate Professor of Clinical Medicine
S. Brian McIntyre, EID was promoted to Associate Professor of Clinical Psychiatry, Associate Professor of Clinical OB/GYN, and Associate Professor of Clinical Family Practice
Heather Mccollough, MD was promoted to Associate Professor of Clinical Pediatrics
Sean Mccusker, MD added the new position, Chair of the Dept. of Radiology
Glenna D. Miller, MD retired and was rehired as Associate Professor in the Dept. of Academic Affairs.
Matthew Mishler, MD was promoted to Clinical Associate Professor
John K. Patreak, MD retired from the Dept. of Surgery
Timothy J. Schaefer, MD has rehired in Chair and Clinical Associate Professor in the Dept. of Emergency Medicine
Yasuhi Wang, PhD is a new employee in the Dept. of Medicine/Health Outcomes
Marika Watan, MD is a new employee in the Dept. of Psychiatry
Kelvin Wynn, MD was promoted to Associate Professor of Clinical Family Practice

October 25, 2014
Harvesting Hope: Pediatric Resource Center Fundraiser
Jump Trading Simulation & Education Center • 6 p.m.
309-624-9595

November 12, 2014
Celebration of Excellence
UICOMP Lobby • 5:30 p.m.
309-680-8813