University of Illinois College of Medicine Peoria
Annual Report
2022-2023

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.

UICOMP continues to provide high quality education and clinical care while trying to grow its research footprint. Prioritization and implementation of the strategic planning initiative have been the primary focus during the post pandemic phase.

Even with multiple changes and pressures on our partner healthcare systems, including fiscal challenges, Carle Health merger, and recruitment and retention challenges, UICOMP has continued to grow our residency/fellowship programs, expand clinical services provided into the region, and actively engage with the community to address issues around healthcare disparities.

Some of the key highlights include:

1) Strategic Planning Implementation
   a. Four initiatives selected by faculty as strategic areas of focus for the upcoming year 2023-2024.

2) Education Highlights
   a. 100% match for the class of 2023 at the end of SOAP
   b. Successful GME match
   c. Received Preliminary accreditation for the Anesthesiology Residency

3) Clinical Care Highlights
   a. Expanded services including Pediatrics Specialties, Geriatrics, and Infectious Disease to the region.
   b. Implemented an ambulatory clinic to provide services to the LGBTQ community.
   c. Expanded Positive Health Solution services to Bloomington.

4) Research Highlights
   a. Continued success in the NIH RECOVER Long COVID study and maintained a high retention rate for the study participants.
   b. Re-Launched the NIH Precision Medicine
   c. Recruitment in progress for the Director for C4 Health Research

5) Community Engagement
   a. Part of two collaborative efforts in the community: Greater Peoria Healthcare Collaborative and Greater Peoria Healthcare Education Consortium
I. Education

A. Medical Education

a. Undergraduate Medical Education

i) Curriculum

UICOMP continues to successfully educate and support 65 students per class each year through the curriculum. The key accomplishments during 2022-2023 include:

- 100% match rate for the class of 2023
- Successful recruitment of Assistant Dean for Preclinical Education and Evaluation -- Dr. LaFontaine
- Implementation of the Bradley University/UICOMP Pipeline Program to support recruitment to the region

ii) Student Affairs:

Student Affairs Team continues to be a large component of our students’ success. Academic advising and learning support are key elements of curricular and personal success. In addition, financial services support helps provide individual financial and debt services. In addition to supporting programs such as student orientation, white coat ceremony, and match day events, the key accomplishments from Student Affairs for 2022-2023 include:

- Successful restructure for retention
  - Director of Academic Advising
  - Recruited for new Asst Director of Advising
- Increasing student reach
  - Career Advising started a new “lunch and learn” career advising series that is well attended.
  - Outlining processes for career advising in ever changing landscape

b. Graduate Medical Education

UICOMP offers 14 ACGME accredited residency programs, 8 ACGME accredited fellowships and 3 non-ACGME accredited fellowships. In 2023, 91 of the 93 positions offered in the main match were filled. The two unfilled positions were filled via SOAP. Of the incoming class of interns in July of 2024, 38% are US allopathic graduates, 34% are DO graduates, 16% are international graduates and 12% are graduates of Caribbean schools. All the programs are maintaining their accreditation status. The new Family and Community Residency Program at Saint Joseph Medical Center, Bloomington, has initial accreditation and six interns comprise their inaugural class starting July 2023.

Some of the highlights of the GME Program include:

- Neonatology-Perinatal Medicine Fellowship recruited their third class and will be at full complement of six fellows starting July 2023. They anticipate graduating their first class in June of 2024.
- Pediatric Hospital Medicine Fellowship reached full complement of four fellows in July 2021. Their first class will graduate in June 2023.
- Pediatric Critical Care Fellowship’s first class of two fellows started in July 2022. They recruited their second class which will start July 2023.
- Hospice and Palliative Medicine Fellowship, Neonatology Fellowship, Pulmonary Critical Care Fellowship, Pediatric Critical Care Fellowship, and Surgery Residency programs hosted ACGME virtual site visits between September of 2022 and March of 2023. Hospice and Palliative Medicine Fellowship and Neonatal Fellowship received continued accreditation. Surgery Residency, Pulmonary CC Fellowship, and Pediatric Critical Care Fellowship are awaiting their accreditation status letters.
- ACGME new program applications were submitted for the Gynecology Oncology Fellowship and the Anesthesiology Residency programs. The Gynecology Oncology Fellowship accreditation was withheld effective April 2023. The Anesthesiology Residency program received Initial Accreditation effective July 1, 2023.
- Pulmonary and Critical Care Fellowship had an ACGME site visit due to a poor response on the ACGME faculty and fellow survey. Significant work is still in progress to assist the leadership of the pulmonary critical care section in restructuring and rebuilding the academic structure of the fellowship. This requires the collaboration and support from OSF-SFMC, OSF Multispecialty group and UICOMP.
- Based on the JOCAP approval process, the following programs received complement increases in the past year: Pediatrics from 30 to 39, Pulmonary Critical Care Fellowship from 6 to 12, Obstetrics and Gynecology from 12 to 16 and Psychiatry from 4 to 5.
- Dr. Laura Brown became the Program Director for the Surgery Residency program in July 2022.
- Dr. Jane Maksimovic became the Program Director for the Radiology Residency program in December 2022.
- Dr. Timothy Whitehead became the Program Director for the Interventional Radiology-Independent Residency program in December 2022.
- Dr. Laura Smith became the Program Director for the Family Medicine Residency-Carle program in January 2023.
- Dr. Tiffani Franada became the Program Director for Neurology program in March 2023
- UICOMP is scheduled for the next CLER visit on May 23-26, 2023.
- GME office leads various curricular initiatives including Wellness; Patient Safety and Quality Improvement, Evidence Based Medicine, Population Health/Healthcare Disparities Curriculum.
- In June 2022, GME established the University Health Equity Rounds. Directed by Drs. Wynn and Vazquez-Melendez, this conference serves as a forum for interdisciplinary education for residents/fellows and faculty to learn and grow their knowledge of Health Equity topics.
- GME rolled out a URiM visiting student program to improve recruitment of URiM students into our residency programs.
  - 7 visiting students brought to UICOMP with stipend award.
  - 1 of 7 MATCHED at UICOMP in Pediatrics
- Overall, GME programs continue to grow (from 230 residents and fellows in 2011 to 331 residents and fellows presently).
- The key initiatives for GME include:
  - Relaunching of the GME dashboard
  - Sponsoring Institution Self Study
c. Faculty Development and Continuing Medical Education

i) Faculty Development
Faculty Development continues to be a focus at UICOMP. Some of the key accomplishments for 2022-2023 include:

- Dr. Ugwu started as Assistant Dean for Faculty Development in the fall of 2022. She completed an extensive needs assessment and will launch the first series of faculty development sessions in the summer of 2023.
- Faculty Academy in Medical Education Simulation (FAMES) will have its inaugural cohort of three faculty starting July 2023. The primary goal of FAMES program is to create simulation education leaders and scholars, who will help advance clinical skills of learners (medical students, residents, fellows and graduate students), advance in their own professional growth, and enhance scholarly work, through seminar series, mentored projects and collaborative learning.
- Caterpillar Faculty Scholars Fellowship selected seven faculty in their 11th cohort. This program under the leadership of Dr. Wynn continues to foster and support faculty development in academic medicine.
- 15 faculty and 15 Academic Professionals were hired from May 22-May 23.

ii) Continuing Medical Education (CME)
The accomplishment with CME includes:

- Dr. Larry Lindahl was selected as the Chair of UICOMP CME committee.
- CME program sponsored 15 new programs and 9 renewals.
- In addition, as a part of the strategic planning initiative to enhance and grow educational programs at UICOMP, the campus will be conducting a comprehensive needs assessment on UICOMP’s role in providing CME programs that help strengthen patient care, care delivery and scholarship.

II. Clinical

A. Overall Performance:

Overall, the clinical enterprise has continued to grow and has seen expansion of both provided services and faculty in many departments. The significant challenges to expansion include recruitment and retention of faculty and staff and negotiating with the healthcare systems as they encounter significant fiscal challenges. Brittny Clark was recruited as the Director of Operations to help coordinate the operations at the Peoria campus.

B. Financial Performance

Overall Fiscal Performance: UICOMP is currently fiscally solvent and anticipates finishing the year without significant deficits. The campus’s various fund types have witnessed growth thus far in Fiscal Year 23. In early 2023, Eric Dubrowski left UICOMP, and recruitment is in progress to replace the Executive Director of Fiscal Affairs.

The campus relies on its Medical Service Plan to provide the funds needed to keep the day-to-day operations of the campus running. The campus is well known for its strong performing clinical care
enterprise, but clinical profit and loss statements are elastic in response to changes in the healthcare industry, including new laws, regulations, and marketplace competition. Given our reliance on the Medical Service Plan to aid in supporting the campus’s capital, technology and operational needs, revenue diversification is becoming even more essential for the Peoria campus to adequately address its operational needs.

The campus’s base State allocation remains flat with any additional State funding tied to specific commitments. State dollars are used primarily for academics and some administrative functions. The Peoria campus received only $8.526 million in State funding in FY 23. The State allocation to the campus remains flat. Additional state dollars will be required to meet the increased educational requirements, LCME requirements, and student needs. Meeting the curricular and student requirements without adequate funding continues to be a challenge.

UICOMP experienced an uptick in philanthropic activity in FY 23. This must continue to be a high priority for the Peoria campus. We have seen a $1 million increase from external sources, and our endowments generate close to $700,000 per year. Gifts that align well with elements of the campus’s strategic plan are particularly desirable. Further investment in the campus’s research infrastructure is necessary to provide a platform in which to grow its research enterprise. The goal of a self-sustaining research infrastructure would be an ideal goal.

**Fiscal Status of Clinical Care**

The UICOMP Medical Service Plan remains in decent shape. The aggregate MSP Fund Balance continues to grow each year via its billing and contractual revenue. The aggregate cash balance has seen steady growth as well, less at the tail end of FY 20.

Roughly 30-35% of the Peoria MSP revenue comes from billing revenue, while 60-65% comes from contractual revenue. This comes in the form of various contracts with clinical partner affiliates OSF-St. Francis Medical Center, Carle Health Greater Peoria, and other healthcare entities. Each year there is a large threat to the Medical Service Plan. The greatest threat now is the change to the University’s enhanced billing mechanism. We received enhanced payments from Medicaid MCOs along with our standard billing process. However, we now see the enhanced portion of the payment come several months later. Additionally, the State now requires a portion of these dollars to be returned to them in the form of a contribution, which will reduce our revenue stream. There are several questions related to the mechanics of this arrangement, questions about the data submitted by the MCOs, and other changes that have skewed our year-to-year comparisons. It should be noted that such changes to our clinical revenue streams are a significant threat to our own clinical billings and to our clinical partners due to the mechanisms within some of the service agreements.

To stay vigilant on our financial condition we focus on our challenges and threats while also focusing on optimizing the revenue cycle to maximize the payments. We also continue to expand our regional growth and negotiate new contracts for professional services. These are positive trends that can help us combat the concerns related to change to the enhanced funding model and associated State contribution.
B. Other clinical highlights:

a) Professional Service Agreements: With the support of ECG consulting a professional services agreement was created for the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology. Furthermore, we created an agreement between the Department of Surgery and Children’s Hospital of Illinois to build an Academic section for Pediatric Surgery.

b) Pediatric Clinic Closure: On September 30, 2022, we had to close our Pediatrics specialty clinics including Endocrine, Gastroenterology, Health Kids U, Neurology, Palliative Care and Nephrology. Through both attrition and careful management of vacant positions in other clinics, most Civil Service staff were offered the opportunity to bump into similar positions on campus. The closures resulted in only two layoffs within the Medical Office Assistant title (Both have since been offered the opportunity to return to employment.)

c) Regional Expansion: The clinical services provided by different departments including Pediatrics, Infectious Disease, and Neurosurgery have expanded into the region. Pediatrics has built new clinical partnerships with Sarah Bush Lincoln Hospital, Mason District, SIU and Prairie Cardiovascular. They have established a pediatric endocrine satellite clinic in Bloomington and Hematology-Oncoogy started an outreach clinic in Moline. Neonatology expanded services to Bloomington and Urbana.

d) Unity Point Health Central Illinois merger with Carle Health: In April 2023, Unity Point Central Illinois merged with Carle Health to become Carle Health Greater Peoria. UICOMP is working with Carle Health on amending the Master Affiliation agreement.

e) Local Partnerships: Medicine-Pediatrics has been successful in providing a "Mini-Med School" experience at Peoria Promise Academy on the south side of Peoria. Center for Wellbeing, within the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Medicine, provides wellbeing services to Dunlap High School and is working to create a Thrive Academy for college-bound students. In addition, the Department of Psychiatry offers clinical care to patients in over nine community and interdisciplinary settings.

III. Space and Capital Planning

With the start of the fall 2022 student semester, The Peoria campus's guidelines linked to the COVID-19 pandemic started to minimize. Guidelines for unmasking in hallways and open spaces were put into place, but the students and staff were still required to continue masking in larger settings of classrooms, libraries, and larger coordinated meetings. Room occupancy limits were lifted on rooms, and the campus began allowing more small events to occur on campus. By early spring of 2023, the COVID-19 pandemic has started to slow down its spread, and the UIC guidelines were reduced to a recommendation of “masking while on campus”. With all mandated campus-masking requirements lifted, staff and students were asked to self-monitor their health conditions and not to enter the building if they have any kind of illnesses. Campus activities are back to normal, with some selected COVID-19 guidelines still required for students and staff linked to the local hospitals and medical clinics in alignment with clinical protocol.

The UIC Peoria Physical Plant Department is continuing with the building’s equipment assessment analysis and creating new preventative maintenance standards to assist the Physical Plant team members in their efforts to maintain the 52+ year old campus. These repairs, up-grades, and preventative maintenance tasks are linked to the campus mechanical equipment and the building’s structure. Repairs such as new electronic controls have been added to the building’s baseboard wall
heaters system to assist with better temperature control and more efficiency to the building's heating and cooling systems. Other updates included the building water pressure regulator controls to help better maintain the building water pressures in the restrooms, laboratory sets, fire life safety sprinklers systems, landscaping irrigations, and hot water heaters systems. Further building life safety improvements included the project of new LED lighting in the campus parking lots and loading dock areas.

During the year 2022-2023, the UIC Peoria campus had several other projects besides the exterior LED lighting updates for safety. The student lounge project, initially a simple carpet and repaint, gained extra funding from an outside donor that helped the Peoria campus produce a complete new architectural concept design. The student lounge renovations started in late August 2022 of stage 1 construction of the space. Stage 1 was completed in May 2023, which includes new carpet, paint, electrical, lighting, and ceiling grids throughout the space. The space has been redesigned with updated study rooms, a meditation room, and a glass wall separating the quiet space from an enlarged gaming zone space for students to play ping-pong, foosball, and billiards. This space also includes a small workout room with a pull-bar and free weights. The second stage of the student lounge renovations includes a kitchenette with new cabinets, countertops, sink, refrigerator/freezer, and furniture and is scheduled to begin June 2023.

Other 2022-2023 projects include the landscaping redesign to the back sunken garden that will start June 2023. This large landscaping project will take several years and schedule in stages to meet safety, comfort, beauty, usage, and state ADA standards. Redesigning the back sunken garden will be a transformation of non-accessible landscaping space, into usage access space for students and staff to access from the building to use for studying, outside events, and enjoyment. Another FY23 project is the installation of a storage garage for the Positive Health Solutions mobile RV clinic. The 50-foot garage space and concrete drive will be constructed adjacent to the campus loading dock access road with anticipated completion fall 2023. In June 2023, new flooring will be installed into the first-floor billing department and the second-floor library space. During November 2022, exterior safety measures were increased around the campus with LED parking lot lighting and loading dock lighting.

On April 25, 2023, the campus successfully completed a campus evacuation drill under the observation of the City of Peoria Department. The City of Peoria Fire Department will provide suggestions on how to improve the campus building evacuation procedures. for “Safety Committee” review and implementation.

In April, the City of Peoria Police Department completed a walking tour of the campus and reviewed security systems and active shoot safety equipment (TeacherLocks; Public Address system; Panic Buttons; Cameras; Card Access Control; etc.) The Peoria Campus's new Operations Director Brittney Clark will work with the Peoria Police Department to schedule onsite talks and training for the Peoria Regional Campus on what to do in case an emergency arises on our campus.

**IV. Faculty Honors and Awards**

**Faculty Awards:** The following faculty are the award recipients in various categories selected by the Committee on Faculty Fellowships and Awards 2022-2023. These faculty will be recognized at the 2023 Celebration of Excellence Event in the fall.

**UICOMP Faculty of the year:** Dr. Saurabh Bansal
UICOMP Outstanding Research: Dr. Sandeep Tripathi and Dr. Swapna Asuthkar
UICOMP Outstanding Service: Dr. Donohue, Dr. Veeravalli and Dr. Elwood
UICOMP Outstanding Teaching: Dr Kandikattu, Dr. Yadav, and Dr. Connor-Garcia
UICOMP Outstanding Teaching, and Service Award for Community Based Faculty: Dr. Gordon James, Dr. Anthony Munaco, and Dr. Veeder
UICOMP Outstanding Faculty Diversity, Equity and Inclusion: Dr. Harleena Kendhari and Ms. Angela O’Bryant

**UICOMP Medical Student Teaching Excellence Award**: Outlined below are the teaching excellence awards provided to faculty for their teaching excellence in Phase I (selected by students), and Phase2/3 (selected by departments/clerkship directors). These faculty received their recognition at the fall 2022 Celebration of Excellence

**Phase 1 Teaching Excellence**

Block 1: Body Systems & Homeostasis I, Clinical Science
David Pinson, DVM, PhD
Matthew Jager, DO

Block 2: Pathogenesis, Basic Science
Richard Tapping, PhD
Michael Veeder, MD

Block 3: Skin, Muscle, & Movement, Basic Science
Shannon Egli, MS
Bradley Oliver, MD

Block 4: Circulation & Respiration, Clinical Science
Yerko Berrocal, MD, MHPE
Jared Meeker, DO

Block 5: Digestion & Homeostasis II, Basic Science
Jonathan Fisher, PhD
Amy Christison, MD

Block 6: Brain & Behavior, Basic Science
Andrew Darr, PhD
Gregory Podolej, MD, MHPE

Block 7: Regulation & Reproduction, Clinical Science
Monzurul Roni, PhD
Elsa Vazquez-Melendez, MD

Docs 1:
Glenn Miller, MD
Docs 2:

James Graumlich, MD
Clerkship/Sub Internship Teaching Excellence

**Phase 2/3 Teaching Excellence**

Phase 2 Teaching Excellence Award for the Family Medicine Clerkship
Asim Jaffer, MD - Clinical Associate Professor

Phase 3 Teaching Excellence Award for the Family Medicine Subinternship
Laura Smith, MD, Clinical Assistant Professor

Phase 2 Teaching Excellence Award for the Internal Medicine Clerkship
Felicia Couri, DO - Assistant Professor of Clinical Medicine

Phase 3 Teaching Excellence Award for the Internal Medicine Subinternship
Denise Francisco, MD - Assistant Professor of Clinical Medicine

Phase 2 Teaching Excellence Award for the Obstetrics and Gynecology Clerkship
Shruti Chakravarthy, MD - Assistant Professor of Clinical OB/GYN

Phase 3 Teaching Excellence Award for the Obstetrics and Gynecology Subinternship
Rayan Elkattah, MD - Assistant Professor of Clinical OB/GYN

Phase 2 Teaching Excellence Award for the Pediatric Clerkship
Channing Petrak, MD - Assistant Professor of Clinical Pediatrics

Phase 3 Teaching Excellence Award for the Pediatric Subinternship
Adam Cross, MD - Assistant Professor Pediatrics

Phase 2 Teaching Excellence Award for the Psychiatry Clerkship
Peter Alahi, MD - Professor of Clinical Psychiatry

Phase 2 and 3 Teaching Excellence Awards for the Surgery Clerkship and Subinternship
Jacob Hopping, MD - Clinical Assistant Professor

Phase 2 Teaching Excellence Award for the Neurology Clerkship
Elias Samaha, MD - Clinical Assistant Professor

**Golden Apple Awardees:** The class of 2023 chose the following as their Golden apple winners.
M1 year: Sherri Yong
M2 year: Sherri Yong
M3 Year: Thomas Lee
M4 year: MJ Yadav
Unpaid Appointments/Promotions

Manasa Kandula, MD, Medicine, promotion to Clinical Associate Professor
Nikhil Kalva, MD, Medicine, promotion to Clinical Associate Professor
Hrachya Nersesyan, MD, Neurology, promotion to Clinical Associate Professor
Elias Samaha, MD, Neurology, promotion to Clinical Associate Professor

Salaried Appointments/Promotions

Cecilia Albaro, MD, Pediatrics, promotion to Associate Professor of Clinical Pediatrics
Amira Alfil, MD, Pediatrics, promotion to Associate Professor of Clinical Pediatrics
Mohammad Almoujahed, MD, Medicine, promotion to Associate Professor of Clinical Medicine
Ashley Fischer, MD, Pediatrics, promotion to Associate Professor of Clinical Pediatrics
Jonathan Fisher, PhD, Health Sciences Education and Pathology, promotion to Clinical Associate Professor
Keith Hanson, MD, Pediatrics, promotion to Associate Professor of Clinical Pediatrics
Ron-Chun Lin, MD, Medicine, promotion to Associate Professor of Clinical Medicine
Joseph Mackey, MD, Pediatrics and Medicine, promotion to Associate Professor of Clinical Pediatrics and Medicine
Susan Ramiro, MD, Pediatrics, promotion to Associate Professor of Clinical Pediatrics
Jonathan Roberts, MD, Pediatrics and Medicine, promotion to Associate Professor (CT) with tenure in Pediatrics and promotion to Associate Professor in Medicine
Monzurul Roni, PhD, Health Sciences Education and Pathology, promotion to Clinical Associate Professor
Nadia Shaikh, MD, Pediatrics, promotion to Associate Professor of Clinical Pediatrics
Sherri Yong, MD, Health Sciences Education and Pathology, appointment as Clinical Professor

Outstanding Senior Scholar: Awarded to Dr. Rida Boulos for his outstanding contribution to the mission of UICOMP
V. Department and Program Highlights

I) Cancer Biology and Pharmacology

In 2021-2022, the Department of Cancer Biology and Pharmacology (CBP) faculty members published 11 articles, 14 abstracts, and 11 presentations at national and international meetings. During the period May 2021-May 2022, CBP faculty submitted 11 grants (including 6 to NIH and 1 to Department of Defense; 2 to American Cancer Society; 1 to American Heart Association; 1 to Pediatric Cancer Research foundation) for the total amount of $13,679,850. During the same period the department received a total of $1,007,714 which includes gifts, annual grants and contracts. Sponsors of research include National Institutes of Health (NIH), National Institute on Aging (NIA), National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke; William E. McElroy Foundation; KB Strong; and the Mark Linder Walk for the Mind.

In addition, the department faculty coordinated and taught 202 hours of contact time during the curricular year.

II) Division of Research Services and Center for 4 Health Research

The Division of Research Services continues to expand and provide services to support medical student research. This year this unit added a project manager to the team to further expand the research infrastructure. Drs. Donohue, Wang, Lee, and Kelly have helped design and analyze data from over 60 projects during 2022-2023.

This division worked with the Peoria City/County Health Department, Central Illinois Friends, Tri-County Urban League, and Friendship House to successfully enroll 167 individuals into the NIH RECOVER study to be seen at Carle Health (formerly Methodist Medical Center) and OSF HealthCare (OSF St. Francis), which exceeded the enrollment goal of 160. In collaboration with Dr. Bond at JUMP, Dr. Klein at OSF, Dr. Tapping at UICOMP, and Dr. Andersh at Bradley, Dr. Donohue organized and co-facilitated a grant writing workshop for junior faculty, including an asynchronous workshop in the fall and a synchronous workshop in the spring.

Drs. Donohue and Kelly helped support the CHNA/CHIP process for the tri-county region. This division faculty has 7 publications, 5 submissions under review/revisions and are co-authors for 15 poster presentations. They have received 2 CHA awards; 1 ARCHES grant and have supported the submission of 9 federal grants.

Lack of faculty time protected for research, lack of mentorship for junior faculty are major challenges to advancement of research on campus. The three major priorities for the upcoming year includes 1) successful retention for NIH RECOVER study, and successful implementation of clinical trials for NIH RECOVER, 2) increase the number of publications and 3) increase research infrastructure, including mentorship of junior faculty and research coordinators to advance student research projects.
**III) Dermatology**

Dr. Kentosh, Chair of Dermatology, continues to mentor students interested in clinical research in dermatology and delivers dermatology curricula across the continuum. The focus for the upcoming year will be to evolve the M3/M4 curriculum for learners to include a broader exposure to a variety of practice settings.

**IV) Emergency Medicine**

Emergency Medicine continues their strong commitment to medical education. The department successfully match 14 residency spots in March 2023. This complement expansion has helped expand the rural emergency medicine experience for all residents including increased time at the rural EM training sites in Galesburg and Pontiac. Furthermore a “Rural track” elective for third year residents is being developed. Point of Care Ultrasound (POCUS) was awarded full accreditation through Emergency Ultrasounds Fellowship Accreditation Council (EUFAC).

37 students, 23 UICOMP students and 5 UICOM students participated in Advanced Emergency Medicine, Introduction to Emergency Medicine & Simulation, and Simulation Elective respectively. Continued effort is being placed in establishing a fiscally viable model to sustain the academic department of Emergency Medicine. One of the major challenges in the upcoming year includes providing education in the face of increasing clinical responsibilities and managing the workforce trends in Emergency Medicine.

The faculty in the department have been engaged with NIH funded RECOVER trial and are recipients of Stemmler Awards.

**V) Family and Community Medicine**

RSPP (Rural Student Physician Program) continues to grow and expand. Twelve students were recruited to the program in 2022-2023, the largest class to date. The family medicine residency at Saint Joseph Medical Center, Bloomington was accredited, and the program matches its first class of six residents in March 2023. The Peoria program successfully recruited two additional faculty members and Laura Smith took over as the program director in January 2023.

A large group of community garden volunteers consisting of UICOMP medical students and faculty cultivated the garden that produced 700 pounds of produce that was donated to Sophia’s kitchen.

The department has made great strides in advancing DEI including 1) creation of pediatrics and suboxone specialty clinics within Family Medicine Center to create access opportunities for the pediatrics and patients with opioid use disorder; 2) restructured RSPP Mission and vision to focus nurturing physicians for underserved and low resource communities and eliminating health disparities in rural Illinois communities through innovative education.

The priorities for the upcoming year are to implement the new ACGME Family Medicine residency requirements, enhance scholarships within the department, train physicians to utilize telehealth visits effectively and form a learning collaborative between the two residency programs in the department that can serve as springboard to develop collaboration with programs across Illinois.

**VI) Health Sciences Education and Pathology (HSEP)**
The department experienced personnel changes. Dr. Hanks was appointed as the Interim Head for the Department of Health Science Education and Pathology. One faculty retired, and two faculty transitioned to positions outside UICOMP. Dr. Sengupta and Awosika were recruited to the department as full-time educators. The department currently has 19 paid and 22 unpaid faculty.

The faculty in the department are actively engaged in medical student education, especially in Phase I. The department offers nine electives during Phase 2/3 curriculum and provides instruction to approximately 60 students in Phase 2/3. The department faculty were recipients of six Phase I Teaching Excellence Awards, two Golden Apple Awards, one Outstanding Faculty Teaching Award, one Outstanding Faculty Service Awards, one Outstanding Faculty DEI Award, and UIC Award I-Team Award for IPE.

The department continues to expand its scholarly output and has been a recipient of multiple Dean’s Awards and CHA awards. Increasing student engagement, faculty development and enhancing scholarships are the three areas of the focus for the upcoming year.

**VII) Internal Medicine:**

The Department of Internal Medicine continues to focus on its mission to transform healthcare and improve patient care outcomes through their innovative educational programs, delivering high quality healthcare and conducting clinical and outcomes research.

The department continues to provide a strong education to medical students and maintains accredited residency and fellowship programs. One of the significant challenges in residency education has been building collaboration and ensuring that adequate resources are available to support subspecialty training in medicine. Additionally, the department needs new opportunities for growth in ambulatory practice.

The department is making strides in clinical programs and growth. The section of Infectious Disease showed further expansion regionally and locally to provide onsite and digital tele-consultation to collaborating hospitals in the Peoria region and the greater Central Illinois Region. Geriatric Recruitment has been successful with hiring an additional Geriatrician and an Advanced Practice Provider with significant expertise in Geriatric Psychiatry. This has helped provide both inpatient and outpatient geriatric services for the Peoria community. Inpatient growth continues in procedure and consultative medicine service using point of care ultrasound.

The department established its first Endowed Chair and is hoping to recruit Vice Chair of Research. The faculty have continued to be successful in areas of sponsored research with ARCHES awards and Dean’s Award. The department faculty have received multiple awards and recognitions including the 2022 Diversity Career Development Award from Faculty Subcommittee of the Health Equity Pilot Project (HEPP).

The three priorities for the upcoming year include: 1) planning a strategic retreat for the department, 2) stabilizing the academic fellowships and program faculty especially in Pulmonary Critical care and moving forward with steps to develop a Hematology/Oncology fellowship program and 3) enhancing scholarship and research within the Department of medicine.

**VIII) Medicine-Pediatrics**
In the last academic year, the Med-Peds program has continued to expand in personnel and in clinical and academic roles fulfilled by the faculty and residents. Med-Peds residents serve in numerous leadership and committee roles for SFMC and UICOMP, including SFMC GME House staff president and the UICOMP Medical School Manors program. Med-Peds maintained continuity clinic sites with Central Illinois Friends, as well as JOLT harm reduction, maintaining a physician presence that was not previously available to the populations served by Friends and JOLT. Med-Peds faculty has remained extremely active and continue to participate in multiple roles including a POCUS-based procedure service for UHATS, Cystic Fibrosis transition clinic, Suboxone clinic at Heartland, Sports Medicine Clinic, Peds to Adult Care Team for transitions of patients with complex health care needs and establishing and participating in numerous community service initiatives and connections in the Greater Peoria area.

The residency program overcame an ACGME citation this year for Board Pass Rate, and successfully placed 2/2 residents in competitive fellowships for PICU and combined ID. Med-Peds residents and physicians have been successful in providing a “Mini-Med School” experience at Peoria Promise Academy on the south side of Peoria. Residents and faculty have had numerous posters and presentations accepted to national and regional meetings, as well as publications accepted for peer review.

An opportunity for Medicine-Pediatrics remains in transitions. PACT services continue to expand, and through collaboration with Internal Medicine and Pediatrics, we hope to expand to an outpatient presence. Highest Priorities for the upcoming year include: 1) Ambulatory Clinic stabilization and recruitment, 2) Stabilizing personnel needs in the program and department, and 3) Ensuring and promoting access to didactics in Internal Medicine and Pediatric Department for residents.

IX) Neurology

The Department of Neurology is committed to medical education. Neurology clerkship continues to be successful across all three campuses. The department has launched a multiple sclerosis program. The department continues to mentor residents and students and has submitted 10 publications with learners as first author.

Dr. Franada was appointed as the Program Director for Neurology. The program has requested JOCAP expansion of the program complement.

Recruitment and retention of neurology faculty to the department is a primary challenge. The three priorities for the upcoming year include recruitment particularly in dementia, behavior neurology, and neuro-oncology and enhancing scholarship and scholarly activity within the department.

X) Neurosurgery

The Department of Neurosurgery conducted over 2,200 operative cases during the past year. The department has been working on expanding its scholarly output. There are multiple non-sponsored research in 14 different domains. The residency program is accredited, and graduates have entered competitive programs across the country. Two additional faculty, one with expertise in spinal oncology and deformity and one with expertise in minimally invasive spine surgery have been recruited to join the department in 2023.
Balance between clinical productivity and academic productivity continues to be a challenge. The priority for the upcoming year includes working with OSF HealthCare and Carle Health to offer the modern technology requisite to a neurosurgical program. Ongoing capital management is required so that technology will continue to evolve and support the department’s strategic goals. Academic priorities include alignment of the department among basic, translational, engineering, and clinical research and enhancing scholarship.

**XI) Obstetrics and Gynecology**

The Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology is actively contributing to advancing the mission of UICOMP.

In medical education, obstetrics and gynecology are still core clerkships. The third-year medical students continue to score above the national average on their shelf examination and had a strong year for the electives with eight UICOMP M4s and seven visiting M4s enrolled. Several faculty members were recognized for teaching excellence, including an Ob-Gyn faculty receiving the Golden Apple award. The OB/GYN Residency in 2022 recruited four interns for the first time due to the approved complement increase and successfully recruited another four in 2023. Each of the four positions were filled by highly qualified applicants, of whom three are women, including one African American woman. The Program's leadership will undergo change this year with Dr. Rayan Elkattah resigning as Program Director and Dr. Neelam Verma taking on that role starting June 2023. However, the program was notified by ACGME in April 2023 of 5 new citations and 2 areas of concern, all of which are based on the 2022 Resident Survey.

The department continues to expand its clinical footprint. With continued acquisition of faculty, the Department provides all the Laborists services needed at OSF SFMC for 24-hour coverage throughout the year. The Department was also able to negotiate a new umbrella provider service agreement with OSF.

The Department is focused on building its infrastructure to support research and scholarship. The department has engaged with UICOMP Research Services and has provided a funding agreement, dedicating support for a research assistant. Additionally, the department will be recruiting for a full-time PhD-level researcher in Women’s Health, who will help jumpstart future quality and quantity of scholarly activity produced in the Department.

The highest priority for the department includes 1) investing in making changes to address the ACGME citations for the residency program and reapplying for the Gynecology-Oncology fellowship program, 2) exploring opportunities to build a comprehensive University Women’s Health Program, and 3) continuing to recruit and retain highly trained and experienced obstetrician/gynecologist with an emphasis on diversity.

**XII) Pediatrics**
The Department of Pediatrics is the largest department at UICOMP. This department continues to expand its footprint in research, clinical care and education.

The Department continues to grow its research endeavors and currently has over 100 open research studies with funded studies totaling over 1 million dollars. The key areas of focus research include pediatrics obesity and nutrition, quality improvement initiatives in NICU, pediatrics COVID, data informatics and machine learning health applications research, and virtual reality based surgical decision making. Furthermore, the division of oncology continues to participate in St. Jude and COG study protocols leading the way in clinical trials. Furthermore, faculty are engaged in basic science research projects in the division of hematology oncology and pediatric critical care. In 2022-2023, the department published 106 peer reviewed/invited review articles and contributed 9 book chapters. The faculty also presented 93 posters and 53 oral presentations at regional and national meetings.

The clinical service provided by the department continues to expand in the region. New partnerships were formed with Sarah Bush Lincoln Hospital, Mason District, SIU & Prairie Cardiovascular. A pediatric endocrine satellite clinic was added in Bloomington. Hematology/Oncology started an outreach clinic in Moline and Neonatology services have expanded to Bloomington and Urbana. Departmental clinical RVUs have increased compared to last year as the result of regional expansion, operational efficiency initiatives and adding new specialty programs. Ongoing efforts are in progress to discuss space planning and future expansion with CHOI.

The newly added fellowship programs are doing well. The clerkship and residency programs have a strong focus on education and this year the department had a large cohort of students from the graduating class chose pediatrics as a career path.

The key priority areas for the department includes: 1) recruitment and retention of high caliber faculty that is financially sustainable, 2) developing regional and destination clinical programs and 3) optimizing the revenue cycle to enhance the fiscal impact of clinical program development and 4) Supporting faculty development opportunities to foster professional growth, scholarship, and faculty wellness.

XIII) Psychiatry and Behavioral Medicine:

The department continues to have success in supporting medical student education across the continuum. The department participated in executing the Phase 1 curriculum Block 6, Brain and Behavior, for 58 students and provided eight 6-week clinical clerkship experiences for 55 UICOMP and 4 KCOM students. Twelve M4 students completed psychiatry electives. Working through the Psychiatry Education Curriculum Committee, several initiatives were accomplished that have improved cross-campus comparability of the Phase 1 and 2 curricula, including piloting a standardized simulated clinical skills exam. Medical students rate psychiatry first year residents highest among all UICOMP clerkships for being excellent role models.

The residency program was approved by the ACGME to increase complement from 16 to 24 residents. The residency program received continued accreditation by the ACGME with no citations. The department’s outpatient clinic offers the following services: interpersonal therapy, individual and group dialectical behavioral therapy, group and couples counseling, cognitive behavioral therapy, supportive therapy, psychological testing, dynamic psychotherapy, pharmacology clinics, transcranial
magnetic stimulation (TMS), forensic services, parental training services, and an autism spectrum disorders clinic. The department’s outpatient clinic grew by 5% last year.

Center for Wellbeing, in addition to supporting faculty, staff and learners at UICOMP, provides counseling and wellbeing for K-12 at Dunlap High School, Thrive Academy for college-bound students; Regional Office of Education 53 Social Emotional Ethical Learning; and educational programs for professionals in the region. The department also offers clinical care to patients in several community and interdisciplinary settings: Apostolic Christian Children’s Home, Tazewell County Resource Center, Trinity Services, Bradley University, the Family Medicine Center, Internal Medicine (Heartland Clinic), and the College's Positive Health Solutions clinic. Faculty hold leadership roles in local, state and national professional organizations such as the American Academy of Psychiatry and the Law, the American Psychiatric Association, the Illinois Psychiatric Society, the Association of Behavioral and Cognitive Therapies, and the Association of Psychosomatic Medicine, among others.

Key Priorities for the upcoming year include 1) recruitment of new faculty, 2) maintaining fiscal viability while promoting retention, and 3) advancing DEI initiatives.

**XIV) Radiology**

The Department of Radiology continues to provide strong education across the continuum from medical students to residents and fellows. While Vascular and Interventional Radiology is the most popular elective with 22 students enrolled in the elective in 2022-2023, the enrollment of the students in the various radiology electives are as follows: Diagnostic Radiology 19, Radiation Oncology 4, Radiology Research 2 and Advanced Radiology 11.

As of January 1, 2023, the Radiology residencies are being led by new directors, Dr. Jane Maksimovic for Diagnostic Radiology and Dr. Tim Whitehead for Interventional Radiology Residency. Dr. Tim Fahey moved up to Associate Program Director for the Diagnostic Radiology Residency Program. The neuroradiology program received continued accreditation from ACGME effective January 26, 2023.

**XVI) Surgery**

The Department of Surgery has continued to build its department and expand educational opportunities and curriculum in 2022-2023. 2021-2022 saw a major transition in the department of surgery leadership at multiple levels. The new program leadership has helped stabilize the educational programs and the residency program had an ACGME RRC site visit in 2022. The program added an ACS transition to practice fellowship in August 2022. A request was made to JOCAP for the addition of a research year for surgery residents. The department will also house the anesthesiology residency. This program recently received preliminary accreditation from ACGME.

The Department has a strong cadre of educators as evidenced by the number of teaching awards received by the faculty in the department. The department has recruited a researcher to help support and grow scholarships within the department. The department faculty portfolio of presentations at regional and national meetings continues to expand.

The key priority for the upcoming year includes 1) further expansion of the GME program to include a surgical critical care fellowship; 2) foster a relationship with Carle Health Greater Peoria, and 3) recruit academic surgeons to anesthesiology, surgical oncology and ACS/SCC.
XVII) Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) Initiatives

i) UICOMP Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee
UICOMP DEI Committee was approved to be a standing committee. This committee has been active with implementing several initiatives including supporting Manual High School Science Enrichment Program, Student National Medical Association (SNMA) Annual Medical Education Conference (AMEC) Registration, Regional Medical Education Conference (RMEC) registration, Latin Medical Student Association (LMSA) local Midwest Regional Conference transportation and supporting Black History Month Event. UICOMP staff trained as BRIM facilitators, and the committee created a Land Acknowledgement statement. This committee has participation from various UICOMP departments.

The highest priority for the upcoming year includes 1) creating a DEI Website/Newsletter, 2) finalizing Mission/Vision Statement, and 3) implementing the Strategic Planning Initiative Tactics for SI #7: Recruit and retain a diverse faculty and staff to UICOMP.

ii) Departmental Initiatives
All departments at UICOMP are engaged in various initiatives to foster DEI on campus. These include but not limited to 1) Grand rounds presentation on various DEI topics, 2) developing and implementing DEI curriculum within the residency and fellowship training programs, 3) developing strategies to recruit and retain URiM faculty, 4) providing ongoing grants to support high school students STEAM program, 5) Supporting the URiM scholarship program for M4 students.

Departments are also reviewing the existing curricula through a DEI lens and making curricular changes based on the review. Furthermore, departments like Cancer Biology and Pharmacology have also introduced DEI education to the curriculum of the CREATE elective that was developed by Dr. Soares. Departments are also advancing scholarship and research in DEI. An example of this is with the department of Dermatology where faculty mentored students to publish an article titled “Dermatologic Conditions in skin of color compared to white patients: similarities, differences and special consideration” in Int J Dermatology.

The Division of Research Services has worked to enhance participation of minority population in research. They worked with community-based organizations to spread the word about research studies to increase minority participation. The division hired a clinical research coordinator who could speak Spanish to ensure that Spanish-speaking participants could participate in the RECOVER study in their native language. The faculty are working with GME leadership to apply for funding to advance DEI training in the residency programs. Dr. Kelly provided a data-driven summary on racial inequities in Peoria for the City/County Racial Justice & Equity Commission. This data is going to be critical to help advance health equity in the Greater Peoria region.

iii) Campus Initiatives
In addition to establishing the DEI committee, the campus also has an active Women in Medicine and Science Council that has conducted an extensive needs assessment and recognized women leaders in medicine and science.
BRiM Training was offered to all paid faculty and staff at UICOMP. The campus saw a very positive and high response to participation in the BRiM training program. In addition, UICOMP staff also trained as BRiM facilitators. The campus established the Outstanding Faculty DEI award. The two-faculty selected to receive this award in 2022-2023 include Dr. Kendhari and Ms. O’Bryant. They will be recognized at the Celebration of Excellence event in the fall of 2023.

There was a campus wide reassessment of staff salaries and adjustments were made in the department to ensure equity and enhance pay.

XVIII) Institutional Review Board

The mission of UICOMP Human Subject Protection Program (HSPP) known as Office of Human Research Oversight (OHRO) is to ensure that there are adequate mechanisms developed and maintained to maximize the protection of the rights and welfare of all human subjects involved in research.

The Peoria IRB is primary IRB of record for OSF HealthCare’s 15 hospitals throughout Illinois and Michigan including the Children’s Hospital of Illinois. The Peoria IRB also serves as the IRB of record for research occurring at Carle Health’s three Peoria hospitals (Methodist Hospital, Proctor Hospital and Pekin Hospital), the Jim and Trudy Maloof St. Jude Midwest Affiliate Clinic, Illinois CancerCare, P.C., the only federally funded Hemophilia Treatment Center of Excellence south of Chicago, the Bleeding & Clotting Disorders Institute and Bradley University.

UICOMP’s IRB manages the review activities of 455 active research projects while also serving as the HIPAA Privacy Boards and Conflict of Interest Review Committees. The Peoria IRBs’ research portfolios are largely biomedical with approximately 1,200 reviews performed by 2.32 FTE within the last 12 months. The Peoria IRBs’ portfolios are comprised of 35% FDA-regulated studies, 12% of Peoria’s research are industry led studies.

As an academic IRB, the Peoria IRBs’ portfolios are comprised of 45% UICOMP faculty-led research. Of this 45%, 25% of the research studies actively involve medical students, residents and fellows as part of the study team. The other 55% of active research protocols are led by Affiliated Community physicians, pharmacists, nurses and other professionals. Fifteen percent (15%) of non-UICOMP faculty-led research involves medical students, residents and fellows as Research Personnel. Staff from Peoria IRB served as IRB administrators for UICOM-Rockford and received no 483 from FDA for “not-for-cause” audit performed in August 2022.

Priorities for the upcoming year includes working on AAHRPP re-accreditation, diversifying IRB funding revenue streams to support medical student and resident unfunded projects and exploring mechanisms to track efforts and compliance with 2023 omnibus spending bill that requires diversity action plans for FDA clinical trials.

VI. Research Highlights (for anything not included in COM report)

Center 4 Health Research: Building on UICOMP’s strategic initiatives to advance research and scientific discovery in key areas like cancer, neurosciences, population health/clinical effectiveness
and educational research, an in-depth analysis of existing Center for Health Outcomes (COR) was conducted by Institute of Health Delivery and Design (IHDD). The results of this analysis and review of the key tactics for implementing the research strategic initiative led to restructuring and reforming COR to the Center for Population Health, Health Equity, Health Outcomes and Health Informatics Research (C4 Health Research). C4 Health Research will play a critical role in advancing the visions of UICOMP/UICOM and UIC by conducting population health research, advancing health equity through education and research, and evaluating the health outcomes of health services and health care delivery models. C4 Health Research will use data science and informatics to identify key social determinants of health (SDoH) that impact the rural and urban populations served by UICOMP. Recruitment is currently in progress for Director for the Center 4Health Research.

**Research and Scholarship Committee:** The UICOMP Research and Scholarship Committee, consisting of several department/unit Heads/Chairs and Associate Deans, continues to support the research mission during the 2022-2023 academic year. The Committee planned the Research Day that was held on May 3, 2023. UICOMP Research Day will feature Dr. Catherin Young, Assistant Director for Cancer moonshot Engagement and Policy at the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy, as keynote speaker, followed by poster presentations from 56 medical students, 19 residents and 3 faculty. The event concluded with an awards ceremony with presentations of 5 faculty awards: two Outstanding Research Awards to Dr. Sandeep Tripathi and Dr. Swapna Asuthkar, one Outstanding Clinical, Technological, or Scholarly Achievements Applied to Medical Research Award to Dr. Christopher Gondi, and two Distinguished Research Mentor Award to Dr. Veeravalli and Dr. Bond followed by students and residents’ awards.

**VII. Community Engagement Highlights**

**Greater Peoria Healthcare Education Consortium:** UICOMP is part of the Greater Peoria Healthcare Education Consortium. The founding members of the Greater Peoria Regional Healthcare Education Consortium – Bradley University, Illinois Central College, Peoria Public Schools District 150, and University of Illinois College of Medicine Peoria are committed to working together to realize the vision of Greater Peoria becoming a national center of excellence in healthcare education and collaboration. The Consortium's central purpose is to support Greater Peoria's healthcare ecosystem, economy, and community wellness by partnering to develop, recruit, and retain a diverse, inclusive, and talented healthcare workforce. A statement of guiding principles was signed by all the founding members in May 2023.

**Greater Peoria Healthcare Collaborative:** A MOU is being finalized for the Greater Peoria Healthcare Collaborative. This collaborative that includes leaders from the Greater Peoria healthcare community was established to advance healthcare outcomes throughout the region. The inaugural leadership council of this group includes UICOMP, OSF Healthcare, Carle Health Greater Peoria, Heartland Health Services, and Peoria, Tazewell and Woodford County Health Departments.

**VIII: Priorities 2023-2024**

1. **Implementation of four strategic initiatives:** At the end of a strategic retreat held in January of 2022, four strategic initiatives were identified as areas of focus for the upcoming year. These include: SI #1: Enhance and grow medical education programs through
transformative innovation, collaboration and stakeholder engagement, SI#3: Advance research and scientific discovery in key areas like cancer, neurosciences, population/clinical effectiveness research, and educational research, SI #6: Develop interdisciplinary and inter-organizational programs to provide high-quality care to patients in specific niche areas, SI #7: Recruit and retain diverse faculty, staff and learners to UICOMP

2. **Center 4 Health Research**: The first step to building this center is to recruit a Center Director. The Director of the Center will then set to build out the strategic vision of this Center

3. **Recruitment and Retention**: Recruitment and Retention continues to be a key challenge. We will explore opportunities with our healthcare partners to look at innovative ways to enhance recruitment and retention.


**Conclusion**

The University of Illinois College of Medicine Peoria remains focused on medical student, resident and fellow education in the context of patient care delivery. We are committed to our mission and thankful for a highly motivated, committed and energetic faculty, medical students, residents, fellows and staff. UICOMP will be implementing its strategic plan. A multi-tiered approach will be put in place to address the challenges with recruitment, retention and burnout. Opportunities exist to expand clinical services in behavioral health, women's health, and children's services. Careful exploration of the opportunities for growth and strategic collaboration with partner hospitals are going to be important to advance clinical services in these areas. Fiscal health remains an issue with rising expenses, declining margins for healthcare, rising overhead costs, recruitment challenges, and an increasingly insolvent State of Illinois. UICOMP continues to work to create mutually beneficial strategic alignments with our academic partner hospitals while still maintaining a level of autonomy.