EVENTS & MILESTONES
Growing UICOMP Marks New Firsts and Celebrates Achievements
At convocation on May 5, 2018, the number of medical students graduating from the College of Medicine in Peoria crossed the two thousand threshold. This was a milestone for the continued growth of the Peoria campus – one of many this year! This issue of Pathways provides multiple examples of UICOMP’s growth and evolution.

For the first time in our 48-year history, we educated first year medical students on our campus. The presence of an entire new class of M1 students meant new faculty, new teaching/learning spaces, cadaver dissection, more student research, and changing curriculum. It also meant a full parking lot, more students studying in the library, and overall more energy in the building. I have enjoyed the sense of activity and liveliness, and I believe the opportunity to be in Peoria for all four years will enhance our students’ education and convince more of them to stay in Peoria for residency and practice.

Concurrent with the M1 expansion, the medical student curriculum was transformed and for the first time it was coordinated across the Chicago, Peoria and Rockford campuses. The implementation of the new curriculum was challenging given the distance between campuses and the disparity of the pre-existing curriculum. This radical change required changes in lecture design, teaching faculty to use our new technology, and the creation of stronger relationships across the campuses of the College of Medicine. Our highly motivated faculty worked very hard and for long hours to create and teach the new curriculum, to adjust rapidly to student feedback and to guide the evolution of the new curriculum.

The emphasis on student research is increasing as residency match becomes more competitive. We had the largest research day ever at UICOMP with multiple student research projects and case reports, including bringing resident research to the on-campus event for the first time!

We started two, new educational tracks: Innovations in Rural Global Medicine and the Clinician Executive Medicine program. The new early immersion ELIITE program placed students in clinic early in the M1 year. This required active engagement of physicians and staff in multiple private practices

At the graduate medical education level, there are currently 286 residents and fellows in eleven residency programs, five ACGME approved fellowships and three fellowships for which ACGME standards do not exist. These are in partnership with our academic partners OSF Healthcare and UnityPoint Health. A new Hospice and Palliative Care Fellowship will start in July of 2018. The number of residents and fellows in UICOMP sponsored programs grew from 199 in 2006 to 283 in 2017.

Thanks to philanthropic support, we’ve been able to modernize our teaching spaces and develop new and innovative teaching techniques. For example, one of the philanthropically funded Dean’s Innovation Awards takes technology created at Jump and utilizes it to teach anatomy using virtual reality. This cutting-edge use of new technology puts UICOMP at the national forefront of education.

UICOMP is a growing, active and evolving campus, working with our community and our academic partners as we continue to further our mission “Lead Collaboration to Improve Health”.

Sincerely,

Dr. Sara L. Rusch
Regional Dean
More than 32 medical students from across Illinois competed in the Second Annual SimWars competition held in April at the Jump Trading Simulation & Education Center. Eight teams each consisting of four third-year medical students participated in six simulations. The scenarios focused on acute management, including acute asthma exacerbation, pre-eclampsia, and organophosphate poisoning. All of the cases demonstrated a focus of emergent situations and touched on different specialties, such as cardiology, OB-GYN and pediatrics to name a few.

“SimWars was exciting and gave us a chance to test our medical knowledge, team work and patient assessment,” said UICOMP student Reynaldo Hernandez. “It’s a nerve-wracking experience when you’re about to perform a case in front of the judges (emergency medicine attending physicians and residents) and other medical students. But as soon as you see the patient, you remember your core training and clerkships and assess and treat the patient with the appropriate interventions. It is truly an unpredictable event since you don’t know what you will be walking into or what will be happening during the case!”

Students were judged on their ability to determine the underlying issues and address them appropriately.

Awards were given to the top three performing teams. They were as follows:

First Place: UICOM Rockford - Shockable Rhythms
Second Place: Loyola - Appy Campers
Third Place: UICOM Peoria - Life Sabers
UICOMP students organized the first-ever Patrick Newcomer Memorial 5K in honor of their friend and classmate Patrick Newcomer, who passed away last year.

The run, which took place along the Peoria Riverfront, raised more than $4,100 and included over 40 runners. A portion of the proceeds will be used to purchase a tree that will be planted at the UICOMP campus this summer in Patrick’s memory. The remaining funds will go toward supporting the annual Halloween party for children with diabetes. UICOMP students organize the Halloween event each year, which includes activities and contests with prizes.

Patrick Newcomer, Class of 2019, passed away on February 12, 2017. He was a second-year medical UICOMP student. Patrick expressed strong interest in promoting the health and well-being of children.
Casino Royale SnowBall

UICOMP students, staff, faculty, and residents got together for the annual SnowBall winter formal. This year’s edition featured a Casino Royale theme at the Embassy Suites Conference Center in East Peoria.

The event welcomed over 250 attendees to enjoy live jazz, a catered dinner, dancing, games, and good company.

UICOMP’s Student Event Planning Committee would like to thank all of those who helped in the planning and organization of the event, all of the attendees, and our very generous donors for supporting another fantastic SnowBall!

More than a knack for determining a differential diagnosis, several UICOMP students put some of their hidden talents on display.

In total, more than 30 students performed in the first annual UICOMP Talent Show held March 13 at the Contemporary Arts Center in Peoria.

Among the acts included Landon Kunzelman (M2) riding his unicycle, AJ Heaps (M2) performing as Cher, and the Musicians in Medicine playing the Game of Thrones theme song. Retired rheumatologist Dr. Joe Couri sang and played an original song on his guitar; and a band of M1s called Torsades de Pointes closed out the show with a rocking performance.

Historically, the talent show was held in Urbana by M1s, but this year was the first year to take place in Peoria. Students from all four classes participated. The night also included student date auctions and a student-faculty dinner raffle. Proceeds from the talent show were donated to a nonprofit organization, Youth Music Illinois, which supports musically talented youths in central Illinois.
Fifty-six medical UICOMP students joined thousands across the country on March 16, 2018 at the Gateway Building in downtown Peoria as they learned where they “matched” to continue their path in medicine.

UICOMP students matched to 19 specialties across 23 states and the District of Columbia. Of those, 24 are headed into primary care and more than a quarter of the class will remain in Illinois with seven matching to residency programs in Peoria.

The top three areas of medicine students chose to pursue this year were surgical fields (11), Internal Medicine (10) and Pediatrics (7). Four students matched specifically to orthopedic surgery, which was the highest number from any one campus across the College of Medicine.

“I’m happy to be staying in Peoria – this was my Number One choice,” said Paulo Michelini, who matched to the Family Medicine Residency Program affiliated with UnityPoint Health – Methodist and sponsored by UICOMP. A graduate of the Rural Student Physician Program, Michelini said he is interested ultimately in practicing medicine in a rural community. “Illinois has a lot of rural communities with a lot of need. I don’t know where I will end up but there is definitely a lot of opportunity.”

In Peoria, all 70-plus residency positions were filled. UICOMP has more than 270 residents enrolled in 11 residency programs affiliated with UnityPoint Health – Methodist and OSF HealthCare Saint Francis Medical Center.

See the full list of match assignments online at https://peoria.medicine.uic.edu/news and clicking on the related news link.
Fifty-seven UICOMP students received their medical degrees Saturday, May 5 at the Peoria Civic Center, raising the total number of doctors who have received their medical degrees in Peoria to 2,023!

“This is a time of joy, a time of pride and a recognition of accomplishment,” Regional Dean Dr. Sara Rusch said in her address to the crowd. “It is always a joy to see how our students have grown and matured as individuals, as learners, as leaders, as community advocates and, of course, as future physicians.

“When this campus celebrated its first convocation in 1973, we had 18 students in the graduating class,” she continued. “In the years since then, our class size has grown, the number of women in the class now equals the number of men and the diversity of our students has markedly increased. Our alumni provide patient care in Peoria and across the country, perform key research, lead healthcare organizations and teach a new generation of physicians.”

CHANCELLOR CRUZ PROVIDED THE STUDENT ADDRESS:

“...I thought about what I would remember from medical school, 10 or even 20 years from now. As much as I love gross anatomy, I think going into psychiatry I’m gonna lose that pretty fast. No, the kind of memories I’ll still have are the ones with real patients, the kind that teach us as much as about humanity as they do medicine.

“It was fall of M3, one of my first rotations, I was in the ER scurrying around and trying to find my patient. All of the sudden I see a rush of people around one room as an elderly man comes in with a cardiac arrest. As a line starts to form for chest compressions, I find myself slowly moving towards it as an ER attending pushes me into the action. I start to panic. I suddenly forget, how many compressions to breaths? Oh my goodness this is so not a job for me. As it is my turn to continue compressions I’m standing over the patient when suddenly the pastor comes in.

“Stop,” he shouts, as he walks in with a woman around the same age as our patient. She is his sister, and decides to withdraw care. As the rest of the team departs, only a small group of us is left with her. In tears, she has a continuous flow of emotion, a stream of consciousness and memories, telling us how when they were kids, her brother protected them from an abusive family member, how he used to save up his allowance to buy her shoes. To us he was a patient in cardiac arrest who needed chest compressions, but to her, he was an amazing brother, a man who had lived a life of wonderful memories. I got no better at chest compressions that day, but I had a far more important experience- I experienced a patient’s death with a family member. I learned that whatever happens to our patients does not occur in a vacuum, every consequence has lasting impacts for the family members left behind.”
Academic Excellence

Congratulations to all of the UICOMP student and faculty award recipients – the recognition was well deserved!

More than 60 individual awards and honors were given out Thursday, May 3, 2018, at The Warehouse on State in Peoria during the annual Student Awards Event.

Congratulations to Dr. Carl Strauch, UICOMP Class of 1972, who was honored with the Distinguished Alumni Award! Also, congrats to this year’s Golden Apple recipients: Dr. Pushpa Joseph, Dr. Ben Pflederer, and Dr. Elsa Vazquez-Melendez! And thanks to the Docapella group for a wonderful performance!
More than a year ago, Dr. Matthew Bramlet and his engineering team at Jump Simulation were busy translating digital scans of patients’ hearts and other anatomy into 3-D printed models to assist with decision making for pre-surgical planning and patient education.

The UICOMP pediatric cardiologist wondered if they could eliminate printing the physical models, thereby saving time and resources, and work solely in a virtual environment – to explore and experience the anatomy in ways they never were able to before. What’s more, as he watched clinicians interact with anatomic models in VR, he noticed how they instinctively narrated what they were seeing and doing. He saw an opportunity for a new way of teaching.

“I call it PowerPoint for VR,” says Dr. Bramlet, the Director of Advanced Imaging and Modeling at Jump.

Soon after, ENDUVO was born. ENDUVO software is a platform that allows clinical educators to build lectures in virtual reality, using nothing more than 3D anatomic models, video clips and diagrams.

“You drag and drop files you would normally add into a PowerPoint presentation into the virtual space, arrange them however you like, press record, and teach by interacting with the models and the diagrams (in the virtual space),” he said. When you’re done, you’ve just created a lecture in VR.”

Dr. Bramlet says a handful of faculty studying the software at UICOMP have condensed anatomy lectures from an hour to as few as 15 minutes using patient-specific 3D models to manipulate and explain. Less time is needed because everything you need to teach is right there, versus spread across several slides, he said.

“One thing for sure is that there is always that wow factor,” said Dr. David Dominguese, a Research Assistant Professor of Anatomy at UICOMP who has used the software to create learning modules on the knee in VR. “Students and faculty and others like the technology for certain things, but we want to see if that wow factor translates to better learning and better teaching.”

Dr. Dominguese and Dr. Bramlet are recipients of a Dean’s Innovative Curriculum Awards at UICOMP. The program grants funding to faculty making use of technology or ideas that have originated at Jump, a part of OSF Innovation, to create new curriculum. He is studying whether the VR system (HTC Vive Harware) and ENDUVO can be applied in the classroom for teaching and learning.

“Early studies show users, both students and faculty, find value in the technology, they find it easy to use, and envision greater use of it in future medical education,” Dr. Dominguese said.

A six-station VR lab was constructed in the existing technology-assisted anatomy lab on the UICOMP campus where students and faculty have been going through the VR modules.

Chase Smith, a first-year medical student, participated in the study. He said the software included a tutorial on how to navigate a VR space and VR lecture.

“You just kind of find yourself moving ahead in the tutorials and trying things yourself which I really appreciated,” said Smith. “It made you feel more like you were discovering something. I’ve always been a visual learner and it makes it a thousand times easier when I am able to see something and experience it myself rather than reading about it or hearing it in a lecture.”
Flexing the Research Muscle
For first time, UICOMP Research Day includes resident research

A look at rare medical events, a cross-sectional study of hypertension prevalence in rural Illinois, and a look at an herbal supplement coinciding with heart blockage – just a few of the nearly 100 medical research works on display at this year’s UICOMP Research Day.

Starting six years ago with just 20 posters by UICOMP students, the event has grown substantially. This year, more than 55 works by students were on display along with more than 40 projects from College of Medicine faculty and – for the first time – physician residents.

A big ‘thank you’ to the many judges who volunteered as well as those who participated in the presentations and panel discussion throughout the day!

Student Awards

CLINICAL VIGNETTE
1st Place: Jose Castellanos, M3 and Austin Rim, M3
    Beta Agonist Administration as an Etiology of Elevated Lactic Acid in a Patient in Status Asthmaticus
2nd Place: Collin Labak, M3
    Glioblastoma formation in a recurrent intracranial epidermoid cyst
3rd Place: Tess Woodring, M3
    Lithium-induced bradycardia: effect of lithium on sinoatrial node function in a patient with syncope

RESEARCH
1st Place: Luke Duda, M3
    Hypothalamic neurosphere growth is regulated by insulin and Notch signaling in vitro
2nd Place: Brian Didier, M2
    Role of toll-like receptor signaling in Alzheimer’s disease
3rd Place: Danny Ge, M3
    uPA Provides Chemotherapeutic Protection to Topoisomerase-1 in Lung Fibroblast Cells

Resident Awards

1st Place (2): Kathryn Carrol, MD
    Midline Head Positioning for Prevention of Intraventricular Hemorrhage (IVH) in Infants Born at 23-28 weeks gestation: a multicenter retrospective cohort study
1st Place (2): Pilar Rainey, DO
    Association Between BMI < 20 and Preterm Birth
2nd Place (2): Tulika Chatterjee, MD
    A Case of Echinococcosis: Surgical Management of Hepatic Hydatid Cyst
2nd Place (2): Tulika Chatterjee, MD
    The road to diagnosis of CNS aspergillosis
3rd Place: Jason Taylor, MD and Dilip Mahale, MD
    Interactive Intelligent Avatar-Based Simulation Case Development

Faculty Awards

Amy Christison, MD – Distinguished Research Mentor Award
Amy Christison, MD – Outstanding Research Award 2017-18
Ken-Ichiro Fukuchi, MD, PhD - Outstanding Research Award 2017-18
Christopher Gondi, PhD - Outstanding Research Award 2017-18
David Dominguese, PhD – Outstanding Clinical, Technological, or Scholarly Achievements Applied to Medical Research Award 2017-2018
Named Student Awards

DR. CHRISTOPHER AND MARILOU POWERS RESEARCH FUND IN MEMORY OF JOHN ALLEN
Yining Lu, M3 James Scholar
  The Effect of OTX-2 Downregulation on c-Myc expression and Tumor Progression in Group 3/4 Medulloblastoma

DR. MUHAMMAD B. YUNUS STUDENT RESEARCH AWARD
Michael Pajor, M2 James Scholar
  Investigation of FAK’s influence on GLUT1 activity in mesenchymal-subtype glioblastoma tumors

UIC Library of the Health Sciences Peoria Literature Awards

CLINICAL VIGNETTE
Abriella Stone, M3
  Nivolumab-Induced Encephalitis in Hereditary Leiomyomatosis and Renal Cell Cancer Syndrome

RESEARCH
Jane Zhang, M1
  The Allosteric Glycogen Synthase Kinase-3 Inhibitor NP12 Limits Myocardial Remodeling and Promotes Angiogenesis in an Acute Myocardial Infarction Model

Honorable Mentions

CLINICAL VIGNETTE
Elise Biesboer, M3 and Danielle Owerko, M3
  Liposomal Vincristine: A Novel Approach to Maintain Function While Treating Burkitt-like Lymphoma in a Teenager with Atazis-Telangiectasia

RESEARCH
Kathleen M. Hendricks, RNBSN
  Implementation of a Group-Based Diabetes Education Program to Improve Glycemic Control
Conjure an image of a doctor and automatically many will think of a person in a white lab coat. While true throughout many physician offices and hospitals, you will find a standout among the University of Illinois College of Medicine Peoria faculty. Here, the faculty instead don a light-blue clinical coat.

WHY THE BLUE COAT?

For that answer, Pathways turned to Dr. Patrick Elwood, renowned Peoria neurosurgeon and the first curricular chair of the College of Medicine in Peoria. Among the founding faculty, he participated in the design and development of the College of Medicine’s undergraduate medical curriculum now nearly 50 years ago, including some of its early identifiers that persist today.

“When the medical school first started we had a relatively small faculty,” Dr. Elwood recalled recently from his office at OSF HealthCare Saint Francis Medical Center. “They were tremendously enthusiastic. It was unbelievable, like a kid with a new toy.”

The first task for the faculty was to create the second-year curriculum. The problem, however, was that many of faculty involved with the planning had not been a medical student in many years, he said.

“No one knew what they (the medical students) knew. It was kind of humorous some of the struggles we had,” Elwood continued.

Not long after medical students started arriving at the hospitals for their clerkships, faculty ran into another issue.

“Basically, we had these two fairly large hospitals with a lot of staff doctors but there was no identification of doctors as faculty,” Elwood recalled.

At the time, Dr. Elwood and some of his colleagues in neurology and neurological surgery wore blue coats. Other colleagues in the Department of Pediatrics wore tan clinical coats.

“Somehow we got to talking about how we would identify faculty in the College of Medicine so when we were walking around the hospital we could tell who was faculty. We had a staff meeting to decide if we should wear a blue coat or a tan coat,” Elwood recalled. “None of us wanted white coats because we didn’t want to upset the children – because of the white coat syndrome – there was a lot of thinking that white coats frightened the children and maybe even bothered adults.”
Elwood continued, “the faculty took a vote and blue won. I think most supported the blue simply because they didn’t like the tan – it looked rather pedestrian – so we ended up with these blue coats, simply by chance.”

But the story doesn’t end there quite yet.

About that same time, Elwood said the faculty talked about creating a patch for their coat sleeve. Dr. John Henderson and his wife, Beverly, put some pencil to paper and sketched the design that continues today – with an uppercase “U” and “I” intersecting.

Nearly 50 years later, both the blue coat and the patch has remained largely intact.

“I personally feel like it’s important – organizational identification,” says Elwood. “It (The blue clinical coats and patch) stands for the university’s role in medical education and signifying the presence of the medical school within the hospitals and clinics.”

In fact, Dr. Elwood would like to see more of the faculty and residents donning the faculty attire.

“I think it’s really important the College of Medicine has a vigorous presence in the hospitals and you just can’t assume that. One of the advantages of the coat and the patch is that people are reminded we are the University of Illinois.”
UICOMP is helping to teach central Illinois how to stop bleeding during emergency situations. The local effort, spearheaded by the College of Medicine’s Department of Surgery and OSF Disaster Preparedness, is part of the nationwide campaign called “Stop the Bleed” and recognized by the American College of Surgeons (ACS).

“The goal is to educate the public in basic bleeding control techniques while awaiting arrival of emergency medical services in order to help save lives,” says Dr. Chad Evans, a trauma surgeon at OSF HealthCare Saint Francis Medical Center and Assistant Professor of Clinical Surgery for the College of Medicine who’s helping to lead the educational endeavor.

The approximately 90-minute course prepares anyone, whether a lay person or medically trained, to act as an immediate responder by providing classroom instruction and hands-on education to control bleeding. A brief lecture precedes hands-on activities, which includes learning to apply a tourniquet and applying pressure to wounds.

To date, nearly 150 people have gone through the Stop the Bleed training in Peoria starting with medical students, physician residents, police officers and firefighters. Plans are to expand the training throughout the College of Medicine and the local community.

“Similar to how the general public has come to learn CPR, applying some fairly simple bleeding control techniques can help save lives, whether injuries are sustained from a car accident, a farm or hunting accident, or a gunshot wound,” said Anthony Dwyer, a UICOMP instructional development specialist helping to coordinate the educational program.

A person who is bleeding can die from blood loss within five minutes. This means the public can be a vital part of saving lives when emergency responders are on their way.

Learn more about the Stop the Bleed campaign at www.bleedingcontrol.org.

Have a group you would like to go through Stop the Bleed training?
Contact Anthony Dwyer at adwyer1@uic.edu or 309.671.8459.
In Family Medicine News

Kelvin E. Wynn, MD named Chair

Dr. Kelvin Wynn was approved by the University of Illinois Board of Trustees to serve as Chair of UICOMP’s Department of Family & Community Medicine in January 2018, becoming the eighth chair of the department since it was created in 1974. He also holds the Thomas and Ellen Foster Endowed professorship.

Dr. Wynn, the Family & Community Residency Director since 2011, is an Associate Professor of Clinical Family Medicine. He serves on the College of Medicine’s Student Promotions Committee, the Graduate Medical Education Committee and the Well-Being Taskforce Committee among others.

A graduate North Dakota State University in 1984, he received his medical degree from Howard University College of Medicine in 1988 and completed a family medicine residency at Saint Elizabeth Medical Center in 1991. Dr. Wynn came to the University of Illinois College of Medicine at Peoria in May 2007 and holds an active staff appointment at UnityPoint Health Methodist.

Dr. Wynn graduated from the Stanford Faculty Development Course in 2011. He has completed the National Institute of Program Directors Development Fellowship and the Caterpillar Scholars Faculty Development Fellowship. He also received the Illinois Academy of Family Physicians Teacher of the Year award in 2009. He is certified by the American Board of Family Medicine.

Jeffrey S. Leman, MD named Residency Program Director

Dr. Jeff Leman was approved by the Board of Trustee to serve as Program Director of the Family & Community Medicine Residency Program in January 2018, becoming just the fourth person to oversee the residency since it was established in 1967.

A Clinical Associate Professor in Family Medicine and member of the UICOMP faculty since 2009, Dr. Leman has served as the Family Medicine Residency Program’s Associate Director since 2014.

A native of central Illinois, he completed his undergraduate studies at Illinois Wesleyan University followed by medical school at UICOMP. He completed residency in Family Medicine from St. Anthony Family Medicine program in Oklahoma. After finishing medical training, Dr. Leman joined a private practice in Chicago and where he also earned a Master’s degree in Religion from Trinity Evangelical Divinity School.

In 2001, he and his family moved to India, where they worked in a small mission hospital. During that time, Dr. Leman started a family medicine residency there and for seven years, he directed the program at Herbertpur Christian Hospital, training family medicine residents who have a desire to work in remote and underserved areas of India. Dr. Leman has an interest in nutrition and medicine, including having helped coordinate the Cook Well, Eat Well, Live Well clinical nutrition educational series.

The Family Medicine Residency is affiliated with UnityPoint Health – Methodist and currently has 30 residents.

Family & Community Medicine Chairs

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<tr>
<td>1974-1977</td>
<td>Dean Bordeaux, MD</td>
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<td>1978-1982</td>
<td>Noel Guillozet, MD</td>
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<td>1982-1989</td>
<td>Andrew Barclay, MD</td>
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<td>1989-1992</td>
<td>Greg Clementz, MD</td>
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<td>1992-1994</td>
<td>John Coon, MD (Interim)</td>
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<td>John Halvorsen, MD, MS</td>
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Marisa Ascencio knew she wanted to go into medicine, but she also has a passion for directing its future.

“I’ve always had an interest in leadership,” says the first-year UICOMP medical student. “I did an internship while in Champaign at Carle Hospital with the Vice President of Surgery and the Cancer Center. I shadowed him for eight weeks, doing projects for him and his managers, and I really liked it. I like the idea of practicing medicine in addition to the administrative side – I have a passion for it – and I’d like to incorporate leadership into my career in medicine.”

Ascencio is one of three students on the Peoria campus getting early exposure in what it means to be in health care and a position of leadership.

Called the Clinician Executive Medicine Program, or CEMED, the new, four-year track’s vision is to train students to be able to address the complex leadership challenges resulting from health care organizational and policy changes that impact the way clinicians provide care.

“The nature of health care is changing, the delivery of health care is changing, and how health care is paid for is changing, including wellness versus illness. As these students are making their initial forays into medicine, they will start to really understand what it means to be a physician and a leader, and the kinds of challenges they will be facing as they continue their careers,” said Dr. Michele Mariscalco, one of the CEMED directors and Assistant Vice Chancellor for Health Sciences Academic Affairs at the University of Illinois College of Medicine.

Students attend classes once a month on topics such as hospital administration, health care finance, the Affordable Health Care Act, health care ethics, and community health care. But key to the program is the mentorship. Each student is paired with a clinical executive. Unique to CEMED is that the program is offered simultaneously across all of three College of Medicine campuses, something which has never been done before. Nine students from across the College were selected for the inaugural class, which began in August.

UICOMP student David Gao said one of the most rewarding parts of CEMED is the mentorship.

“I am able to interact personally with a health care executive, a role I could see myself doing down the road,” said Gao, whose mentor is Dr. Keith Knepp, President of UnityPoint Health – Methodist|Proctor and President of UnityPoint Clinic-Peoria. “I’ve shadowed him and attended a number of meetings on a variety of topics, including with their CFO and business analysts. I found it very rewarding to see all of the different aspects that a president has to deal with, and I can’t think of another program in another school that would offer me this same opportunity.”
“This really is the kind of stuff you don’t learn in medical school”
— UICOMP student Adnan Razzaque

UICOMP student Adnan Razzaque agreed.

“This really is the kind of stuff you don’t learn in medical school,” said Razzaque, who is paired with Dr. Dwight Stapelton, Vice President and Chief Medical Officer for OSF HealthCare West Central Regional Hospitals. “There’s something for everyone in understanding how the health care system works, how the care we provide to our patients fit into the bigger picture – and I want to understand the system I’m working in.”

As a mentor in CEMED, Dr. Keith Knepp said the benefits of the program are many.

“For me, it provides an opportunity to stay connected to medical education. I also find students come with a lot of enthusiasm and fresh ideas – less preconceived notion – in thinking about health care,” said Dr. Knepp. “It sometimes forces you to think why we do things a certain way – is it just because this is the way we’ve always done it? Or is there something more?

“I’m excited that the College has seen a need for this program. I think it provides students a deeper understanding to health care,” he continued. “When I went through medical school, there was not much awareness of the business aspects of health care or the multitude of roles that exist, both clinical and non-clinical; and having clinical experience deepens the understanding a leadership team has in making decisions.”

Dr. Mariscalco said the program will help ready students for many roles.

“Not only to be the kind of doctors that patients want but also to develop the skills needed to run a hospital, or a clinic, or to lead a physician group – many of these skills are the same,” she said. “There’s a great need for physicians who focus and provide direct care for patients, and there is a need for physicians who can look at our future and envision systems that are able to deliver better care for those patients.”
Jump ARCHES Endowment Grant Recipients Announced

Nine research projects will share $700,000 in funding through the Jump ARCHES program. ARCHES supports projects between clinicians and engineers developing technologies and devices that could revolutionize medical training and health care delivery.

Since its inception, ARCHES has funded 25 projects. The next round of applicants will focus on projects to improve undergraduate medical education. Among the most recent winners:

KneeVIEW: A Virtual Education Window for Musculoskeletal Training

This project aims to advance musculoskeletal training by developing a realistic knee simulation model using virtual and augmented reality educational modules. The goal is to enhance clinician training and improve patient outcomes. The biomechanically accurate model will replicate the stiffness of each individual component of the human knee to simulate both normal and pathological cases. UICOMP collaborators include Dr. Thomas Santoro, Dr. David Dominguese, Anthony Dwyer, and Dr. Meenakshy Aiyer.

Interactive Mixed Reality (IMR)-Based Medical Curriculum for Medical Education

This project will develop a platform for learning that uses Interactive Mixed Reality, a combination of Virtual Reality and 360-degree video. The hope is to eliminate the barrier of the simulation technical skillset so that instructors can easily develop educational content. Future goals of the platform are to provide an easy, immersive and portable method for adult professional learners to maintain, acquire and improve current knowledge while maintaining communication between them and health care education centers. UICOMP Collaborators include Dr. David Crawford, Dr. Meenakshy Aiyer, MD, Dr. Jessica Hanks, and Dr. John Vozenilek.
On June 29th, the Pediatric Resource Center will celebrate 25 years of service to the youngest victims of child physical abuse, sexual abuse and neglect.

The PRC, a community service program of the Department of Pediatrics at UICOMP and affiliated with OSF HealthCare Children’s Hospital of Illinois, sees about 300 or more children each year from 50 counties across Illinois.

Demand for these specialized medical services is at an all-time high. Last year, the average age of PRC’s patient population was 4 and a half years.

“Referrals to the Pediatric Resource Center are often complex and involve the youngest victims of abuse. Because children are not small adults, PRC’s medical and social services are specifically designed to meet the needs of these young children,” said Stephanie Johnson, PRC Executive Director.

“While we are happy to provide specialized medical evaluations for the youngest victims of child abuse, we are also working to reduce the incidence of abuse in our community through prevention efforts, such as Stewards of Children and Crying Plan Project.” Local businesses, churches, and youth group leaders are encouraged to contact the Pediatric Resource Center to arrange training designed to limit the risk for children to experience abuse by encouraging adults to stay vigilant in the care and supervision of children.

The Pediatric Resource Center (PRC) celebrated Child Abuse Prevention Month by participating in several community events, including hosting the 6th Annual Kick Abuse at Kickapoo 5K Trail Run and Fun Walk on April 15, 2018 at the Kickapoo Creek Winery. Participants from as far as Wisconsin participated in the 5K run/walk through lush fields of the vineyard. The Kids Fun Run, which began in 2017, helped to remind participants about the purpose of this event. 100% of funds raised through Kick Abuse 5K support Pediatric Resource Center’s child-friendly medical services for children and families impacted by child abuse and neglect concerns.

The original vision for PRC came from Dr. Kay Saving, a Professor of Pediatrics at UICOMP. Dr. Saving was giving noon lectures to residents in pediatrics on ethical issues and delivering difficult diagnoses. One resident asked what they should do when they see an injured child in the ICU and it’s evident the parent is responsible.

“We realized pretty quick residents were not getting any training on child abuse,” Dr. Saving recalled. “We found out we did not have a good place that was child-centered, family-friendly where children could get an exam by knowledgeable people who knew what they were doing – and that’s how the idea for PRC was started.”

To celebrate 25 years of service, the Pediatric Resource Center will host a brief ceremony on 6/29/2018 to mark this important anniversary. PRC staff and board members will host tours of the PRC’s clinic space beginning at 7:30 AM on the 2nd floor of 320 E Armstrong Avenue, Peoria, IL. Light refreshments will be provided. RSVP at http://go.uic.edu/PRC25thCelebrate. Call 309-624-9595 to RSVP or to arrange prevention education or a tour of PRC.
The 13th Annual Celebration of Diversity and Leadership in Medicine this year kicked off the unveiling of a month-long traveling exhibit “Opening Doors: Contemporary African American Academic Surgeons” on the UICOMP campus in conjunction with the UIC Library of the Health Sciences.

Developed and produced by the National Library of Medicine and the Reginald F. Lewis Museum of Maryland African American History and Culture, the exhibit celebrates the achievements of African American pioneers in academic surgery and those who continue the tradition today.

Providing the keynote address at the Celebration was Dr. Patrice Frederick, a practicing general surgeon and UICOMP 2004 graduate. Dr. Frederick led the effort to create the Manual Science Enrichment program in 2003, which this year crossed a 15-year milestone. The program continues to be led by UICOMP students and provides minority and students of low socioeconomic background at Manual Academy mentorship and an opportunity to participate in a series of interactive classes to promote careers in medicine and health care.

A big thank you to Dr. Frederick and the panelists that evening, which included Dr. John Fonge, Dr. James Jeffries III, Dr. Kendrick Johnson, Dr. Barry Rush, and our moderator, Dr. Elsa Vazquez Melendez.
Overcoming Challenge  
*a synopsis of the keynote presentation*

By Patrice Frederick, MD, FACS

“As a first generation physician in my family, there were many challenges.

The fact is becoming a doctor is demanding, as it should be! The world of medicine is full of unknowns. It is as exciting as it is dreadful!

As an African American female, my journey to becoming a physician was filled with financial obstacles and many failures. Indeed, the greatest challenge was coming to terms with the newly discovered weaknesses in my preparatory education. My first year of medical school highlighted these and the experience was painful. My belief in self was tested because although I excelled during my pre-medical years of education, it became quite apparent the educational disparities encountered by many minorities would now challenge my future. Clearly, the primary reason for minority attrition at some of our higher learning facilities lay rooted in this reality.

In order to overcome my challenges, I had to draw upon the uncanny strength displayed by my ancestors in their desire for freedom. They knew how to get up from failure. Harriet Tubman, who suffered a traumatic brain injury while protecting another slave, made 19 trips to free other slaves via the infamous Underground Railroad! Frederick Douglas gained the confidence for his freedom after fighting back a notoriously brutal slave owner.

Those who came before me taught that the price for freedom is won by fighting and never giving up. I had to focus on my goals and use my 1st and 2nd year of medical school to fill the gaps and build a stronger educational foundation. That required sacrifice and a level of commitment that the chains of poverty attempted to strangle. However, neither academic challenges nor those chains were able to defeat me. I learned how to fight and after having done all to stand, as is typically quoted in biblical texts, I learned to continue to stand.

To the Manual High School students, I say nothing will be handed to you and that if you want something, such as the awesome privilege I have to hold a scalpel in my hand and be a part of restoring health to so many in need, you will have to fight as well!

For those of us who are helping these young students on their path to becoming our leaders of tomorrow, we must assure them that we will provide fertile soil for their growth and development. Life may have presented them with rocks and thorns in their soil, but opportunities such as the Manual Science Enrichment program can add the fertility to their soil that will overcome the challenges of the rocks and the thorns.”
The Theresa Tracy Strive to Survive Charitable Organization raised more than $80,000 to support the research and care for those with pancreatic cancer. Funds were split with UICOMP and Illinois CancerCare and presented to the organizations in February at East Peoria City Hall.

The Tracy Trot, a 4-mile run and 2-mile walk held at the East Peoria Levee District, is the primary fundraiser for the charity. Organizers were excited that U.S. Secretary of Transportation and longtime Congressman Ray LaHood served as the honorary chair. The not-for-profit was set up in memory of Theresa Ann (Naramore) Tracy who after battling pancreatic cancer passed away in 2010 at age 44. The mission of Theresa Tracy Strive to Survive is to increase survivability of pancreatic cancer through awareness and to support the advancement of a cure.

The 6th Annual Tracy Trot will take place on Saturday, Nov. 3, 2018 in the East Peoria Levy District. Learn more about the Trot at www.theresatracytrot.com.

The Mark Linder Walk for the Mind presented a record $80,000 for brain tumor and brain cancer research at UICOMP in February.

About 1,000 people participated in the 15th Annual Walk on September 30 along the Peoria Riverfront, including more than 50 brain tumor and cancer survivors. To date, the organization has raised nearly $650,000 for brain cancer research since the Walk began in 2003.

In an effort to reach out to brain tumor and cancer survivors and help raise funds for research, Mark Linder founded the Walk for the Mind in 2003. That first walk attracted about 150 walkers and raised about $12,000 for research programs. While Mark died in 2005 at age 31 from brain cancer, the Walk continues – coordinated entirely by volunteers, many of whom themselves are brain tumor survivors.

All funds raised support research at the College of Medicine in Peoria toward understanding the mechanisms that make brain cancers and tumors grow and invade healthy tissue.

The 16th Annual Mark Linder Walk for the Mind will be held on Saturday, Sept. 29, 2018. Learn more about the Walk by visiting www.marklinderwalkforthemind.org.
Longtime UICOMP Student Affairs Dean Bids Farewell

Few positions engage with UICOMP students as does the Assistant Dean for Student Affairs. So when Dr. Linda Rowe announced her retirement in January after more than 16 years at UICOMP – with more than 13 of those years spent as the Assistant Dean for Student Affairs – Pathways caught up with her.

Q: What would you say is your most satisfying accomplishments here at UICOMP?

A: There have been so many rewarding moments over the years that it is hard to choose. Overall, the most satisfying aspect of student affairs work is the opportunity to support the successes and accomplishments of students in extra-curricular and leadership activities. Our medical students are energetic, creative, and goal-oriented. Whether it be organizing a peer counseling program, launching a community service project, forming a musical group, or selecting a stress-reducing color scheme for the student lounge, all the best ideas come from them. As a dean, you just help them navigate the institution’s administrative and financial systems, then step back and watch them be brilliant.

I’ve also really enjoyed putting my English degrees to good use by coaching students on their personal statements and essays, and in collaborating on the writing of policies for the college.

Q: If you had to pick one or two moments related to your interaction/work with the students that stand out, what are they?

A: Must I be limited to one or two? Working at UICOMP means that a dean has many opportunities to interact individually with students and share in their accomplishments. This might include sharing a hug with a student who has overcome personal setbacks and finally passes a Step exam, or watching the “likes” mount on YouTube for a student-produced video. Milestones like the White Coat Ceremony, Match Day, and Graduation are also a source of many warm and vivid memories and it has been such a privilege to be part of them.

Playing off of one of Dr. Rowe’s initiatives, the “Dean’s Mailbox,” UICOMP students gathered comments from current and past students about her impact on them. Here’s what some had to say: (edited for length)

“Dean Rowe has always been an advocate for me. She provided much needed guidance on more than one occasion throughout my time at UICOMP and even after I graduated. Without her guidance… I can safely say that I would not have ended up so happy.”

Vanessa L. Smith, MD | Class of 2017

“I would not be who I am personally or professionally if I had not trained at UICOMP. Dean Rowe has been an invaluable part of what makes UICOMP so special, and it will not be the same without her!”

Charlie Jain, MD | UICOMP Class of 2014

“As a medical student, and you know better than most, there are many challenges and pressures that we face in the process of achieving our dreams of medicine and growing into well-rounded adults; goals that often seem to clash. As an educator, you not only really understand that, but served as both an ally and advocate for us every step of the way - always with encouragement and honesty, always without judgment.”

Sabrina Gerkowicz, MD and Adam Bauermeister, MD | UICOMP Class of 2012

“I wasn’t really sure what I was getting into interviewing at a program far away from home, let alone where it snowed. I felt out of place, but then I met Dean Rowe on my interview day and everything literally just melted away. She was so kind and encouraging… No matter what the struggles… Thank you Dean Rowe for all of your kindness, hard work, and advocacy for us!”

Alissa Conde, MD | UICOMP Class of 2015

“UICOMP has been the cornerstone of my success in medicine, and you’ve been a cornerstone of UICOMP. I’ll always remember and appreciate your warmth and kindness to all of us as we developed from med students who “knew the books” to new M.D.’s who realized we would never know it all – but were taught how to find the answers.”

Young Ahn, MD | Class of 2007

“I always appreciated your advice and encouragement. Thank you for your years of service and enjoy your retirement!”

Sheema Khan, MD | Class of 2010
Collaborative MS Research Continues

A big thanks to Illinois Lieutenant Governor Evelyn Sanguinetti for sharing her personal experiences of living with multiple sclerosis for the kick-off to the 2-day MS Patient-Led Research event on April 27 and 28 in East Peoria. And also a huge thank you to Larry Wallden for his leadership personally as well as through the Central Illinois MS Council!

There was a big turnout for both days.

The group successfully fulfilled their objectives, which were to appoint investigators (clinical and patient-led) and a proposal writing team for the study comparing yoga, treadmill and aquasize as beneficial forms of therapy for MS.

“This is a culmination of three years of work and preparation, so we’re excited to have the support of the Lieutenant Governor who knows personally the struggles people living with MS face,” said Dr. Carl Asche, Director of the Center for Outcomes Research at the University of Illinois College of Medicine Peoria.

The research cooperative includes the University of Illinois College of Medicine Peoria, OSF HealthCare Illinois Neurologic Institute’s MS Center, the Central Illinois MS Council, and people living with MS in the community. Three “Pipeline to Proposal” awards from Washington, D.C.-based Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI) over the past three years helped organize the group and develop research protocols.

Rahmat Na’Allah, MD, FAAFP

The Illinois Academy of Family Physicians gave one of its highest honors to UICOMP’s Rahmat O. Na’Allah, MD, FAAFP.

Dr. Na’Allah, a Professor of Clinical Family Medicine and the Director of the Family Medicine Obstetrics Fellowship at UICOMP, was named the 2017 Family Physician of the Year.

“We chose family medicine because we want to serve and take care of the underserved. We wanted to help. Not just treat diseases, but do something!” Na’Allah said in receiving the award.

“It is not easy for anyone to make as big of an impact as she has,” says Peoria colleague and IAFP president-elect Asim K. Jaffer, MD. “It is even more impressive that she does it as a female minority immigrant Muslim in central Illinois. She is truly a great role model and exemplifies the fact that Community Medicine is such an important part of what makes family physicians so integral in the health care of our country.”

Dr. Na’Allah received her medical degree in Nigeria and completed her residency training at Southern Illinois University at Springfield, followed by a high-risk obstetrics fellowship at West Suburban Hospital in Oak Park. She was the first family physician to be credentialed to do C-sections in Peoria. Now, as Director of the OB fellowship program, she is ensuring that the community has access to family physicians who can deliver babies in rural and underserved communities where an obstetrician could be miles or even counties away.
**Kiran K. Velpula, PhD**

Congratulations to Dr. Kiran Velpula for being recognized as a 2018 Outstanding Young Person of Illinois by the Illinois Jaycees in the category of Medical Innovation.

Dr. Velpula was one of nine people across the state to earn the distinction as an Outstanding Young Person of Illinois. The program recognizes individuals between the ages of 18 and 40 who excel in their chosen fields, endeavors and show a great commitment to their respective communities.

Dr. Velpula, a UICOMP Assistant Professor in the Department of Cancer Biology and Pharmacology as well as Neurosurgery, is leading brain cancer research in the UICOMP lab.

**Richard Anderson, MD, FACS**

Dr. Richard C. Anderson was elected Chair of the Illinois State Medical Society Board of Trustees during its 2018 annual meeting in April.

Dr. Anderson, a Professor of Clinical Surgery at UICOMP, is dually board-certified in surgery and thoracic surgery and is a member of the Peoria Surgical Group. He is the Surgery Clerkship Director, the Surgery M4 Sub-Internship Director, and Chief of Cardiothoracic Surgery. He serves on the medical staffs at UnityPoint Health – Methodist and OSF HealthCare Saint Francis Medical Center.

Active with Medical Society since 1989, Anderson was an advisor to the Medical Legal Council and to the Committee on CME Activities. Most recently, he served as vice president for the Society. He also is a fellow of the American College of Surgeons and governor of its Illinois Chapter and belongs to the Peoria Medical Society.

**Stephanie Sullens**

UICOMP welcomes a new Senior Director of Development. Stephanie Sullens will lead all fundraising efforts for the Peoria campus, prioritizing innovation, cancer research, health outcomes, medical education initiatives and community service. Her office will be located on first floor at UICOMP. Sullens served in the same role at the College of Medicine in Chicago the past three years where she managed the Innovation and Discovery team for the Department of Medicine. Prior to joining the University of Illinois, Sullens was at KU Endowment and concentrated on fundraising for new drug development and repurposing that played a role in receiving NCI designation for the University of Kansas. Prior to that, she co-founded and managed the MU Biodesign and Innovation Program at the University of Missouri.
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.

upcoming UICOMP events

June 29
PRC 25th Anniversary Celebration
7:30-8:30 am
PRC Clinic, 320 E Armstrong Ave., 2nd Floor
309.624.9595

July 14
PRC Night at the Peoria Chiefs
6:30 pm • Dozer Park
309.624.9595

September 29
Mark Linder Walk for the Mind
Brain Cancer Research Fundraiser
9:30 am • Peoria Riverfront
www.marklinderwalkforthemind.org

October 4-5
11th Annual Breast Cancer Symposium
Holiday Inn and Suites Peoria at Grand Prairie
peoria.medicine.uic.edu/bcs
309.655.2383

October 6
Harvesting Hope PRC Fall Fundraiser
6:00 pm • Embassy Suites East Peoria
309.624.9595 • prcinfo@uic.edu

October 30
10th Annual Celebration of Excellence
5:30 pm Social • 6 pm Awards Presentation
UICOMP Lobby
309.671.8402

November 3
Theresa Tracy Trot
Pancreatic Cancer Research Fundraiser
8:00 am • East Peoria Levee District
www.theresatracytrot.com