Background
The University of Illinois College of Medicine (U of I COM) offers a four-year program leading to the MD degree at four geographic sites in the State of Illinois: Chicago, Peoria, Rockford, and Urbana-Champaign. Each of the sites offers a comparable medical education experience complemented by the site’s own unique features. Approximately 300 students graduate with the MD degree from the UI College of Medicine each year; the program is the largest in the United States. About 175 students are assigned to the Chicago campus for four years, while 125 complete their MI year in Urbana-Champaign. Fifty students are sent to Peoria and to Rockford for their remaining three years; 25 complete their medical education at Urbana. The Chicago campus of the College of Medicine is the administrative home for the dean and all other College-wide officers, as well as the Chicago program site. It is located on the near west side in one of the world’s largest medical center districts and is part of the UIC health science campus (including the Colleges of Applied Health Sciences, Dentistry, Nursing, Pharmacy, and the School of Public Health).

The multi-site College organization is effective in carrying out its diverse missions. This is accomplished through the establishment of the MD/PhD programs in Urbana (Medical Scholars) and Chicago; the James Scholars Programs (Independent Study Program) in Chicago, Peoria, and Rockford; and the Rural Medicine Programs in Rockford and Peoria. Of particular importance is the education of a multicultural student body. These efforts directly complement campus goals of diversity and address state and societal health care issues. The U of I COM Urban Health Program and the Illinois Agricultural Association Program have facilitated the admission of targeted groups, leading to a student population comprised of approximately 22% from underrepresented minorities and 32% from rural counties. Over 70% of the graduating students eventually practice in Illinois, and approximately 58% of the class choose primary care as their initial specialty. According to the latest Institutional Program Survey of the AAMC, U of I COM produces more primary care physicians than all but one medical school in the country, while graduating more underrepresented minority students than all but two schools.


Introduction
Since its founding in 1971, the U of I COM at Urbana-Champaign has demonstrated a commitment to the importance of the patient/physician relationship as reflected in its community based medical education. Recognizing this value, the U of I COM at Urbana-Champaign submits this proposal to initiate a chapter of the Gold Humanism Honor Society (GHHS). Urbana-Champaign’s Regional Dean (Dr. Brad Schwartz), Associate Dean for Student Affairs and MSP (Dr. Jenny Bloom), and the U of I COM award recipients for the Arnold Gold Foundation/Leonard Tow Humanism in Medicine Awards nominees, who are Urbana-Champaign faculty (TBA) and students (TBA) fully support the initiation of an Urbana-Champaign chapter.
The chapter will be placed under the jurisdiction of the Office of Student Affairs. The University of Illinois College of Medicine at Urbana-Champaign was designed as a departure from the traditional medical center and is strongly community based. Importantly, M1 students are offered the opportunity to participate in the Clinical Practice Preceptorship in which the students are matched with a practicing physician in the community with whom they interface at least four times during the academic year. This ungraded voluntary course does result in an evaluation prepared by the preceptor. Also in the first year the students participate in six all day clinically oriented programs under the rubric of a graded course, Introduction to Human Disease. Each of these days begins with a basic science lecture, continues through a student evaluation of a related disease, for example diabetes, and culminates in a presentation of a patient with the featured disease. In Urbana the educational emphasis is the undergraduate medical education. There is one residency program in Internal Medicine; students are therefore directly supervised by attending physicians. The grading of each clerkship is related to not only the shelf exam administered at the conclusion of the clerkship, but faculty evaluations involving clinical performance in parameters related to professionalism as well as technical skills. The Urbana faculty and administration have always recognized that a state supported community based medical school must promote policies and support programs that address the health needs of the city, region and state. In response to this commitment, the students have developed a voluntary free clinic known as Helping Revitalize Medical Education through Service (HeRMES). Referrals from this effort are directed toward the federally qualified health center (Frances Nelson) which also offers clerkship experiences for our students.

**Purpose**

Like other medical schools that have established a GHHS chapter, the purpose of establishing an Urbana-Champaign chapter would be to recognize and celebrate students and faculty, who have demonstrated while in medical school, a commitment to humanism in medicine, the highest standards of patient care, and likelihood of becoming humanistic physicians. In addition, honoring the inductees to the GHHS would demonstrate the medical school’s value placed on humanistic characteristics in medical students as being akin to the accolades given for academic excellence in AOA. Further, the existence of a chapter will validate the school’s commitment to the development of humanistic physicians and would communicate to residency program directors the students in the class who are exemplars of these characteristics.

**Selection process**

The Associate Dean for Student Affairs met with Urbana-Champaign faculty and student members of the U of I COM Professionalism and Humanism Task Force to develop the selection process*. It was also reviewed and approved by the Regional Dean of the College of Medicine. Dr. Jane Jokela agreed to serve as the chapter advisor.

Eligible for consideration are students in good academic standing projected to graduate the following year. In spring, clinical students will be solicited via email to identify nominees by voting on which of their colleagues meets the elements of professionalism solicited by six questions: Who you would like to have work at your side in a medical emergency; Who best personify the quote, “the secret of good patient care lies in caring for the patient;” Who have shown exceptional interest in service to their communities; Who would be the best choices for highly desire residency; Who would you want as the doctor for yourself or a loved one; and Who have the best listening skills with patients?

In May, students will be informed of their nomination and asked to submit an application if interested in being considered for induction to the U of I Urbana-Champaign chapter of the GHHS. Applications will include a signed consent to release information in the student’s
academic file, a CV, a personal statement describing how the students have incorporated humanism into their practice of medicine, and a letter of recommendation from a faculty member.

Applications will be distributed to the selection committee comprised of the faculty humanism award recipients, the Office of Student Affairs, and the faculty selected the previous year by the M3s who best exemplify humanistic physician.

While a nominee must be in good standing, outstanding academic performance is not a criterion for selection. Similar to AOA, selection will be limited to approximately 15% of the graduating class; given that each site of the U of I COM will have a chapter the calculation will be based on the number of students graduating from Urbana-Champaign. Inductees will be named during the beginning of the M4 year.

Annually there will also be an Urbana-Champaign faculty inductee to the chapter; the individual will be the faculty member nominated by the student government to be considered as the U of I College of Medicine recipient for the Arnold Gold Foundation/Leonard Tow Humanism in Medicine Award and for the AAMC Humanism in Medicine Award.

**Induction and recognition of members**

A statement will be included in the inducted student’s MSPE. The students will be honored at the Annual College of Medicine Awards Ceremony, where their families and friends are also in attendance. Each member will receive a certificate and a GHHS pin and medallion to wear at Convocation. The members will be recognized in the Convocation program.

**Impact and sustainability**

Once the chapter is established the existence of the GHHS at the U of I COM at Urbana-Champaign will be publicized. The information will be presented to students at all orientations.

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