

November 2, 2021

In February 2015, the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign approved formation of the Carle-Illinois College of Medicine (Carle Illinois). This has been an exciting development for the Urbana campus, and one that had immediate implications for the Urbana Regional Campus of the University of Illinois College of Medicine (UI COM) and the Medical Scholars Program (MSP). The MSP remains highly respected on the Urbana campus and we have worked diligently to transition the program into the Carle Illinois College of Medicine.

The UI COM is phasing out the Urbana Regional Campus, while the Peoria and Rockford Regional Campuses of UI COM have transitioned to four-year MD programs. The final UI COM Urbana campus class of 12 MSP students will graduate in 2022. Ten students finished their PhD work in Urbana and moved to the Chicago campus to complete their MD degrees. All MSP students are being fully funded through the remainder of their PhD and four years of MD training.

The first MD class of the Carle Illinois College of Medicine began in summer 2018 and will also graduate this spring. This has meant that both MSP and Carle Illinois students are doing clinical rotations at the same time, and the MSP students have served as mentors to the incoming Carle Illinois students. The success of all students has required unwavering commitment and cooperation between UI COM Urbana and Carle Illinois.

The new Medical Scholars Program within the Carle Illinois College of Medicine was approved by the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign faculty senate and the University of Illinois Board of Trustees in summer 2019. Dr. James Slauch has been the Director of the MSP for UI COM Urbana and has been appointed to this role for the new MSP at Carle Illinois. We are very pleased that the new program has accepted its first MD/PhD student this semester. The student will finish the first phase of the medical curriculum, including the Step 1 exam, and then join the graduate program to complete the PhD. Plans are to have approximately two students per year accepted into the Medical Scholars Program, growing the program over time. Although the program is smaller, the strengths and unique qualities of the long-standing MSP will be maintained, including the ability to earn a PhD in any discipline on campus. Please see the following web site for more information on the new MSP program:  
[medicine.illinois.edu/admissions/medical-scholars-program](http://medicine.illinois.edu/admissions/medical-scholars-program)

The Medical Scholars Program is a strong and vibrant community of scholars with a 43-year history of training over 600 outstanding physician scholars. We are committed to the success of our current and future students. We appreciate the critical role that you, as alumni, have in the success of the program and thank you for your past and future support. Please let us know if you have questions.

Sincerely,



James M Slauch, Ph.D.  
Professor and Head of Microbiology  
Director of the Medical Scholars Program



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Associate Dean for Student Affairs  
and Medical Scholars Program