Founding Vision, Historical Presence

In 1970, a group of local physicians and community leaders founded the Peoria School of Medicine with the goal to train physicians who would remain in Peoria and central Illinois communities to practice medicine. Fast forward 50 years, and that vision has come to fruition.

In its task of training future physicians as well as employing faculty who provide clinical care and educate the next generation of physicians, UICOMP plays a significant role in the central Illinois economy. Healthcare is the largest employment sector in the Greater Peoria area, with 708 healthcare establishments that employ 29,731 people. Healthcare provides 16 percent of Peoria-area jobs.* With physicians as the navigators of healthcare, doctors in our community play an integral role in the broad range of health services, quality of patient care and the economic impact of the region.

Education

As a regional campus of the University of Illinois College of Medicine, UICOMP trains over 500 medical students, residents and fellows annually. That includes 260 medical students in the four-year curriculum for undergraduate medical education.

After completing four years of medical school, students graduate with their MD degree before completing a residency or fellowship in their specialty area and passing licensing exams required to practice medicine. Residencies run 3-7 years, depending on the area of specialization.

UICOMP enrolls over 300 residents and fellows within its Graduate Medical Education programs. That includes 13 residency programs and 11 different fellowships. The team of residents and fellows are major contributors to the world class healthcare that UICOMP delivers in partnership with its clinical affiliates.

Research

Research covers the spectrum from basic science research in a laboratory setting to clinical research and outcomes research. Clinical research provides knowledge for understanding human disease, prevention and treatment, while outcomes research studies the end results of healthcare to identify benefits or shortfalls to patients with the ultimate goal of developing strategies to improve care.

The primary basic science research department at UICOMP is Cancer Biology and Pharmacology (CBP) where faculty conduct research on cancer biology, neuroscience, and ion channel biology. Ongoing research is focused on brain tumors, breast and prostate cancer, Alzheimer’s, dementia, stroke, spinal cord injury and more. The UICOMP research footprint also covers such areas as simulation and medical education.

Clinical Care

UICOMP faculty provide clinical services at OSF Saint Francis Medical Center, Children’s Hospital of Illinois, and UnityPoint Health – Methodist. Clinical care ranges from taking care of babies in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit to elderly patients in the wards. Clinical care is central to the mission of UICOMP, and our faculty physicians provide care to more than 45,000 patients each year. Faculty cover a wide spectrum of clinical services from pediatrics to neurosurgery to psychiatry including serving the community both in hospital service and ambulatory care. UICOMP collaborates with Heartland Health Services to provide clinical service through resident clinics in the areas of internal medicine, pediatrics, med-peds, and obstetrics/gynecology.

UICOMP’s Pediatric Resource Center (PRC) provides services to suspected victims of physical abuse, sexual abuse and neglect in a child-friendly setting. The PRC provides medical evaluation and social services to children, ages birth to 18, from 50 Illinois counties. UICOMP offers services for persons who are living with HIV/AIDS through Positive Health Solutions, a comprehensive clinic that offers care, outreach and advocacy. PHS services include prevention counseling, testing and education programs for a diverse community.

Community Outreach

UICOMP faculty, staff and learners lead efforts and collaborate with local organizations to serve the community in a multitude of ways, from hosting and working a community garden for the underserved, to leading supply drives for local shelters, to teaching grade school students about the dangers of tobacco use. Our learners spend countless hours contributing to health and wellness initiatives to educate and support our communities and citizens. These service experiences range from organizing and staffing health fairs to serving as a reliable resource to neighborhoods, churches and employers on such timely topics as COVID-19 vaccination.

*Data from Greater Peoria Economic Development Council

– MISSION –
To advance health for everyone through outstanding education, research, clinical care, social responsibility and collaboration.

– VISION –
The University of Illinois College of Medicine Peoria will strengthen the health of our communities through transformative innovation, education, discovery and patient-centered care. Through collaborative efforts, UICOMP will improve health equity to promote well-being for all.
Jump Simulation, a collaboration of UICOMP and OSF HealthCare, is an international leader in simulation and innovation. A part of OSF Innovation, Jump offers medical students electives in medical simulation, telehealth and health care innovation, research, and product development experiences, including funded projects as well as formal internships and research fellowships. Students also benefit from the latest technologies in medical education developed through the collaborative Jump ARCHES program with the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and the Community Health Advocacy program with the University of Illinois Chicago and OSF Innovation. This includes virtual reality, augmented reality, apps and serious gaming. Jump replicates all areas of patient care, using real medical equipment, standardized participants and the latest in simulation technology. Students, residents, and faculty have access to the Jump virtual hospital, simulated ambulatory clinic, regional transport center, and innovation labs.

OSF HealthCare: Saint Francis Medical Center is the fifth-largest medical center in Illinois and is the largest of 15 hospitals in the OSF HealthCare system. Owned and operated by The Sisters of the Third Order of St. Francis, it’s a major teaching affiliate of the University of Illinois College of Medicine Peoria. Saint Francis Medical Center is home to the area’s only Level I Trauma Center with a 24-hour medical air ambulance and includes OSF HealthCare Children’s Hospital of Illinois and the OSF HealthCare Cardiovascular Institute which offers the only cardiology training fellowship in the region. OSF HealthCare Illinois Neurological Institute, one of the most comprehensive neuroscience centers in the Midwest, is also part of the OSF Saint Francis campus.

UnityPoint Health – Central Illinois is another major teaching site for UICOMP, including physician training for two residencies, psychiatry and family medicine, and the family medicine obstetrics fellowship program. UnityPoint Health includes three hospitals, two are located in Peoria and the third in Pekin. UnityPoint Health holds 646 beds, a state-of-the-art outpatient and imaging center, 67 clinics and the newly created behavioral health community partnered organization UnityPlace.

Located in downtown Peoria adjacent to UICOMP, UnityPoint Health – Methodist has a Joint Commission disease specific certification for stroke and sleep disorders.

UnityPoint Research: an OSF HealthCare and University of Illinois College of Medicine Peoria Collaboration

**Jump Simulation**

1. **Jump Simulation**

2. **UnityPoint Health**

3. **UnityPoint Research**