LIFELINE
A COMMITMENT TO BUILDING EXCELLENCE

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On two separate occasions over the past several months I have had conversations with individuals who have told me of becoming acutely ill while traveling through Illinois. In both instances they sought emergency care at the nearest hospital, and in both cases they received such high-quality care that they went out of their way to tell me about it. What’s so special about telling me as opposed to telling their friends and neighbors, you might ask? The reason is simple; in both instances the individuals had received treatment from a physician who had earned their M.D. degree from the College of Medicine at Urbana-Champaign.

Both of my friends reported how knowledgeable, skilled, and compassionate the physicians trained at UICOM-UC were. In both cases, the individuals remarked that despite being far from home and far from familiar surroundings, they could tell they were receiving the highest quality care from these physicians.

As you might imagine, I was proud to hear graduates of our College described in this way. After all, this is exactly the kind of physician we have in mind each fall when we greet our new class of medical students and each spring when we graduate those who have earned their degrees. What we at the College incorporate into all that we do, and what our students expect of themselves, can be characterized by a single word: excellence. Only by never losing sight of that Commitment to Excellence can we continue to train physicians who do such a superb job of truly caring for their patients. Likewise, only by focusing on excellence can we continue to train the future leaders of medicine, in all its varied facets.

I HOPE YOU’LL TAKE A FEW MINUTES TO LOOK THROUGH THIS ISSUE OF LIFELINE TO CAPTURE A SENSE OF THE SPIRIT AND THE “COMMITMENT TO BUILDING EXCELLENCE” THAT PERMEATES THE COLLEGE OF MEDICINE AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN.
Making the Connection Between Research and Medicine
Through the Bench-To-Bedside Seminars and Research Grand Rounds

Staying current in both research and medical practice is an enormous undertaking, by any definition. Add to the mix the ability of research to impact clinical practice in “real-time” where science and epidemiology are evolving at break-neck speed and then combine legal and governmental considerations for research and medicine as well as funding issues, and you have a complicated scenario.

Two new programs, the Bench-to-Bedside Seminars and MSP Research Grand Rounds, are helping students make the connection between research and clinical care.

Each Bench-to-Bedside Seminar addresses a specific topic, and a facilitator leads a panel of subject-matter experts in debate and discussion of the topic. Topics explored during the past year included: (1) Sleep and Circadian Rhythms, Why We Prefer to Sleep at Night? (2) Blood Clotting: The Role of Coagulation Factors in Disease Process, and (3) Menopause: Making Choices. Check the MSP website for more details at http://www-admin.med.uiuc.edu/msp/BTBS.asp

Similar to the Bench-to-Bedside format, the Medical Scholars Program has also introduced a Research Grand Rounds seminar series, which showcases University of Illinois faculty and other invited faculty whose research has important implications for the practice of clinical medicine. This is an opportunity for current and future physician-scholars to see “what is in the pipeline” for the patient population. Three speakers presented the Research Grand Rounds this past year: Henry Claman, M.D., University of Colorado Health Sciences Center, presented his research on “Use and Abuse of Corticosteroids”; James Battey, M.D., Ph.D., director of the NIH National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders (NIDCD), presented his ongoing research; and Stephen Boppart, M.D., Ph.D., assistant professor of electrical and computer engineering and bioengineering and staff physician at Carle Foundation Hospital, showcased his cutting-edge research on optical biopsy using coherence tomography.

More details can be found at http://www-admin.med.uiuc.edu/msp/GrandRounds.asp

James Slauch Named MSP Director
““My job is to facilitate the success of each MSP student to help them excel in their graduate training, their medical training, and their future career.”

James Slauch, Ph.D., associate professor of microbiology, was recently named director of the Medical Scholars Program. A graduate of Pennsylvania State University, Dr. Slauch earned his Ph.D. in molecular biology from Princeton University and completed a postdoctoral fellowship in microbiology and molecular genetics at Harvard Medical School before joining the COM-UC faculty in 1994.

In his position as director of the MSP, Dr. Slauch looks forward to building on the strengths and reputation of the program by continuing to recruit students of the highest caliber and by enhancing the interaction between the MSP and the graduate programs. “My job is to facilitate the success of each MSP student to help them excel in their graduate training, their medical training, and their future career,” he says.

Dr. Slauch’s experience in graduate recruiting and his commitment to being accessible to students are strengths he brings to his new position. “I’ll emphasize continued recruiting of excellent students and the fostering of a collegial and supportive atmosphere where students can thrive,” he says.

Named nine times to the campus “List of Teachers Ranked as Excellent by Their Students,” Dr. Slauch is a dedicated teacher both of undergraduate students and for the College of Medicine. A former winner of the AAAS-Newcomb Cleveland Prize and the American Cancer Society Junior Faculty Research Award, he is also an accomplished researcher. The long-term objective of his research is to understand the molecular mechanisms by which Salmonella circumvents the host immune system to cause disease, which will lead to better methods of prevention and treatment.
MSP Alumni Takes on Challenge at Johns Hopkins

An academic medical career wasn’t exactly what Martin Pomper, M.D., Ph.D., had in mind when he arrived on campus in 1979 as an undergraduate. But sound advice, dedicated mentors, and his commitment to research and medicine have led Dr. Pomper down a path that today finds him enjoying just such a career at one of the world’s top medical institutions.

As director of Johns Hopkins Small Animal Imaging Resource Program and deputy director of their In Vivo Cellular and Molecular Imaging Center, Dr. Pomper’s work focuses on cancer research and the development of new imaging probes, with the overall goal of hastening the development and implementation of new cancer therapies. The program is also using gene array technology to find new cancer markers for which such probes can be built. In addition, he has a second NIH grant to study surrogate markers of dementia in individuals with AIDS.

Finding his way to the Medical Scholars Program

Dr. Pomper’s interest in chemistry and cancer research began in 1981. At the time, his undergraduate advisor, Dr. R. Linn Belford, suggested he talk with an expert on the subject, Dr. John Katzenellenbogen. “When Dr. K saw that I was enthusiastic but knew absolutely nothing about research, chemistry, or cancer, he suggested that I stop by from time to time to discuss ‘cancer,’ after giving me a few books on the subject,” says Dr. Pomper. “It was those initial meetings that inspired me to pursue the career that I have.”

Dr. Pomper’s decision led him to the Medical Scholars Program. “Dr. K’s lab gave me the mechanism I needed to apply to the MSP. At nowhere in the country at that time was I aware of a program as flexible and diverse as the MSP. It was perfect for what I wanted to do – that is, chemistry to serve medical ends.”

Dr. Pomper credits the preparation he received as an MSP student and the vision of the program’s leaders with opening doors for him and others: “The uniqueness of the MSP relies almost solely on the diversity and depth of talent in the graduate programs at the Urbana campus. It was visionary to draw upon that talent to develop the MSP. Hal Swartz was in charge of the program when I was there, and he seemed prescient regarding how we, as former MSP trainees, would be valued in the academic medical community as we applied for residency positions.”

Successful collaborations

Dr. Pomper began his affiliation with Johns Hopkins as an intern and completed residencies in diagnostic radiology and nuclear medicine and a fellowship in neuroradiology there as well. The challenging environment at Johns Hopkins offers tremendous opportunities for medical research and collaborations, and Dr. Pomper has taken advantage of those opportunities just as he did when he worked in Dr. Katzenellenbogen’s lab.

“Marty was my first M.D./Ph.D. student, and he set a high standard for all who have followed him in my group,” says Dr. Katzenellenbogen, Swanlund Professor of Chemistry. “Together, we put together a project on PET imaging corticosteroid receptors in the brain as an early diagnostic for Alzheimer’s disease. It turned out to be a challenging but productive project. Clearly, I could not have embarked on research in this area without Marty’s medical insights and experience.”

Dr. Pomper returns the compliment. “Without the careful mentorship and technical training from Dr. K’s lab, coupled with the flexibility and open-mindedness of the MSP and UICOM-UC leadership, I never would have pursued an academic medical career.”
“I learned that my role as a helping professional is not to judge others but to help others, and I learned that the best way to do this is to see the world from different viewpoints.”

Rachel Coel grew up in San Diego and Hawaii, where her earliest career aspirations included becoming a trainer for Shamu the Whale, opening a beachside fish-n-chips stand, and joining the professional surfing circuit. But a college fascination with sociology and a decision to spend her life working closely with people in need put Rachel on a different path — one that’s taken her far away from the ocean she loves and back again.

During her junior year at the University of California at Berkeley, Rachel began seriously pursuing the idea of medical school. “My father is a physician, and I’ve always respected what he does because he spends every working day helping to make someone feel better,” Rachel said. “I also liked the problem-solving nature of medicine, the characteristic curiosity, sensitivity, and inquiry required of physicians each time they work with a new patient.”

So when a brochure detailing the Medical Scholars Program arrived in her mailbox, Rachel carefully considered this chance to blend her interest in the social sciences with a career in medicine. She wasn’t familiar with the Midwest, except to know it wasn’t a mecca for surfers, but the reputation of the MSP and the opportunities it presented made Rachel feel it would be the perfect fit for her.

And those initial instincts weren’t wrong. Rachel has made the most of the opportunities — and along the way has made a difference for others as well. She has worked with the Chicago Recovery Alliance, a program that provides syringe exchange and condom distribution services, and the Cook County Women & Children’s HIV Program, an experience that opened her eyes to issues in public health.

“I handed out clean needles, vitamins, and condoms to heroin users all over the city,” said Rachel. “I learned about helping, no matter the controversy over value systems or personal morals. I learned that my role as a helping professional is not to judge others but to help others, and I learned that the best way to do this is to see the world from different viewpoints.”

As a teaching assistant and HIV testing counselor at the McKinley Health Center on campus, Rachel has also learned something else. “Both of these experiences showed me how much I enjoy teaching and health education,” she said. “I would like to teach about social welfare issues in an academic medicine setting, where I can share my clinical knowledge and my social work training and research with future health professionals.”

The MSP experience has given her a chance not just to see what the world of medicine is like, but to see the world — literally. She’s traveled to New York, Atlanta, Boston, and Chicago to present her work, and over the summer she completed elective clerkships in nuclear medicine in Honolulu, in pediatric emergency medicine in Los Angeles, and in obstetrics/gynecology in Australia.

Now with just one year of medical school to go and a Ph.D. in social work already completed, Rachel looks forward to a future where she can balance clinical work with social work and return to the part of the world she loves. “One of my long-term goals is to start a women’s health program in Hawaii, where a woman could come to my public health clinic and receive assistance ranging from gynecological treatment to chemical dependency counseling to bus fare for her travel to the clinic,” Rachel said.

It’s a far cry from that Sea World trainer job Rachel had in mind so many years ago.
When **Adrian Rodriguez** traveled to the Dominican Republic in March 2002 to complete one of his clerkship electives, it opened his eyes to a world of medicine far beyond anything he’d seen before and might ever see again.

His decision to see firsthand the challenges of tropical medicine took him to a country where he visited patients in rural mountain towns, farming communities, and one of the oldest cities in the New World – Santo Domingo. It was a world away from the beaches of California where he grew up and the Illinois campus community where he’s spent the last eight years as a student in the Medical Scholars Program. And it was an opportunity he wouldn’t have missed.

"This opportunity to take the knowledge gained from our program with our excellent clinicians, minus the assistance of much of our state-of-the-art equipment, gave me the chance to practice medicine in its purest form – physician, patient, and clinical judgment with limited options for lab tests and other elements that often guide our diagnosis and treatment plans," says Adrian. "I also had the chance to practice medical Spanish, a growing necessity in this country, and to witness many infectious diseases and illnesses unique to the tropical world."

**Ready to take on a challenge**

Adrian’s experience in the Dominican Republic was arranged in conjunction with El Centro Nacional de Control de Enfermedades Tropicales (CENCET), which is similar to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control but on a much smaller scale. "I had a unique chance to witness the implementation of their national health programs while working with patients, participating in the management of a wide variety of diseases, and seeing how disparities exist even in such a small nation."

It was a challenging environment, which is just the kind of thing Adrian is drawn to. While recovering from significant burns he suffered from an automobile collision his senior year in high school, Adrian took on the challenge of college with an eye toward medical school. When he realized as an undergraduate that research was his passion too, he decided to pursue a dual-degree program and settled on the challenging environment of our MSP. An NIH/NCI Minority Predoctoral Fellow and a Medical Scholars Fellow, Adrian will be earning his Ph.D. in biochemistry and will complete his M.D. in 2003.

**Looking to the future**

Adrian appreciates the diversity of research and the perspective that a Ph.D. will bring to his work as a physician. "The ability to know how to ask the right question and acquire the right strategy to approach and answer that question is something that graduate work teaches you," he says. His questions in the biochemistry lab have focused on the study of estrogen receptors, the proteins that bind the hormone estrogen. The goal of his research is to find ways to manipulate estrogen receptors so that breast cancer can be treated and prevented.

In the future, Adrian hopes to continue his research while pursuing the clinical practice of medicine. He also welcomes the chance to repeat his international medicine experience. "I would like to continue my involvement in programs such as CENCET that, while limited in resources, continue to strive toward seeking better ways to treat and manage illnesses that afflict their population."
There’s something special about someone who can lead a group of 42,000 international scientists one day and explain anthrax to a small group of postal workers the next – someone who is as comfortable answering a congressional leader’s question about antibiotic resistance as she is answering a medical student’s question about microbiology.

Abigail Salyers has that something special, and those qualities have earned her recognition as the 2002 Faculty Member of the Year for the four campuses that comprise the University of Illinois College of Medicine.

A 22-year-member of the University of Illinois faculty, Dr. Salyers’s list of accomplishments is certainly lengthy. She has received several campus awards for excellence in teaching, was the recipient of the Illinois Society for Microbiology’s Pasteur Award for Research and Teaching, and was chosen to serve as a co-director of the Marine Biological Laboratory in Woods Hole, Massachusetts for five summers.

Her research on genetically modified plants and antibiotic resistance has earned her international recognition and made her a sought-after speaker and resource for the scientific community. She has authored textbooks, developed curriculum for M1 and M2 microbiology courses, and has been on the editorial boards of three major microbiology journals. In 2001, she also began a term as president of the American Society for Microbiology.

Colleagues say that educating the public is one of her strengths. “In all of her presentations, Dr. Salyers manages to couch her talk in such a way that she educates her audience, whether they are undergraduates, medical students, the general public, postal workers, members of Congress, or scientists interested in her particular area of research,” says Dixie Whitt, instructor of microbiology.

Educating the public is a responsibility that Dr. Salyers takes seriously and one that she feels is highly valued by others in the College. “I’m honored to receive the Faculty of the Year Award, particularly because there are so many high-quality faculty members who are dedicated to educating both students and the public,” says Dr. Salyers.
Student Group Tackles Health Care Policy Topics

Take an interesting health care policy topic. Add a group of committed medical students and an occasional faculty presenter. Stir in some debate. And you have the ingredients for lively and fruitful discussion. It’s just that recipe that makes the meetings of the MSP Health Care Policy Group interesting.

Established several years ago by University of Illinois College of Law Professor Robert Rich, Ph.D., the group began meeting with more regularity in October 2000. Chris Erb, an MSP student pursuing a Ph.D. in community health, has been instrumental in resurrecting the Health Care Policy Group. As its student sponsor/facilitator, he researches topics, organizes activities, and promotes the meetings within the student community.

To Erb, the opportunity to discuss topics so relevant to his profession and to network with other MSP students is important. But it’s the dialogue itself and the forum it provides for the exchange of ideas that is most valuable. “The students who participate are a very diverse group, and it’s particularly useful to hear the broad range of opinions they bring to the discussion,” he says.

There is no shortage of opinions – and no shortage of topics. In the past two years, the group has tackled such issues as: genetic testing and gene therapy, managed care and professional ethics, human cloning, stem cell research, bioterrorism, and national health insurance. Possible future topics include: international health policy priorities, quality of care issues, medical errors, and matters of life and death from legal and policy perspectives.

As the group moves forward, Erb is looking into developing a list serve for ongoing discussions. That way, participants don’t need to wait for a meeting to bring up topics of interest. Opportunities to publish student essays on topics covered are also being explored.
Families in east central Illinois who are coping with childhood cancer and blood-related diseases now have help close to home thanks to the efforts of Mark Musselman, M.D., M.A. A 1995 graduate of the College of Medicine, Dr. Musselman joined the Carle staff last year as the area’s first pediatric hematologist/oncologist and immediately went to work creating a pediatric hematology/oncology clinic.

In consultation with adult hematologists Brad Schwartz, M.D., regional dean, and Naveen Manchanda, M.D., assistant professor of internal medicine, Dr. Musselman has begun working toward the establishment of a Comprehensive Hemophilia Treatment Center. He has also established a Pediatric Oncology Center where children receive treatment for malignancies following National Cancer Treatment Protocol. “Dr. Musselman’s work allows families in this area with sick children to be cared for here, cutting back on time for travel and the inconvenience faced by family members and loved ones,” says Dr. Manchanda. “Medical students and residents also benefit because they are exposed to a level of care of pediatric patients not available to them to learn from previously.”

In addition to his work with pediatric cancer patients, Dr. Musselman cares for children with other blood disorders and other bleeding and clotting disorders. Dr. Musselman’s clinics for pediatric sickle cell anemia are supported by a grant from the Illinois Department of Public Health. All of this provides valuable learning opportunities for medical students. They also benefit from the expertise he shares with them in the classroom, during clinical clerkships, and in the residency program.

Returning to the place where he got his start

As a medical student on the Urbana-Champaign campus, Dr. Musselman was impressed by the Carle team and the collaboration between the Carle physicians and the College of Medicine. “I had worked with Carle as a student and had found the staff to practice scholarly based medicine. In addition, they combined this with common sense and clinical experience to provide well-rounded and high-quality patient care,” he says.

So after completing a residency in pediatrics and a fellowship in pediatric hematology/oncology at Children’s Hospital Medical Center in Cincinnati, Ohio, Dr. Musselman decided to return to Carle, the College of Medicine, and the University of Illinois campus, a place where he had also completed his undergraduate education and earned his master’s degree in clinical psychology.

Finding ways to give back

During his days as a medical student, Dr. Musselman served as president of the local chapter of the American Medical Student Association and the Illinois Medical Student Association. And his commitment to his profession and his community continues to be a priority.

Dr. Musselman’s work on the local “Light the Night Walk” to raise funds for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society is one example of that commitment. He also initiated a unique arrangement whereby Amish craftsmen donate their labor to complete Carle’s Auxiliary Guest House (which is designed to serve out-of-town families whose loved ones are critically ill), and in exchange the money saved by Carle goes into an account to pay medical bills for Amish community members at any hospital or clinic, not just Carle.
When **Bill Daniel** arrived on the University of Illinois campus in 1972, the College of Medicine was in its infancy. With 16 students housed in a white frame building, the program was small but ready to grow.

For 30 years, Dr. Daniel has contributed to that growth by guiding students in his roles as teacher, researcher, and mentor. As a medical geneticist, he has also used his expertise to develop the College’s medical genetics curriculum and to establish a genetic counseling program, both of which were relatively new concepts when he began his work on campus.

Dr. Daniel explains: “Human genetics traces its origins to the 1800s, but recognition of its importance to medicine came slowly. Medical genetics curricula began to appear in many medical schools during the 1960s and early 1970s. Dan Bloomfield, our first dean, decided to include this discipline in our own first-year program. My first responsibility was to develop the curriculum under the guidance of Bill Sorlie.”

Additional responsibilities included his leadership in directing the Department of Pediatrics’ Division of Medical Genetics, which over the years has included the curriculum development tasks plus: a cytogenetics lab for running chromosome studies used in diagnosing genetic syndromes and leukemias (this lab was closed in the 1990s); a genetics clinic where patients are examined for signs of genetic problems; and a genetic counseling program that started at the College and is now associated with Carle Clinic Association. The work in the genetics clinic continues as does the counseling program, which serves 40 counties and tracks 6,000 diseases. They are valuable resources for the local community and medical students as well. In fact, former students continue to refer patients to the genetic counseling program, which is particularly gratifying to its former director.

Dr. Daniel’s work as a medical geneticist led to his being named a founding fellow of the American College of Medical Genetics, and his reputation as a teacher has earned him recognition as a five-time Golden Apple winner in the College of Medicine. He has also been named to the incomplete campus list of teachers ranked as excellent every year since 1983.

As Dr. Daniel readies for retirement, we thank him for his long-time commitment to the College, the students, and the community.
MATCH 2002

Graduates in the Class of 2002 selected a wide variety of disciplines for their residency training. We are exceptionally proud that the majority of our students obtained positions in some of the top academic programs in the country, and feel these matches are a testimony to the dedication, hard work, and commitment of our faculty and staff. This was a very exciting match for all!

Theresa Anne Allison
FAMILY MEDICINE
University of California, San Francisco, California

Anahita Ariana
FAMILY MEDICINE
Northeastern Ontario Family Medicine Program
Sudbury, Ontario, Canada

Sean Lenard Barnes
PATHOLOGY
University of Rochester, Rochester, New York

Mark Douglas Chambers
INTERNAL MEDICINE
University of Illinois College of Medicine, Urbana-Champaign
DIAGNOSTIC RADIOLOGY
University of California, Irvine Medical Center, Irvine, California

Bryan Kenneth Cho
INTERNAL MEDICINE
University of California, San Francisco, California
DERMATOLOGY
University of California, San Francisco, California

Jill Marie Conway
INTERNAL MEDICINE
Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
NEUROLOGY
University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Sandra Lynn Ettema
OTOLARYNGOLOGY
Medical College of Wisconsin, Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Christopher Paul Hess
INTERNAL MEDICINE
California Pacific Medical Center, San Francisco, California
DIAGNOSTIC RADIOLOGY
University of California, San Francisco, California

R. Todd Hick
INTERNAL MEDICINE
University of Illinois College of Medicine, Urbana-Champaign

Alex Chong-Koang Hsu
DIAGNOSTIC RADIOLOGY
University of Illinois College of Medicine, Urbana-Champaign
DIAGNOSTIC RADIOLOGY
University of California, San Diego Medical Center, San Diego, California

Scott Alan Irwin
PSYCHIATRY
University of California, San Diego Medical Center, San Diego, California

Hoon Kang
INTERNAL MEDICINE
VA Greater Los Angeles Health System, Los Angeles, California
DIAGNOSTIC RADIOLOGY
University of California, Irvine Medical Center, Irvine, California

Niranjan Subhash Karnik
PSYCHIATRY/CHILDPSYCHIATRY
Stanford University Programs, California

Michael Lam
INTERNAL MEDICINE
University of Illinois College of Medicine, Urbana-Champaign

Jennine Lynn Larson
SURGERY
Southern Illinois University, SOM & Affiliated Hospital, Springfield, Illinois

Demian Rose marks the location of his residency on the United States map at Match Day announcements.

Albert Jeffrey Lin
FAMILY MEDICINE
UCLA Medical Center, California

Hugh Robinson Little
EMERGENCY MEDICINE
University of Texas Medical School, Houston, Texas

Daniel Adolfo Llano
INTERNAL MEDICINE
Harvard/Massachusetts General Hospital, Boston, Massachusetts
NEUROLOGY
Harvard/Massachusetts General Hospital and Brigham and Women’s Hospital, Boston, Massachusetts

Susan Kay Mantell
FAMILY PRACTICE
Carle Foundation Hospital, Urbana, Illinois

Kimberly Patricia Mathis
GENERAL SURGERY
Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
The Class of 2002 poses by a US map showing where each will do their residency.

The Senior Class Gift was established to create a legacy by which the graduating class could show its appreciation to the College of Medicine by contributing a gift. As the year’s seniors were the first to train at the Carle Forum, it is fitting that our gift will remain there as a resource for future generations of physicians. Funds donated by graduating students will be used to start a medical library in the Forum student lounge, providing books with the most current information in multiple specialties. We use this opportunity to remember two individuals whose contributions to our training will be greatly missed. The life of our friend Rajiv Reddy, M.D., an intern at Carle Hospital who worked with many of us, was tragically cut short this past year. We will remember his zest for life, his vivid stories of life experiences, and his charismatic leadership. We will also miss Dee Courson, a curriculum coordinator for the College of Medicine who we came to know in our second year. She was a loving mother, a friend to many of us, and a longstanding member of the Carle Hospital Staff.
After many months of preparation and the involvement of over 100 faculty and staff members, the Liaison Committee on Medical Education came to the University of Illinois College of Medicine for its accreditation review during the week of November 26, 2001. The College earned a full eight-year accreditation. Regional Dean Brad Schwartz was pleased with one of the accreditation team’s comments to him, “This College of Medicine should consider itself fortunate to have such a committed faculty.”

CONTINUING MEDICAL EDUCATION

New Program for Family Practice Physicians

In an effort to reach out to primary care physicians, the CME office has received grant support to sponsor a pilot study based on small group, case-based discussion sessions, facilitated by a content expert in the field of neurology. Specifically, three one-hour sessions are being held under the direction of Patricia J. McNussen, M.D., during which case questions regarding “Office Management of Headaches” are discussed informally over lunch.

Since research has shown that didactic learning is not always effective in changing physician behavior to improve quality of care, this program takes a different approach by providing access to the content expert in an informal face-to-face setting. Prominent researchers recognize this small group intervention approach as a meaningful learning method, especially when it provides case-based teaching and a content expert whose only purpose is to facilitate discussion and correct errors.

A small group of primary care physicians meet and present their queries to Dr. McNussen, a neurologist and COM-UC clinical assistant professor of internal medicine. Some learners choose to provide case-based questions, while other physicians ask questions about practice guidelines, medications, and treatment for headache patients.

To aid the learning and discussion, a laminated pocket-sized card is distributed to all attendees, listing medications that are available to treat migraines and prevent headaches.

The response to these small group meetings has been very favorable. The meetings are evaluated by asking participating physicians to assess the learning opportunity immediately upon its completion. Six weeks thereafter, physicians are surveyed once again, attempting to determine whether they believe that changes in their clinical practice and their comfort with headache treatment have occurred as a result of this roundtable session.

Other such small group discussions will be created and implemented if responses to this learning continue to be favorable.

All CME activity information can be accessed by visiting the website at http://www.med.uiuc.edu and clicking on the CME link.
For 30 years, David Morse, M.D., has been an advisor, a mentor, a teacher, and a friend to hundreds of College of Medicine students. This year he adds another title to that list—Special Tribute honoree for 2002.

Dr. Morse’s relationship with the College began in 1971 when he helped establish the original cardiology curriculum. Since 1972, he has welcomed each new class, providing guidance and assistance as an advisor to first-year students.

A clinical associate professor of medicine, Dr. Morse has taught “Physical Diagnosis of the Heart” for a decade, has been a tutorial leader for second-year students since 1980, and has served as clerkship director for the Department of Internal Medicine for more than 10 years. Because he is committed to medical education, Dr. Morse continues to serve the College in all these roles, even after his retirement from Carle Clinic and Carle Foundation Hospital.

His efforts in sharing that knowledge and experience with students have been rewarded. In addition to the Special Tribute honor, Dr. Morse has received three awards for “Outstanding Contributions to Medical Education” from Carle in 1980, 1989, and 1991.

A 1954 graduate of Cornell University, Dr. Morse entered the State University of New York College of Medicine in Brooklyn in 1958, after serving for three years as a first lieutenant in the U.S. Army. He completed a residency in internal medicine and a fellowship in cardiology at the University of Maryland Hospital in Baltimore and then joined the staff of Carle Clinic/Carle Foundation Hospital in 1967. After more than 30 years in the Division of Cardiology, Dr. Morse retired from clinical practice at Carle in 1998.

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Tribute to Dr. David Morse from the Graduating Class of 2002

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Tribute to Dr. David Morse from the Graduating Class of 2002

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Recognizing the Final Gift

Students honor those who donate their bodies to science

There are many lessons that medical students learn in their first-year anatomy course — some of which have little to do with what’s in the textbook. Two of those lessons are about generosity and respect, and they are learned from people the students did not know in life but have come to know very well after their deaths.

This year’s M1 class wanted to pay tribute to those people whose bodies become the cadavers they learn from every day in the anatomy lab, and so they planned a special memorial service in their honor.

“As a first-year medical student stepping for the first time into the anatomy lab, it is truly an awe-inspiring feeling,” said first-year student Michael Wilson, the organizer of the memorial service. “Our very first patients gave of themselves literally so that we could one day learn to treat others. Most of the medical students I know simply wanted to say ‘thanks.’”

The service, which was held in May at the Levis Center, featured student speakers who read original writings as well as the works of famous authors and poets. Some of the students’ readings focused on how humbling it is to have the opportunity to learn from these volunteers and how the experience leaves you wondering about the kind of life each one of them lived.

Wilson was particularly pleased that the service also provided a special opportunity for a local woman who was among the nearly 90 people who attended. “One of the ways that I knew we had made a difference was the arrival of Jennifer Putman at our May service,” he said. “Ms. Putman’s mother was herself an anatomical gift at the University of Hawaii, but unfortunately, Ms. Putman never had the opportunity to attend a service for her. So, she came to ours.”

COM-UC students helping in the community

“Volunteering gives me a chance to apply what I have learned while helping out the community,” says Rudy Kink, (left), second-year medical student. Rudy, along with fellow students, did blood pressure checks for “Impact Arthritis” and the Arthritis Walk last spring. These events raise money and provide education for the community on arthritis.
JoAnn Archey, M.D.
Dr. Archey received her medical degree in 2000 from the College of Medicine at Urbana-Champaign and completed a one-year family practice residency at Christ Hospital in Oak Lawn, Illinois, before becoming a family practice resident at Carle Foundation Hospital. She is a visiting clinical associate and teaches M1 students in the MDA labs and M2 students during the MUSCL exercises. She also serves as preceptor for M3 students rotating through the Department of Family Medicine.

Jonathan S. Bailey, D.M.D., M.D.
Dr. Bailey earned his dentistry degree from Bucknell University in Lewisburg, Pennsylvania, in 1994 and his medical degree from Harvard Medical School in Boston in 1996. He completed an internship and residency at Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston as well as a fellowship in oral and maxillofacial surgery at the University of Maryland. His research interests include oral cancer. Dr. Bailey is a clinical instructor of surgery and serves as a preceptor for surgery students. He is a physician at Carle Clinic.

Tiffani E. Clark, M.D.
In 1996, Dr. Clark received her medical degree from Wright State University School of Medicine in Dayton, Ohio, becoming the youngest graduate in the history of Wright State University. Dr. Clark completed post-graduate training at St. Elizabeth Medical Center in Youngstown, Ohio, and at Cook County Hospital in Chicago where she was chief resident physician. She is a physician in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at Carle Clinic and is a junior fellow of the American College of Obstetrics and Gynecology. In addition, she is a clinical instructor and serves as a preceptor to third-year medical students.

Jeffrey A. Douglas, Ph.D.
Dr. Douglas received his Ph.D. in statistics from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign in 1995. His research interests include biostatistics and psychometrics. He is a member of the American Statistics Association and the Psychometric Society. Dr. Douglas, an associate professor in UIUC’s Department of Statistics, has an appointment with the College of Medicine and teaches medical statistics to first-year medical students.

Mohammed Eikram, M.D.
Dr. Eikram received his medical degree at Dow Medical College in Pakistan in 1982. He completed an internship and residency at the State University of New York and a hematology/oncology fellowship at the Medical College of Pennsylvania, with training in bone marrow transplant at Alleghany University, Hahnemann University campus. Dr. Eikram is head of the Department of Hematology/Oncology at Christie Clinic in Champaign. A clinical assistant professor, Dr. Eikram serves as a teaching attending for resident physicians and developed and teaches the hematology/oncology clerkship elective for medical students.
Michael J. Freeland, M.D.
Dr. Freeland received his medical degree from Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine in Cleveland, Ohio, in 1986. He completed a residency in internal medicine at Baystate Medical Center, Western Campus Tufts University School of Medicine in Springfield, Massachusetts, and was chief administrative fellow in critical care medicine at Wayne State University School of Medicine, Detroit Medical Center in Detroit, Michigan. Dr. Freeland is a critical care physician at Carle Clinic and clinical assistant professor in the College of Medicine. He’s a teaching attending and presents lectures and serves as an advisor to medical students and residents.

George R. Gindi, M.D.
Dr. Gindi is a clinical instructor who serves as a preceptor for core clerkships in family medicine for third-year and fourth-year medical students. He received his medical degree from Tanta Medical School in Tanta, Egypt, in 1975 and completed a rotating internship at Menshawy General Hospital in Tanta and a family practice residency at St. Elizabeth Hospital in Chicago. Dr. Gindi practices at the Family Practice Medical Center in Danville, Illinois.

Peter B. Hardin, M.D.
Dr. Hardin received his medical degree from the College of Medicine at Urbana-Champaign in 1989 and completed a residency in radiation oncology at Rush Presbyterian St. Luke’s Medical Center in Chicago. He is a radiation oncologist at Carle Clinic and a clinical assistant professor in the College of Medicine. He gives radiation oncology didactic lectures in the Medicine I Core Lecture Series and is the radiation oncology clerkship director.

Thomas P. Huber, M.D.
Dr. Huber received his medical degree in 1979 from the University of Illinois at Chicago and completed an internship and residency at St. Francis Hospital in Peoria, Illinois. He is a gastroenterologist at Carle Clinic. As a clinical instructor in the College of Medicine, he supervises medical students in the gastroenterology clerkship elective, is a Fundamental Clinical Problems lecturer, and is a teaching attending to M3 and M4 students as well as to residents.

Edwin Ishoo, M.D.
After receiving his medical degree from the University of Michigan School of Medicine in Ann Arbor in 1993, Dr. Ishoo completed a fellowship in head and neck oncologic surgery at the University of Cincinnati Medical Center and residencies in otolaryngology, head and neck surgery, and general surgery at Boston University Hospital. A surgeon at Carle Clinic, Dr. Ishoo is also a clinical assistant professor in the College of Medicine, serving as a preceptor for medical students in the EMT elective and during their core clerkship subspecialty in ENT and as a lecturer during the surgery core clerkship.
Derek G. Kenneaster, M.D.
Dr. Kenneaster is a dermatologist at Carle Clinic. After receiving his medical degree from Southern Illinois University School of Medicine in Springfield in 1993, he completed residencies in general/plastic surgery, internal medicine, and dermatology at SIU. Dr. Kenneaster, a clinical assistant professor, gives dermatology didactic lectures and supervises the dermatology clerkship elective to medical students. As section head of dermatology, he is responsible for dermatology teaching activities and curriculum assessment.

Milton M. McAllister, D.V.M., Ph.D., D.A.C.V.P.
Dr. McAllister received his D.V.M. in 1984 from the University of Missouri-Columbia and his Ph.D. in 1991 from Colorado State University. He became a diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Pathologists in 1994. His research interests include protozoal diseases of animals and humans. Dr. McAllister, an associate professor in UIUC’s Department of Veterinary Pathobiology, has an appointment with the College of Medicine to teach in the M2 pathology course and will take over the general pathology.

James W. McCriskin, D.O., F.A.C.P., F.A.C.C.
Dr. McCriskin received his D.O. degree from the University of Osteopathic Medicine and Health Sciences in Des Moines, Iowa, in 1978. He then completed an internal medicine residency at Allentown Affiliate Hospitals and a fellowship in cardiovascular disease at Wilford Hall Medical Center at Lackland Air Force Base in San Antonio, Texas. He is a cardiologist with Illinois Heart and Lung Associates, S.C. in Bloomington, Illinois. He served for three years as a member of the Air Force Society of Physicians and the Society of Military Osteopathic Physicians. Dr. McCriskin, a clinical assistant professor in internal medicine, serves as a teaching attending and preceptor for third-year and fourth-year medical students and residents and has contributed to the development of the cardiology clerkship elective.

Mark S. Musselman, M.D., M.A.
In 1995, Dr. Musselman received his medical degree from the College of Medicine at Urbana-Champaign. He completed an internship and residency in pediatric hematology/oncology at Children’s Hospital Medical Center in Cincinnati, Ohio, and a hematology/oncology fellowship at Carle Clinic. His medical/research interests include pediatric oncology clinical studies, pediatric thrombosis and hemophilia, and Sickle Cell disease. A clinical assistant professor, Dr. Musselman teaches M3 and M4 medical students as they rotate through his hematology/oncology clinic during the pediatric core rotation.

Mahindra Patel, M.D.
Dr. Patel received his medical degree in 1974 from the B.J. Medical College in Ahmedabad, India. He completed a nine-month internal medicine residency at the Civil Hospital and B.J. Medical College, Ahmedabad, India, a ten-month residency at Kingsbrook Jewish Medical Center in Brooklyn, New York, and a ten-month residency at Bergen Pine County Hospital in Paramus, New Jersey. Dr. Patel has an internal medicine private practice in Homer, Illinois, and is a staff physician at Provena Covenant Medical Center. As a clinical instructor, he serves as a teaching attending for M3 and M4 medical students and residents, is a preceptor for M3 and M4 students, and participates in student evaluations.
Patricia L. Ristic, M.D., F.A.C.O.G.
Dr. Ristic received her medical degree from Rush Medical School in Chicago in 1985 and completed an OB/GYN residency at Columbus Medical Center, which is affiliated with Northwestern Medical Center in Chicago. A staff physician at McKinley Health Center on campus, her research includes diagnosis of toxoplasmosis by cutaneous hypersensitivity test and examination of cell mediated immunity in system lupus erythematosus (SLE). Dr. Ristic is a clinical instructor in the College of Medicine and is involved in the Family Practice Residency Program.

Toni C. Roth, M.D.
Dr. Roth received her medical degree in 1987 from Hahnemann University School of Medicine in Philadelphia, where she also completed a one-year residency in internal medicine, a four-year residency in diagnostic radiology, and a one-year fellowship in neuroradiology. She also completed a two-year fellowship in interventional neuroradiology at Yale University School of Medicine in New Haven, Connecticut. She is currently an interventional neuroradiologist at St. John’s Hospital in Springfield, Illinois, and a staff member at OSF St. Joseph Medical Center and BroMenn Regional Medical Center in Bloomington, Illinois. Her research interests include stroke and head and neck tumor embolization. Dr. Roth is a clinical assistant professor in internal medicine and serves as a preceptor for M3 and M4 clerkship students, contributes to the development of clerkship electives, advises students, and participates in their evaluations.

Mahesh C. Shah, M.D.
Dr. Shah received his medical degree in 1987 from B.J. Medical College, Civil Hospital, Gujarat University in Ahmedabad, India. He completed a primary care internal medicine residency at Mount Sinai School of Medicine in New York and a medicine internship at Mount Sinai School of Medicine, Elmhurst Hospital Center, in New York. At Gujarat Cancer and Research Institute in Ahmedabad, India, he was chief resident and completed three years of general and oncologic surgery residency training. He is currently a staff physician at the Department of Veterans Affairs Illiana Health Care System in Danville, Illinois. As a clinical assistant professor, Dr. Shah conducts ward rounds, lectures, and supervises the VA Ambulatory Care and Urgent Care clinics.

Joanna Shisler, Ph.D.
In 1996, Dr. Shisler received her Ph.D. in microbiology and immunology at Emory University in Atlanta. After completing an Intramural Research Training Award (IRTA) post-doctoral fellowship at the National Institutes of Health, she joined the College of Medicine in November 2001. She is an assistant professor of microbiology, and her research interests include poxvirus mechanisms for evading the anti-viral immune responses. She was awarded an IRTA Research Training Award from the National Institutes of Health in 1997 and the Norman P. Salzman Award for Excellence in Virology, an endowment for the National Institutes of Health.

James A. Solomon, M.D., Ph.D.
Dr. Solomon earned his Ph.D. in anatomy from SUNY Upstate Medical Center in Syracuse in 1976 and his M.D from the State University of New York (SUNY) at Buffalo in 1979. He completed a one-year internship and a three-year dermatology residency at University Hospital in Boston. In 1983 he was named a diplomate of the American Board of Dermatology. Dr. Solomon practices at the Central Illinois Dermatology Center in Decatur and is a consulting staff member at Decatur Memorial Hospital. His research interests include no down time skin repair, laser medicine, treatment resistant disorders, and contact dermatitis. As an assistant clinical professor, he supervises clinical rotations in dermatology, advises students and residents interested in careers in dermatology, and presents lectures.

Samuel E. Steffen, M.D.
A recent graduate of the College of Medicine at Urbana-Champaign, Dr. Steffen is a visiting clinical associate and a resident in the Carle Clinic Family Practice Residency Program. He is a member of the Illinois State Medical Society and the Christian Medical and