Message from the Dean

The College of Medicine at Urbana has only been in existence for 36 years, yet we have enjoyed remarkable success. This success is best exemplified by our outstanding graduates and their impressive range of accomplishments and contributions. The list of residency programs that welcomes our graduates with open arms reads like a "Who’s Who" of graduate medical education. The range of prominent leadership positions that our graduates occupy spans the spectrum from academics to industry to medical practice to public service.

The future holds enormous promise for individuals who can think and operate across traditional disciplinary and organizational boundaries. The College of Medicine at Urbana will capitalize on our unique interdisciplinary approach to education and research to help groom yet another generation of superb physicians and leaders in society’s enterprises that touch on human health.

We are fortunate to be part of a world class public research university where new knowledge and creative applications are nurtured for the good of our society. Our faculty and staff are an amazing mix of people who are committed to the highest ideals of medicine and education. They make it possible for the College of Medicine to continue opening the doors of opportunity for the remarkable young men and women who study here.

Please take a few minutes to browse through this issue of Lifeline to get a sense of the energy and enthusiasm that we are privileged to see every day. I am certain that you will be as impressed as I am by our bright, promising students, and by our highly committed faculty and staff.

Brad Schwartz, M.D.
Regional Dean
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THROUGH EXCELLENCE, SHAPING SCHOLARS AND CLINICIANS

PROFILE

Janet Jokela

Janet Jokela is a woman who wears many hats. One morning she might be tending to administrative details for the Internal Medicine Residency Program or working on curriculum development for the Introduction to Human Disease course she teaches. That same afternoon she might be in the Sexually Transmitted Diseases Clinic at the Champaign-Urbana Public Health District assisting patients and teaching students as part of their internal medicine clerkship. Later in the week you might find her working with patients at the McKinley Health Center on campus or 40 miles away providing care for patients with HIV at the Veterans Affairs Hospital in Danville.

The pace is quick and never boring. “The variety of responsibilities makes each day interesting,” says Dr. Jokela. “It’s very rewarding to care for patients as well as work with the students and residents in training. We all benefit from such a stimulating environment. Working with students gives us the chance to continue to learn and to become better doctors ourselves, which ultimately benefits our patients as well.”

A Privilege and a Responsibility

Dr. Jokela joined the College of Medicine in 2000, after spending five years working at Massachusetts General Hospital and serving as a clinical instructor at Harvard Medical School. Moved by an interest in serving those whose needs are great and whose access to care is limited, Dr. Jokela earned her master’s in public health in 1994 from the Boston University School of Public Health and completed a fellowship in infectious diseases.

“The public health aspect of medicine has always interested me and infectious diseases, in particular, because they seem to affect the disenfranchised, those who aren’t insured or don’t have easy access to care. It is a privilege to serve such patients.”

And as obvious as her passion is for serving patients, so too is her commitment for serving the College and the students. In 2003 she received the Innovation in Education Award from the College for her work with the Introduction to Human Disease course, and in 2004 she was recognized by Provena Covenant Medical Center as part of their “Positive Images in Medicine” program.

“Serving as a physician is both a privilege and a responsibility, as is teaching students and residents,” says Dr. Jokela. “Working together with faculty colleagues to help our students and residents maximize their potential is a fulfilling and rewarding career path.”

The Facts on Janet A. Jokela

Education: B.A. and M.D., University of Minnesota
Internship and Residency, Boston City Hospital
Fellowship, Infectious Diseases, Harvard Medical School: Beth Israel Hospital, Brigham and Women’s Hospital, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute
M.P.H., Boston University School of Public Health
Career history: Clinical instructor, Department of Medicine, Harvard Medical School, and physician at Massachusetts General Hospital; joined the University of Illinois College of Medicine in 2000
Current responsibilities: Associate program director, Internal Medicine Residency Program, COM-UC; associate professor of clinical medicine; staff physician at McKinley Health Center on campus; infectious disease specialist with responsibilities at the Veterans Affairs Hospital in Danville and the Champaign-Urbana Public Health District
Perspective on working as an infectious disease specialist: “The public health aspect of medicine has always interested me and infectious diseases, in particular, because they seem to affect the disenfranchised, those who aren’t insured or don’t have easy access to care. It is a privilege to serve such patients.”
Scott Paluska

Before Scott Paluska came to Champaign-Urbana, he had spent two years as an assistant professor of family medicine at the University of Washington, where he split his time between clinical practice and academic responsibilities. So when he joined OAK Orthopedics in Urbana in 2003, he looked forward to having an opportunity to continue working with medical students.

The opportunity came quickly, with Dr. Paluska serving as a community-based preceptor for the Department of Internal Medicine and an invited presenter for the History, Physical Examination, and Diagnosis course the following year. When there was a need for a new director last year and he was offered the position, he willingly accepted the challenge.

“Teaching is really what it’s all about,” says Dr. Paluska. “With this course, especially, the students are so motivated, and it’s one of their first chances to interact with humans instead of books. We want to be sure they understand that getting a medical history is a complicated process but when done well can make all the difference in getting the patient to work with you in the treatment process. It’s enjoyable to teach the students these fundamental skills and to see them get fired up about medicine.”

The Importance of Rapport

When he’s not working with students to get them off on the right foot clinically, he’s working with patients to do the same thing—literally. As the clinic director for the local office of OAK Orthopedics, Dr. Paluska’s practice is 100 percent sports and musculoskeletal medicine. One of the things he finds most satisfying about the work is central to what he teaches in the History, Physical Examination, and Diagnosis course—that is, engaging the patient in their own medical process to improve health outcomes.

“It can be a challenge in today’s medical environment, with its demands and logistical constraints, to take the time to develop a therapeutic relationship with the patient. But we stress to the students that maintaining interpersonal contact is critical to success in medicine.”

And for Dr. Paluska, it’s also one of the most personally fulfilling aspects of being a physician. “There is great satisfaction in helping a patient who has an uncertain clinical problem. And an important first step is to build rapport with the patient. It can be the essential component of seeing them successfully through treatment and recovery.”

The Facts on Scott A. Paluska

**Education:** B.A. in neuroscience, Amherst College
M.D., University of Michigan
Residency in family medicine, University of Michigan
Sports medicine fellowship, University of Pittsburgh

**Current responsibilities:** Clinical associate professor of family medicine and internal medicine, University of Illinois College of Medicine
Clinic director, OAK Orthopedics

**Perspective on teaching students in the History, Physical Examination, and Diagnosis course:** “It’s enjoyable to work with the students during this course because they are hungry for clinically applicable information. It’s the perfect time to impress upon them how critical it is to develop rapport with the patient and to understand them as people.”
Steven J. Prstojevich

With his own private practice in oral and facial surgery and with part-time responsibilities in the oral and maxillofacial surgery graduate training program at Truman Medical Center in Kansas City, Steven Prstojevich has an opportunity to enjoy great variety in his work.

He goes from the scheduled appointments at Facial Spectrum, where he assists patients with needs ranging from dental implants to jaw surgery to cosmetic surgery, to the unpredictability of facial trauma call at all of the primary teaching hospitals of the University.

“I really enjoy the balance I have in my work, and I’m glad to have the opportunity to teach residents,” says Dr. Prstojevich. “It definitely keeps you on your toes to be surrounded by their energy, enthusiasm, and questions. Plus, it keeps you progressing in your own continuing education.”

With a dental degree, an M.D., residencies in dentistry, oral and maxillofacial surgery, and general surgery, as well as a fellowship in cosmetic surgery, continuing education is certainly something that Dr. Prstojevich knows a lot about.

Although he entered dental school with the idea of becoming an orthodontist, Dr. Prstojevich decided that oral and maxillofacial surgery would be a more satisfying professional choice. So after earning his dental degree and completing a hospital residency in dentistry, he entered the College of Medicine.

“It was a very comfortable environment for me,” he says. “The fact that I had come to medical school with a dental degree didn’t make me an oddity because there were many other people who had advanced degrees and interests beyond medicine. Plus, the classes were small and the residency program was very strong with a full scope of cases from craniofacial surgery to cosmetics to reconstruction.”

As he teaches residents, Dr. Prstojevich remembers what he learned from mentors like Dr. Michael Goldwasser, Dr. Stephen Sabol, Dr. Scott Norwood, and Dr. Byron Ruskin. “Certainly, their technical expertise taught me a great deal,” he says. “But I also learned from them the importance of being proactive, of attention to details, and of following up on even routine matters. In my own work with residents, I try to emulate what I learned while a resident at Illinois.”

The Facts on Steven J. Prstojevich

**Education:** B.A. in philosophy and biology, William Jewell College, Liberty, Missouri

D.D.S., University of Missouri, Kansas City

Residency in dentistry, Barnes Jewish Hospital, St. Louis

M.D., University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Residency in oral & maxillofacial surgery, Carle Clinic/Carle Foundation Hospital

Fellowship in cosmetic surgery, Stevens Health Center, Seattle

Fellow, American College of Surgeons

**Current responsibilities:** Owner of Facial Spectrum, an oral and facial surgery practice in Lee’s Summit, Missouri; clinical associate professor at University of Missouri–Kansas City School of Dentistry and School of Medicine

**Perspective on working with residents:** “I have residents working with me in my office, which gives them a perspective on private practice. But I also take facial trauma call with them. And when you’re doing a four- to six-hour case together on a Saturday night, it’s especially energizing to have them asking questions and to have the opportunity to teach under those circumstances.”

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*Envisioning the Future*
Tracy Flood Bramall

Tracy Bramall believes there’s nothing like starting early when it comes to helping people make healthy choices. And she’s not waiting until she gets her medical degree to put that motto into practice. In fact, early education is the inspiration behind the Research Day project she presented in spring 2007, which won first prize in the community outreach section.

“Ask Ur Gutz” is a five-foot tall shadow of a boy with pop-out puppets that educates children about what they’re eating and how those choices impact their body. The puppets represent different parts of the body—there’s a tongue puppet, muscle puppet, and bone puppet, for instance. The idea behind the project is that Tracy, as the puppeteer, engages in a dialogue with children to find out what they eat and then uses the various puppets to let the children know which parts of their bodies are happy with that choice of food.

“As I spent time interviewing diabetic patients for Dr. Gopal, it became apparent very quickly how difficult it is for people who are diagnosed with diabetes to change their daily eating habits,” says Tracy. “My thought with this project is that it’s a way to get children thinking about nutrition early so they form better habits. I’m hoping to design another program with the puppets that focuses on breakfast cereal and drink choices for kids.”

From Memorization to Investigation

Working with young people is something Tracy enjoys. While an undergraduate at Oxford Brookes in England, she coordinated children’s group therapy as a volunteer with the Family Nurturing Network and had experience in adolescent behavior therapy as well. She is intrigued by the roles that psychology and behavior can play in helping people achieve a healthy lifestyle. In fact, it’s part of what drew her to pursue medicine.

“I took an endocrinology class and found it fascinating because it requires a whole systems approach,” Tracy says. “It’s a field that interested me from a medical standpoint and a psychological and behavioral standpoint.”

So after returning from England, she enrolled at Northern Illinois University to take some of the science classes she would need for medical school and then applied to Illinois. Now in her M3 year, Tracy relishes the road ahead.

“The second year of medical school started to put it all together for me,” she says. “When you begin to see patients, it goes from memorization to investigation. That’s been fascinating, and it helps me to see how I might be able to contribute to the field.”

The Facts on Tracy Flood Bramall

Education: B.S., dual degree in human biology and psychology; Oxford Brookes University, Oxford, England

Graduate studies, Northern Illinois University

M.D., Expected 2009, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Clinical interest: Has conducted interviews with diabetic patients as part of Dr. Bharat Gopal’s research into improving glucose control

Career path: Complete medical school studies and pursue a career in endocrinology

Perspective on helping diabetic patients: “You have to be willing to work hard and long with diabetic patients because of the chronic nature of their disease. Small differences over a long period of time can really make a huge difference in the long run.”
Linda Moore counts herself lucky to have a job that allows her to witness some exciting times in the lives of students—times that reflect the challenge, reward, growth, and opportunity of medical school.

As coordinator for clinical affairs, for example, Linda has responsibilities for organizing the College’s Research Symposium, which is held every spring. The all-day conference for medical students and residents is an opportunity for them to present projects, posters, and clinical vignettes and to explore other topics in small group sessions. For instance, this year, the group session topics included advice on starting research, finding funding for research projects, health care access, health care/research ethics, and patient/physician communication. Coordinating this event, with the help of a student committee, is work that Linda finds particularly gratifying.

“Research Day is six months in the planning stage,” says Linda. “And during that time, I spend a lot of time with the students on the committee. They are so enthusiastic, interested, involved, and helpful. It’s a pleasure working with them and getting to know them before they move into the clinical phase of medical school.”

**White Coat and Beyond**

Another event that Linda coordinates for the College is the White Coat ceremony. “This is an especially significant day for the students,” she says, “because it symbolizes their cross over from the didactic side of medicine to the clinical side. While preparing for the ceremony, I get an opportunity to know the students a little better and share in their excitement for the transition that’s ahead for them.”

In her role as coordinator for instructional development, Linda also has a chance to assist the medical students in their internal medicine clerkship. She is called on to provide orientation, explain curriculum, and solve problems. Working with eight new students every two months gives Linda a chance to really learn more about each of them.

According to Linda, that’s the best part of the job. “Throughout the planning and implementation of the White Coat ceremony, Research Day, and their rotation in the internal medicine clerkship, I see these fine men and women grow from start to finish—from students to physicians. It’s very rewarding.”

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**The Facts on Linda Moore**

**Education and tenure with the College:**
Joined the staff as a secretary and returned to school full-time in December 1999; completed her bachelor’s degree and began work on her master’s degree in training and development from Eastern Illinois University, graduating in 1995

**Current responsibilities:** Coordinator for clinical affairs and coordinator for instructional development for Internal Medicine

**Perspective on the College’s greatest strength:** “Our faculty members are incredible. Many of them volunteer their time to teach our students and residents. They genuinely enjoy teaching and feel as if it is part of their responsibility to pass on their knowledge, and that’s obvious to our students. We rely heavily on them, and they come through time after time.”

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**Perfil**

Linda Moore cuenta con suerte de tener un trabajo que la permite testificar algunas épocas excitantes en la vida de los estudiantes—tiempos que reflejan el desafío, el premio, el crecimiento y la oportunidad de la medicina.

Como coordinadora de asuntos clínicos, por ejemplo, Linda tiene responsabilidades para organizar el Simposio de Investigación del College, que se celebra cada primavera. La conferencia de todo el día para estudiantes y residentes es una oportunidad para ellos para presentar proyectos, pósteres y escenas clínicas y explorar otros temas en sesiones de grupo pequeñas. Por ejemplo, este año, los temas de las sesiones de grupo incluyeron consejo sobre cómo iniciar la investigación, encontrar financiamiento para proyectos de investigación, acceso a la atención de salud, ética de la investigación/la salud, y comunicación paciente/fisioterapeuta. Coordinar este evento, con la ayuda de un comité estudiantil, es trabajo que Linda encuentra particularmente gratificante.

“El Día de la Mochila se encuentra seis meses en el plan de estudio,” dice Linda. “Y durante ese tiempo, paso muchísimo tiempo con los estudiantes en el comité. Son tan entusiastas, interesados, involucrados y útiles. Es un placer trabajar con ellos y conocerlos antes de que se muevan al clínico de la escuela de medicina.”

**Vestido de Manga y Más Allá**

Otra actividad que Linda coordina para el college es el acto de vestir la Mochila. “Es un día especialmente significativo para los estudiantes,” dice ella, “porque simboliza su transición del lado didáctico de la medicina al clínico. Mientras preparo para la ceremonia, tengo la oportunidad de conocer mejor a los estudiantes y compartir su emoción por la transición que está por venir para ellos.”

En su papel como coordinadora de desarrollo de instrucción, Linda también tiene la oportunidad de asistir a los estudiantes de medicina interna en su clínica de medicina interna. Ella es consultada para proporcionar orientación, explicar el currículo, y resolver problemas. Trabajar con ocho nuevos estudiantes cada dos meses da a Linda la oportunidad de realmente aprender más sobre cada uno de ellos.

Según Linda, es la parte mejor del trabajo. “A lo largo del planeamiento y la implementación del acto de  vestir la Mochila, el Día de la Investigación y su rotación en la clínica de medicina interna, veo a estos hombres y mujeres excelentes creciendo desde el principio hasta el final—de estudiantes a médicos. Es muy recompensador.”

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Carien Williams

Some students have planned to be doctors since they were children. Maybe they had a parent in healthcare, or perhaps a science teacher nurtured their interest, or a family physician encouraged their decision and mentored them. For them, a strong support network and a rigorous academic program was already in place to help them achieve their goals. But for others, the choices might not have been so clear nor the preparation so strong.

The Urban Health Program (UHP) exists to change that, and Carien Williams, who is administering that program at the College, is committed to assisting students in making the transition to medical school, the medical culture, and securing their place in the medical profession.

“The goal of our program is to recruit students of color from underserved areas and to provide them with the support they need to be successful,” says Carien. “That includes assisting students in assessing their academic needs, acquiring the skills necessary for surviving medical school and the medical culture, and developing helpful strategies for managing and meeting their academic, relational, and personal needs.”

Having attended professional school herself, graduating from Washington University School of Law, Carien knows the demands. “Professional school is particularly challenging for students of color,” she says. “Working with the Urban Health Program fits with my overall interest in helping students and gives me an opportunity to continue to support students of color in a professional school setting.”

Building on Success

The UHP is an extension of a long-standing commitment from the College of Medicine to recruit, retain, and graduate persons from underrepresented groups into the health professions. According to Susan Kies, associate dean for curriculum management, when the College of Medicine opened its doors 36 years ago, programming for students of color was organized out of the UIC UHP Office. In the 1980s, solid programming was established at UIUC to support UHP medical students in Urbana-Champaign.

“Unfortunately, some of the support fell as federal dollars were cut over the past several years, and some of the programs reverted primarily to the UIC campus,” Dr. Kies says. “But now we’re moving to reinstate the pre-matriculation program, strengthen the faculty mentor program, and make important linkages to the UIUC campus and community.”

That’s where Carien’s work comes in. Since joining the College in March 2007, she has been working to organize the program and establish these linkages. With the fall 2007 class, she is “looking forward to establishing relationships with the students, assessing their needs, providing resources to address those needs, and integrating the program across campus.”

Carien sees the program as a work in progress, evolving to meet the students’ needs, but already it’s a program that has shown its value.

As Dr. Kies explains: “The College of Medicine enrolls 25 percent minority students, which is the largest enrollment of students of color outside the traditionally black schools of Howard and Meharry. Plus, our UHP students perform very well academically, virtually indistinguishable from all other entering populations in the M-1. Graduation rates are virtually indistinguishable from other populations as well.”

Carien is looking forward to building on this success. “One of the College’s greatest strengths is its concern for the student body and its interest in having the most well-prepared, well-trained physicians. I’m happy to have an opportunity to be a part of that work.”

The Facts on Carien Williams

Education: B.S. in elementary education, Pennsylvania State University
M.S. in early childhood education, Southern Illinois University
J.D., Washington University in St. Louis
Pursuing a Ph.D. in education at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Current responsibilities: Academic skills specialist with responsibilities for the Urban Health Program in the College of Medicine at the University of Illinois

Perspective on assisting students to be successful: “Professional school is challenging for all students; however, it is particularly challenging for students of color who may encounter societal myths about their intellectual capabilities and stereotypes about their racial or ethnic groups.”
SEARCHING FOR ANSWERS

PROFILE

James H. Morrissey

James Morrissey was working at the Oklahoma Medical Research Foundation for nearly a decade when Dean Brad Schwartz contacted him in 2000 about a job opening in the College of Medicine. They knew each other because both had trained in the same lab at The Scripps Research Institute, though not at the same time.

"I had only worked at private research foundations until that time," says Dr. Morrissey. "It was an environment where there were a number of researchers focusing on the same blood clotting research, which means you have the advantage of working with like-minded researchers. And because the only mission is research, the infrastructures are often stronger and the facilities are often better. But there is a tradeoff in that you don't have much access to graduate students, and it's a constant struggle to recruit post-doc fellows" whose creativity and commitment adds an important collaborative dimension to the work.

"The reputation of the graduate program really attracted me to Illinois," Dr. Morrissey continues, "and that reputation has turned out to be absolutely true. Bright colleagues take our research in new and exciting directions. At the same time, we have the opportunity to add to the collaborative atmosphere and the body of knowledge."

Sharing Discoveries

Dr. Morrissey’s research focuses on understanding the role of proteins, specifically the protein, tissue factor (TF), in the blood clotting cascade. TF is interesting in that it clots blood outside of the body to keep us from bleeding to death, yet it can cause death if it triggers the formation of blood clots inside the body. "Understanding this protein gives us insight into treating bleeding disorders and thrombotic disease," says Dr. Morrissey.

And some of discoveries stem from the collaborative opportunities that arise on a campus where there are other highly regarded researchers in cross-disciplines. Dr. Morrissey cites the work of Dr. Roberto Docampo, a former faculty member in the University's College of Veterinary Medicine, who while in the course of his work at the University discovered that an inorganic substance was secreted by platelets.

"He knew we were doing work with blood clotting and brought his discovery to our attention," explains Dr. Morrissey. "This inorganic polyphosphate plays a fascinating role in blood clotting, and researching it has the potential to explain some puzzling aspects of how platelets function."

The potential is promising for patients. "We're examining how polyphosphate may be used to treat bleeding and its potential in surgery and trauma," Dr. Morrissey says. "Understanding the proteins that are the major cause of death and disability for the majority of people brings us closer to developing new tools to treat them. And that's very satisfying."

The Facts on James H. Morrissey

Education: B.S., M.S., University of California, Irvine
Ph.D., University of California, San Diego
Postdoc: Oxford University; The Scripps Research Institute

Current responsibilities: Professor of biochemistry

Research interests: Understanding how cells initiate and regulate the blood clotting cascade

Perspective on University-wide collaboration: "Bright colleagues take our research in new and exciting directions. At the same time, we have the opportunity to add to the collaborative atmosphere and the body of knowledge."

Envisioning the Future
Janet Reis

As a psychologist, Janet Reis has taken on research projects that run the gamut from maternal-child health to alcohol consumption to disparities in health care delivery to computer-based initiatives that educate patients and families. While the topics certainly are wide-ranging, there is a strong connecting theme to Dr. Reis’ work—namely, finding ways to inform the broader public about ways to improve their health.

She’s been doing just that for more than 28 years as a social scientist and health researcher. And now in her role with the College of Medicine, Dr. Reis is bringing her expertise to a College pilot research program for clinical investigators.

This initiative provides funding and support for pilot research projects developed by clinical faculty. Dr. Reis works with residents and senior clinicians in the implementation of their projects, the ideas for which come from their direct work with patients.

“In a clinical practice, there are questions and issues that physicians hear about on a daily basis from their patients,” says Dr. Reis. “Helping the clinicians to develop a study that will provide answers to those questions and improve the patient’s experience or their health is very satisfying. My background and training in social science methodology help facilitate that.”

Human Behavior and Health Care

The projects Dr. Reis has been involved with in this program are as wide-ranging as the research she has worked on throughout her career. For instance, a study led by Bharat Gopal, M.D., in the Family Medicine Residency Program, is examining what barriers limit patients with type 2 diabetes in following through on key self-management behaviors. A project undertaken by Janet Jokela, M.D., associate director of the Internal Medicine Residency Program, will test residents’ knowledge of health phrases used by Midwesterners (e.g., “Will I kick the bucket?”) to determine what education is needed to increase residents’ understanding. Dr. Reis is also assisting Christian Wagner, M.D., head of the Department of Family Medicine, in developing a descriptive survey to examine how the stresses of farming impact health and the coping strategies of farm families.

In addition, Dr. Reis assists with the implementation of the Gateway to Scholarly Activity in Family Medicine program, which is an initiative designed to assist pre-clinical medical students in obtaining an introduction to clinical research. Students are matched with experienced clinicians and/or basic scientists on an original or ongoing research project. Dr. Reis helps the students define their project, usher it through the necessary approval channels, and assemble a summary report.

“Our campus is expanding its involvement in translational research,” says Dr. Reis. “And I enjoy being part of the collaborative environment. Clinicians don’t have the exposure to social science methodology that is required for some of these research projects, and they certainly don’t have time to take it all on themselves. It’s gratifying to be able to assist the College, the clinicians, and the profession in this way.”

The Facts on Janet Reis

**Education:** B.A. in psychology, The Johns Hopkins University; Ph.D. in psychology, State University of New York at Buffalo

NIMH Postdoc in psychology, Northwestern University

**Career history:** Faculty, SUNY School of Nursing; research staff, Northwestern University’s Center for Health Services and Policy Research; visiting research scientist in the Center for Disease Control’s branch on Behavioral Research and Interventions for Sexually Transmitted Diseases; joined the University of Illinois Department of Community Health in 1988; began work with the College of Medicine in 2004

**Current responsibilities:** Professor, Department of Family Medicine, Clinical Affairs, College of Medicine; professor, Human & Community Development

**Perspective on collaborating with clinical faculty:** “I’m very much drawn to the opportunity to facilitate research with the clinicians. It begins with issues that physicians identify in their practice and leads to improving an aspect of a patient’s experience.”
Steven K. Clinton

Steven Clinton was working on his Ph.D. at Cornell University when his advisor, Willard Visek, came to him with an opportunity. Dr. Visek had just accepted a position at the University of Illinois and wondered if Clinton would be interested in joining him. Little did the then-Ph.D. student know that the migration west would open his eyes to a biomedical career beyond the laboratory.

“This was actually the best stroke of good luck that could befall someone,” says Dr. Clinton. “When I started graduate school, I anticipated a career as a biological scientist, but in moving to Illinois and working with Dr. Visek I had increased exposure and access to clinical medicine. I came to recognize the enormous gap between what I was doing at the laboratory bench and clinical research or patient care. I became concerned that if I spent my whole career working with cells in the incubator or laboratory animals that it might take a long time to see the science translated into human applications. So I decided to invest another decade in the medical training.”

As a result, Dr. Clinton has devoted nearly two decades focusing on bench to bedside research, first at Dana-Farber Cancer Institute in Boston and now at The Ohio State University Comprehensive Cancer Center. His clinical efforts focus on prostate and genitourinary oncology, with a major goal of providing patients with access to the latest clinical trials in cancer prevention and therapy. Among the many studies was the recently completed national Prostate Cancer Prevention Trial (PCPT), a phase III study of finasteride or placebo for prostate cancer prevention. “The PCPT indicates that finasteride reduces risk by 25 percent, but there may be some risks as well,” Dr. Clinton says. “Yet the reduction in cancer diagnosis was enormous, clearly indicating the prostate cancer risk can be impacted dramatically and that ongoing efforts to define combinations of safe and effective agents should be successful.”

In addition to his clinical role, Dr. Clinton serves as the program leader for the Cancer Center’s Molecular Carcinogenesis and Chemoprevention Program, an interdisciplinary program that integrates the efforts of 35 scientists in cancer biology with those in agriculture, food science, and nutrition. The focus of the program is to understand the mechanisms underlying the development of cancer and defining prevention strategies. Currently, investigators are studying how foods such as raspberries, tomatoes, soy, and broccoli, as well as novel natural and synthetic pharmaceutical agents, impact human cancer prevention.

Carrying the Mission Forward

Dr. Clinton attributes much of his success to having some great mentors and collaborators, several from Urbana-Champaign. Until Dr. Visek’s retirement, they continuously worked on projects together, and in the last decade he’s collaborated on NIH-funded projects with Dr. John Erdman, a University of Illinois professor of nutritional sciences and internal medicine.

“I’m profoundly grateful for the experience I had at Illinois,” says Dr. Clinton. “We had passionate teachers in the basic sciences who were really enthused about the medical program, and then we had very good clinical mentors in the local hospitals who were committed, compassionate, and provided an excellent standard of care. I had the opportunity to experience good medicine coupled with good science.”

Now he’s hoping to provide the same for others. “I see one of my roles for the future as being a mentor for younger physician-scientists,” Dr. Clinton says. “We need their energy, creativity, and ability to think outside the box. These young minds challenge us to see things in new ways and to take the next step in moving laboratory science to the bedside. I want to help them carry the mission forward the way Dr. Visek and the U of I helped me.”

The Facts on Steven K. Clinton

**Education:** B.S. in biological sciences, State University of New York M.D. (1984) and Ph.D. in nutritional sciences (1978), University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Internship and residency in internal medicine, University of Chicago Hospitals and Clinics

Fellowship in medical oncology, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, The Brigham and Women’s Hospital, Harvard Medical School

**Current responsibilities:** Program leader for molecular carcinogenesis and chemoprevention, The Ohio State University Comprehensive Cancer Center, and director of prostate and genitourinary oncology for the Division of Hematology and Medical Oncology, Department of Internal Medicine and The James Cancer Hospital

**Perspective on conducting cancer research at Ohio State:**

“This is a unique environment because we have an NIH-designated Comprehensive Cancer Center, The James Cancer Hospital, as well as a College of Agriculture and a Department of Human Nutrition all on one campus. It allows for ‘crops-to-clinic’ research where we can weave together these usually disparate endeavors into a unified approach to cancer prevention.”
Meredith Barnes knew when she entered the Medical Scholars Program (MSP) that she would have the opportunity to meet some very interesting people with diverse backgrounds and scientific interests. But she couldn’t have predicted just how interesting—or famous—some of those people would be.

As one of 68 American students selected to attend the 57th Lindau Meeting of Nobel Laureates and Students, and the first student from the College to have this opportunity, Meredith spent five days in Germany this summer attending roundtable discussions and lectures with Nobel Prize-winning scientists from around the world.

“It was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity,” says Meredith. “The highlight for me was speaking with the Laureates one on one. They were excited and genuinely interested in talking to students. They wanted to make sure we knew they were just like us. They had once been graduate students whose experiments never worked, and they suffered setbacks and failures in their professional careers like everyone else.”

“Although most of us view the Prize as an award that recognizes the culmination of one’s work, most of the Laureates view it as a new opportunity,” continues Meredith. “By placing them in the international spotlight, the Laureates are able to use their new position as a platform to advance not only science, but social change as well. All of them emphasized the importance of science education worldwide and the need for greater collaboration and sharing among researchers.”

**Inspiration for the Future**

Meredith’s Laureate experience provides added inspiration for an already motivated MSP student. With her Ph.D. in nutritional science and her first year of medical school completed, Meredith is looking to combine her love for teaching and research by pursuing an academic medicine position after finishing her medical training.

“I do very basic animal research now on how the brain senses changes in glucose in diabetic patients,” she explains. “As we better understand how the system breaks down, we can target therapies that prevent issues for these patients. In the future, I hope to build on that research, doing more clinical translational research as well as teaching medical students and graduate students.”

And as she negotiates that path, Meredith says she’ll keep in mind the advice Nobel Laureate Gunter Blobel’s offered at the meeting: “Failure is essential for success, so long as it is a stimulus for new ideas.”
Lance Becker

When Lance Becker graduated with his medical degree from the University of Illinois in 1981, he knew he wanted to pursue a career in emergency medicine. However, training in the emergency medicine field at that time was not as rigorous as it is today, and so he followed the advice of his mentors and completed his internship and residency in internal medicine instead.

The mentors were right. The training in internal medicine was first rate at Michael Reese, but still Dr. Becker wanted to work emergency medicine into his residency. So he took the initiative, creating an opportunity to complete an elective in trauma at Cook County Hospital.

It wasn’t the first time he found a creative way to pursue his passion, and it wouldn’t be the last. In fact, that elective led to Dr. Becker’s interest in studying the incidence of cardiac arrest across the city, the culmination of which was the CPR Chicago project. That, in turn, led to his interest in emergency medicine research. And today that pursuit has landed him at the brand new translational laboratory building at the University of Pennsylvania, where he is director of the Center for Resuscitation Science.

Pursuing a Research Path

“Resuscitation as a science is really brand new,” says Dr. Becker. “It started with the advent of modern CPR in the late 1950s and has just focused on defibrillation and CPR since that time. But now there is a convergence of science that suggests that we aren’t getting the results we need and that we can do far better. This is what my work is all about.”

And it is work that’s earned him national recognition. As a staff physician at Michael Reese, he initiated the CPR Chicago project, which studied the out-of-hospital cardiac arrests cared for by the Chicago Emergency Medical services system from January 1, 1987 to December 31, 1988. The results of the study indicated that the survival rate in these cases was a dismal 1.8 percent.

“These results were a wake-up call to the whole country,” Dr. Becker explains. “And it got me thinking, ‘What are we missing here?’ Even if CPR can double or triple survival rates, an 8 to 9 percent survival rate still isn’t good enough. It seemed to me that we needed to take a fresh look, and I decided to approach it by examining cells.”

But before he could do that, he needed to convince a skeptical Arthur Rubenstein, the chairman of Dr. Becker’s department at the University of Chicago, that he could undertake such a scientific challenge. By his own admission, Dr. Becker didn’t have the basic science background to conduct this kind of research, but his tenacity about creating a lab, the promise of the research, and a $50,000 donation from Jay Pritzker, whom Dr. Becker had resuscitated years earlier, created the opportunity to move forward.

“He [Arthur Rubenstein] was adamant that I would work with mentors on this project because of my lack of basic science background,” Dr. Becker says. Radovan Zak and Paul Schumacher became those mentors. “They were highly respected scientists. It was the hardest time of my life trying to learn this basic science so rapidly and still continuing to

The Facts on Lance B. Becker

**Education:** B.G.S., in general studies, University of Michigan

M.D., University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Internship and residency in internal medicine, Michael Reese Hospital and Medical Center, Chicago

**Career path:** Emergency room physician and director of research in emergency medicine, first at Michael Reese Hospital (1981-1989) and then at the University of Chicago Hospital (1989-1999); director, Emergency Resuscitation Center, University of Chicago and Argonne National Laboratory (1999-2006)

**Current responsibilities:** Director, Center for Resuscitation Science, Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania, Department of Emergency Medicine

**Perspective on cardiac arrest and cellular reperfusion injury:** “Conventional thinking has been that once we’ve restarted the heart, we’ve done our job. But I believe we’re going to find out that there is ongoing cell injury after reperfusion and that there will be much more that we can do after the fact to improve outcomes.”
practice emergency medicine.” But, as he explains, it led to some exciting research.

“We did an experiment taking heart cells that were beating on glass and exposed them to cardiac arrest. The cells stopped beating, but they didn’t die. We monitored them for cell death, but it wasn’t until we reintroduced oxygen that the cells started dying rapidly.”

**Beyond Conventional Thinking**

These results certainly challenged conventional thinking. But there is evidence that this hypothesis about cellular reperfusion injury has merit. According to Dr. Becker, another study has shown that hypothermia improves brain function and survival even 4 to 8 hours after cardiac arrest.

“This study was a human example that actually nailed down the notion that there is ongoing cell injury and that cooling treatment actually made people better. This is promising research. Now we have to find other reperfusion therapies that will improve outcomes.”

And that’s just what Dr. Becker is doing in his work at the University of Pennsylvania, where the dean of the medical school, the same Arthur Rubenstein, is now fully convinced of the merits of Dr. Becker’s research.

“The University of Pennsylvania is a wonderfully collaborative and collegial environment,” says Dr. Becker. “Here we have an engineering school, a vet med school, and a nursing school, all of which are first rate and add to the opportunity to advance the research in this area. Penn is massive in physicality, but more than that there is a largeness of thinking in this environment. We’re going to do phenomenal things here. I just don’t know what they are yet.”

**Roxy the lab pet.**
Institute for Chemistry Literacy through Computational Science

Jim Sparks has attended dozens of workshops in his 29 years as a science teacher. But it wasn’t until this summer when he participated in the inaugural workshop as a fellow with the University of Illinois’ Institute for Chemistry Literacy through Computational Science (ICLCS) that research scientists were on the list of speakers.

“The opportunity to hear from researchers and professors about their work and how to better prepare our high school students for college chemistry and scientific careers is important to us as teachers and a key to success for our students,” says Sparks, who teaches honors chemistry in the Mattoon school district.

As one of 52 teachers in the first cadre of ICLCS fellows, Sparks is part of a unique collaboration that offers exposure to researchers—and a whole lot more. The ICLCS project, developed by the College of Medicine, the National Center for Supercomputing Applications, and the Department of Chemistry, and funded by the National Science Foundation, is designed to build teachers’ competence and confidence in teaching chemistry, to teach them how to use computational and visualization tools and methods in their curriculum, to develop teacher leaders who will become advocates for excellence in math and science, and to create a community of practice among research faculty and teachers that helps prepare students for the 21st century.

Team Chemistry

According to Diana Dummitt, the College’s associate director of development and a co-PI for the ICLCS project, serving the people of Illinois in this way helps meet the mission of a land grant University as well as the goals of the College.

“Preparing students for careers in medicine and biomedical research can’t just begin when they come to the University,” she says. “ICLCS provides rural districts with the tools and the teacher training to give their students access to a 21st century science education. And as a College, it gives us an opportunity to play an integral role in working collaboratively with other departments to deliver that education.”
And how will it be delivered? The two-week summer institute was the first step in introducing teachers to the computational and visualization tools they can use in their classroom, tools like Excel and WebMO. In addition, there is a MOODLE tool and the Access Grid, which will allow teachers to communicate electronically with each other throughout the year and for ICLCS to post information on topics of interest, from curriculum to leadership. Teachers will also have the support of the Institute's technical and administrative staff. Plus, they will have each other.

“It will be extremely beneficial for me to have a team of colleagues I can contact throughout the school year,” says Sparks. “In my district we have 1,000 students and one other general chemistry teacher. In some districts, there is only one chemistry teacher who probably teaches other science classes as well. These communications tools provide us all with a wide base of colleague support, which will be very helpful.”

Local Program, National Implications

The second cadre of teachers in the ICLCS project will begin their training next summer, bringing the expected number of participants to 120. Having two groups is integral to evaluating the success of the program in meeting its objectives.

Dr. Kathleen Bergin, a program director for the Math and Science Partnership at NSF, says that the evaluation component, which is one of the criteria by which proposals are rated, is especially strong in the ICLCS project.

“In education, it’s very difficult to do quasi-experimental design because you don’t have large numbers,” she says. “The Illinois proposal was especially strong in this regard in that they are using an experimental control, with the second cohort serving as the control for the first.”

According to Bergin that’s just one of the project’s strengths. “This proposal also stood out because of the infusion of computational and visualization tools. These are cutting-edge technologies which will be used to deepen teacher knowledge in chemistry and will allow these students to look at the molecular level in a way that other students can’t. We want to know the difference it makes to have these tools available to students and to have these scientists available to teachers. Although it’s an Illinois program, NSF looks at its partnerships as research and development efforts that have national learning implications as well as local.”

A Vision for the Future

High school students and teachers aren’t the only beneficiaries of the ICLCS project. University faculty members also have much to gain in sharing their expertise, learning from the process, and even using the experience to further develop University curriculum.

“The Dean has a vision for the College’s role in fostering the collaborations that lead to beneficial partnerships for high school teachers and their students as well as our faculty and students,” Dummitt says. “And this project is part of that vision. We will continue to look for ways to bring chemistry alive to students by bringing in applications from crop sciences, genetics, animal breeding, biofuels, as well as human disease and therapeutics. We want to be leaders in helping to create a scientifically literate 21st century workforce.”
Peter Rohloff

Peter Rohloff’s current work in Guatemala is what he refers to as “an experiment in listening.” And early indications are that it’s an experiment that’s working.

Over the past six years, Dr. Rohloff has split his time volunteering as a public health volunteer in the Central American country and pursuing his M.D./Ph.D. in Champaign-Urbana. Now he has committed the next year to living full-time in Guatemala as the executive director of Wuqu’ Kawoq, an NGO that provides what Dr. Rohloff describes as a new model for delivering health care—one that “works at the boundaries of linguistics and medicine.”

The model is all about listening, and that means knowing the language of your patients. For Dr. Rohloff, that means speaking Kaqchikel, one of the many Mayan languages spoken in Guatemala.

“There is no substitute for speaking someone’s language,” says Dr. Rohloff. “It’s central to building the trust needed to improve health care outcomes for people. Medical anthropology literature says that the Mayan way is different than the Western way, and that’s why Mayans don’t want Western treatments. Actually, I have found that there is no mistrust of Western medical remedies, just mistrust of Western doctors because they don’t know Mayan languages and can’t listen to the patient.”

**Talking the Talk**

Mastering the language has been integral to the success of the work Dr. Rohloff has undertaken, including the opening of several clinics and the upcoming distribution of a medical, self-help book he is writing in Kaqchikel.

“It’s really a myth that it’s difficult to learn a language,” he says. “Physicians have mastered an immense body of knowledge, so it’s no stretch to believe they are capable of mastering a language. In fact, it is more important for physicians to have language competence than medical competence if they are to truly gain the trust of their patients.”

And gaining their trust is just what Dr. Rohloff and his colleagues have been able to do. “Our model remains listening to what people are asking for and doing what they ask us to do. We go where we are invited, and we spend a lot of time on house calls. It may be inefficient, but it works.”

The 2,000 patients who visit one of the recently opened clinics Dr. Rohloff manages are proof that it works. “You can’t understate the importance of language fluency in serving patients, and that’s as true in Los Angeles as here,” he says. “The results are measurable and often stunning. For instance, we have found that diabetic patients are much more likely to adhere to prescribed regimens when the provider can listen and speak the language. Again, it all comes down to trust.”
Russell Horwitz

Russell Horwitz was looking for an opportunity to go abroad to do his dissertation work in medical ethics when he came across information on the National Institutes of Health Fogarty/Ellison Overseas Fellowship in Global Health & Clinical Research. As a Ph.D. student in community health who had finished his third year of medical school, he met the criteria and applied to go to Haiti to examine the consent process for NIH-funded HIV vaccine trials being conducted at an HIV/AIDS clinic in Port-au-Prince.

That was in 2004. Three years later his initial work on informed consent and ethics research has led to a passion for a broader project, specifically the study of the incidence of rape, the attitudes surrounding it, as well as interventions and prevention.

Attitudes and Behavior

Just before Dr. Horwitz arrived in Haiti, the president of the country had been ousted, resulting in a period of civil chaos. The incidence of women reporting rape and seeking HIV testing rose dramatically, leading Dr. Horwitz and his colleagues to learn much more than research ethics.

“Anecdotal evidence suggested that there were people, women included, who believed that there were reasons why women could deserve to be raped,” says Dr. Horwitz. “Attitudes are predictive of behavior, and I’d like to conduct further research aimed at measuring attitudes, specifically measuring moral disengagement and behavior. With that information as a basis, we can look at possible interventions and grass roots organizations to engage in that effort. The next step would be to measure what interventions are successful and then to do more larger-scale interventions.”

But before he can tackle that public health project, Dr. Horwitz has to adjust to life as a resident. After earning his medical degree this spring, he moved to Boston to begin his residency in psychiatry at Massachusetts General Hospital.

While there, he’s hoping to find a mentor who will help him continue the work he began in Haiti. “We need more data and an examination of communal attitudes versus individual attitudes,” he says. “I’d like to conduct focus groups from the general population and then do semi-structured interviews to measure these attitudes and how predictive they are of behavior.”

And after residency? “I might focus on the post-traumatic effect of rape and what we can do to prevent and treat its victims,” he answers. “Mental health is a neglected area of medicine, and I’ve always wanted to focus my efforts there.”
Nora Zorich

Nora Zorich joined Procter & Gamble in 1989 as a staff scientist, and in the nearly 20 years that have followed, she has been in a unique position to view the changes in the drug development and delivery industry—an industry where prescription prices, over-the-counter products, and consumer demand have created a different climate.

“This is an extremely interesting time to be in this business,” says Dr. Zorich. “There is so much change going on and drug development is under incredible scrutiny, which makes for enormous challenges. It is very different from the climate 10 or 15 years ago.”

As the vice president of research and development, Dr. Zorich and her staff works to meet those challenges every day. She has a wealth of experience negotiating with the FDA for drug approvals across a wide range of therapeutic areas, including cardiology, osteoporosis, sexuality, and gastroenterology. She has been responsible for ushering Prilosec and Actonel, an osteoporosis drug, through the FDA approval process, and she is currently working on approval for Intrinsa, a patch for women with low libido.

What’s Ahead?

How is the drug development industry changing to rise above these challenges? “At Procter & Gamble, we’ve recently revamped how we take in new discovery,” says Dr. Zorich. “We’re licensing the compounds from academic researchers who have identified therapeutic drugs. It’s a new model. You have to be absolutely nimble and flexible because old models don’t apply anymore.”

And, according to Dr. Zorich, that philosophy is true for the overall health care environment as well as the academic system that trains health care professionals. “This is a time of redefinition of the whole health care arena,” she says. “The role of the generalist is under serious pressure, and it is not hard to conceive of a future where there is a special clinic you go to just to get a prescription, where stand-alone clinics staffed by RNs and nurse practitioners trained for specific assessment will assist one specialty physician. It is an evolution to address efficiencies and price points, all of which are part and parcel of the overall constraints being put on the current health care system.”

Dr. Zorich believes universities need to prepare their students for these realities, and as a member of the Dean’s Advisory Committee she shares that view and offers advice on shaping programs to respond to those realities. “The College must also be nimble, flexible, and open to change in this environment,” she explains. “Redefinition is required in response to some of these larger issues. And the College is up to the task.”

The Facts on Nora L Zorich

Education: B.S. in chemistry, Bradley University
M.S. in chemistry, Illinois State University
M.D./Ph.D., University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
Residency in internal medicine, University of Illinois

Current responsibilities:
Vice president of research and development for Procter & Gamble, with responsibilities for 650 employees and a $300 million budget

Perspective on the challenges facing the drug development industry: “You have to be absolutely nimble and flexible because old models don’t apply anymore. Who would have thought that there would be this marriage between traditional drug delivery and consumer demand. It means looking at things in a whole new way.”
Richard Christiansen

When Richard Christiansen completed his medical training at the University Hospital of Cleveland in 1971, he moved to Rockford, intrigued by the opportunity to practice medicine and to be on the ground floor of a new site for the University of Illinois College of Medicine.

“I’m very grateful to the College because it gave me so many opportunities in academic medicine,” says Dr. Christiansen. “I had responsibilities for curriculum, administration, and teaching, and I was able to do a sabbatical in Asia, which is a very rare opportunity for a practicing physician. The experience challenged all of us to find ways to be creative in education. Plus, it provided an opportunity to have interaction with some incredibly bright people.”

According to Dr. Christiansen, the challenge to be creative is especially true when it comes to overcoming the widespread geography inherent in a College with multiple sites. “Pulling all of the faculty together to work in concert offers the best chance to create the most innovative curriculum,” he says. That’s why he and his wife, Nancy, have supported the endowment fund for the Introduction to Human Disease course, which started in 1998.

“The course occurs in Urbana, but it involves faculty from all sites in developing and implementing it,” Dr. Christiansen explains. “People like Glenn Miller in Peoria, Janet Jokela in Urbana, and Phil Zimmerman in Rockford, for instance. The College will reach its full potential as it continues to bring the faculty resources of all the sites together.”

Committed to the Profession

Though retired from practice, Dr. Christiansen continues his work in academic medicine, serving as an adjunct clinical associate professor at the University of Illinois at Chicago College of Nursing, a visiting professor of medicine at the University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health, and professor of medicine at the University of Illinois at Chicago.

In addition, he is the director of physician assessment for the Office of Continuing Professional Development at the University of Wisconsin Medical School. It’s work that involves developing profiles of physicians’ practices, putting together physician performance testing systems to be sure the physicians are meeting the performance criteria of the practice, and disseminating this information back to the credentialing agency that requested it.

“Professionals must be held to a set of standards, and we’re working to develop a form of assessment that can measure how an experienced physician meets the criteria of his or her practice in terms of skill levels, not just knowledge. As the health care system comes under increasing pressure to be more efficient, the system must be more accountable. This is one important way we can do that.”

The Facts on Richard G. Christiansen

Education:
B.S., University of Wisconsin
M.D., University of Pennsylvania
Internship/Residency/Nephrology Fellowship, University Hospital of Cleveland

Career history:
Joined the University of Illinois College of Medicine at Rockford in 1971, where he was chair of the Department of Medicine from 1981 to 2001; practiced internal medicine and nephrology until 1995; continues to lecture and teach medical students at Rockford and Urbana

Current responsibilities:
Director of physician assessment, Office of Continuing Professional Development, University of Wisconsin Medical School

Perspective on supporting the endowment for the Introduction to Human Disease course: “The course is designed to help students make the transition from layperson to professional. But it has a second purpose as well that I think is very important, and that is to get the faculty from all sites working together to assist students in this transition.”
Kenneth A. Poirier

Kenneth Poirier may not have attended the College of Medicine, but his work as a Ph.D. student in nutritional science and his connection to one of the College’s first clinical faculty members created a strong tie just the same.

“My professional development was largely influenced by my graduate advisor in nutritional science, Dr. John Milner, who was influenced by his graduate advisor, Dr. Willard Visek,” explains Dr. Poirier. “Based on John’s recommendation, I chose Dr. Visek to be on my advisory committee, and as I got to know him I came to greatly appreciate his professional expertise and his personality. There was great camaraderie between the students in his lab and John’s, which certainly was an added benefit for all of us.”

So when Dr. Visek established a fund in the College to create an annual lectureship on nutrition and medicine, Dr. Poirier generously provided financial support. “I really appreciate what Dr. Visek did for John and for me, and I wanted to recognize the value of those relationships,” he says.

Joining Dr. Poirier in that support is his wife, Dr. Barbara Kochanowski, who also earned a Ph.D. in nutritional science from the University of Illinois and is currently the director of research and development for personal care products at Procter & Gamble.

Building a Strong Portfolio of Skills

Dr. Poirier came to Dr. Milner’s lab in 1977 thinking he’d be working on amino acid research, but Dr. Milner had another idea. “John wanted to begin research on selenium and cancer, and that gave me the chance to be on the ground floor of that work,” says Dr. Poirier. “It wasn’t exactly the path I had in mind when I came, but it proved to be a wonderful experience and one that taught me to take advantage of the opportunities to build new skills.”

And that’s been something Dr. Poirier has been doing ever since. With experience in the public and private sectors as well as work with a nonprofit group and now his own consulting firm, Dr. Poirier has expanded his skills as a nutritional chemist to include expertise in toxicology, risk assessment, and product safety. He uses that knowledge to assist clients in developing preclinical safety programs, preparing risk assessment documentation for FDA submission, and managing placement of studies at external contract labs.

“I’ve built on the knowledge I’ve gained at each opportunity, and much of that I attribute to the interdisciplinary nature of my experience as a Ph.D. student at the University of Illinois. Certainly, the academic training in nutritional science was excellent, but, just as importantly, the interdisciplinary training laid the foundation for my ability to adapt to change and to continue to build a strong portfolio of skills.”
Barbara Haegele

The Office of Public Affairs and Advancement covers a lot of ground. Among their many responsibilities, the three-person team coordinates the College’s publications, organizes alumni and community events, handles media relations for the College, responds to grant opportunities, manages donor relations, and organizes Convocation.

Barbara Haegele, the Office’s staff secretary, has a hand in all of it. It’s a job that calls for a lot of flexibility and attention to detail. As assistant editor of publications, Barb compiles, writes, and proofreads much of the content in *Lifeline*, the College’s magazine, as well as the College’s information book, the Convocation program, and other event programs. As assistant to Madeleine Jaehne, the College’s director of advancement, she works on the details of everything from calendar coordination to the alumni database to event menus and invitations. And her computer skills come in handy in assisting Diana Dummitt, associate director of development, with grant writing and submission.

Because of the variety of the duties, it’s difficult for Barb to pick a favorite task. “It really depends on what we’re doing at the time,” she explains. “I get a chance to interact with lots of different people and use lots of different skills, which is professionally satisfying. But I have to say that organizing convocation is certainly at the top of the list because you get to help the students celebrate a huge milestone with their families. I also enjoy the sense of accomplishment you get when a publication is complete and you have it in your hands.”

Getting Things Done

Though Barb joined the College staff in 2003, she has 14 years of experience at the University. And that tenure provides a level of knowledge about the system that comes in handy. Add to that the contacts Barb has made from her membership in The Secretariat, an organization that has been providing professional and social opportunities for non-academic University employees for nearly 60 years, and you have a person who knows who to talk to, how to get things done, and where to go to get the right resources.

Barb is grateful to work with such a great team and to have an opportunity to meet a large cross-section of people. “We have such a diverse group of people that we work with and events that we work on,” she says. “I get to work with the community when we plan the Community Medical School, high school students with the Future Physicians Program, and even younger students when we recently hosted the National Science Olympiad. With faculty in different departments across campus, I get to work with the larger University community as well. It’s a great fit to be in an interesting position surrounded by interesting people.”
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Sari Gilman Aronson, M.D., Head of Psychiatry and Clinical Professor of Internal Medicine, received the University of Illinois College of Medicine at Urbana-Champaign, Innovation in Education Award. In addition, the 2007 graduating seniors asked her to bring the “Remarks from the Faculty” and serve as a hooder during the 2007 Convocation.


Jennifer L. Bloom, Ed.D., Associate Dean for Student Affairs and the Medical Scholars Program, received the Special Recognition Award during the 2007 Convocation and Awards Ceremony. She was elected President of the National Academic Advising Association. In addition, Dr. Bloom received the UIUC Chancellor’s Academic Professional Excellence Award in April 2007.

Mary Buetow, M.D., D.O., Head of Pediatrics, received the Distinguished Alumna Award from the College of Notre Dame of Maryland at the Honors Convocation on the college’s Baltimore campus. She is valued for her medical expertise and her groundbreaking work in the area of assessing child abuse.

Kathleen Collins, M.D., Clinical Assistant Professor of Internal Medicine, was awarded the 2007 Excellence in Teaching Award from the College of Medicine, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

Robert Dantzer, D.O., Professor of Pathology, was named Principal Investigator of a National Institutes of Health grant to assist with AIDS research until 2011. He was also named Director of the UIUC Integrative Immunology & Behavior Program. Dr. Dantzer has been invited to three international conferences to speak on various medical topics. In addition, nine of his papers have been recently published.

Gregory G. Freund, M.D., Head of Pathology and Director of Cytopathology at Carle Clinic Laboratory, received the Research Physician Recognition Award from Carle Foundation Hospital in 2007.

Jeffrey Galvan, M.D., Clinical Instructor of Obstetrics and Gynecology, was awarded the Association of Professors of Gynecology and Obsterics Excellence in Teaching Award.

Martha L.U. Gillette, Ph.D., Head of Cell and Structural Biology, is serving as President of the Society for the Study of Biological Rhythms, 2006-2008. Dr. Gillette also served as Associate Editor for the journal, SLEEP, in 2006.


Anil Gopinath, M.D., F.A.C.P., C.P.E., Clinical Assistant Professor of Internal Medicine, became a Fellow of the American College of Physicians last summer. He received the Award of Academic Achievement in Medical Management from the American College of Physician Executives. In addition, he became a certified Physician Executive, giving him a level of excellence within the medical management profession to effectively lead an organization, in October of 2006.

Masoor Kamalesh, M.D., F.A.C.C., F.A.C.P., Associate Professor of Internal Medicine, served on the editorial board of the Journal of the American Society of Echocardiography.

Julia Kellman, Ph.D., Associate Professor with Psychiatry, presented papers, including; Art, Time, and Illness: Travel Beyond the Pillars of Hercules and Planning for Adult Visual Arts Education Programs at professional meetings. She is currently an editor for Reaching and Teaching the Child with Autism Through Art. Dr. Kellman serves as a founding partner in Community Campus Partnerships for Health and Healing.

Napoleon Knight, M.D., Assistant Professor of Surgery, received the 2007 Carle Foundation Hospital Community Recognition Award. He was also an invited speaker at the World Research Group Conference, “Implementing Technology to Improve Quality of Care and Achieve Physician Buy-in.”
Karen Chapman-Novakofski, R.D., L.D.N., Ph.D., Alumni Award recipient for the Art of Medicine Award. was selected as the recipient of the first College of Medicine Kirk Moberg, M.D., Ph.D., Professor of Internal Medicine, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. of Medicine, was the recipient of the 2007 Exceptional Contribution to Psychiatry Award from the Department of Psychiatry, College of Medicine, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

Thomas Minogue, M.D., Clinical Assistant Professor of Psychiatry, was the recipient of the 2007 Teacher of the Year Award from the Department of Psychiatry.

Milton McAllister, Ph.D., Clinical Associate Professor of Pathobiology, was selected by the class of 2009 to receive the Raymond B. Allen Instructorship (Golden Apple) Award.

Raymond B. Allen Instructorship (Golden Apple) Award.

Karen Chapman-Novakofski, R.D., L.D.N., Ph.D., Associate Professor of Internal Medicine, received the Outstanding Research paper award and the Distinguished Service award from the American Dietetic Association during the annual convention in Honolulu, Hawaii in September of 2007. She also received the 2007 John Clyde and Henrietta Downey Spitler Teaching Award from the College of ACES.

Uretz J. Oliphant, M.D., Head of Surgery and Clinical Associate Professor of Internal Medicine, was selected by the class of 2007 to receive the Raymond B. Allen Instructorship (Golden Apple) Award.

Leslie J. Reagan, Ph.D., M.A., Associate Professor with Basic Sciences Administration and History, spent an academic year at University of California Berkeley with the Science, Technology and Society Center and the Beatrice Main Research Group. Her book Medicine’s Moving Pictures: Medicine, Bodies, and Health in American Film and Television, edited by Nancy Tomes, Paula A Treichler, and Dr. Reagan. Published by the University of Rochester Press in September 2007. Included in the book is her own article, Projecting Breast Cancer: Self-Examination Films and the Making of a New Cultural Practice. In addition, she presented numerous research seminars and lectures covering topics, such as, the German Measles vaccination and disability, and midwifery and abortion at several conferences and organizations including the American Association for the History of Medicine, and the 2007 meeting of the National Advocates for Pregnant Women.

Thomas Scaggs, M.D., Assistant Professor of Surgery, spoke at the Air Medical Transport Conference, an international conference in Tampa, Florida, in September 2007. His lecture was entitled Critical Thinking in Crunch Time.

Feiteng Su, M.D., Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Psychiatry, received the 2007 Teacher of the Year Award from the Department of Psychiatry.
Class of 2007 Special Tribute Award

Kathy Carlson

For nearly three decades, Kathy Carlson has been a friendly face to frenzied students looking for help with their schedules, applications, and other such daunting tasks. Her ability to navigate these often complicated processes and to do so with a smile and understanding makes her an extremely valuable student advocate. To recognize her work on their behalf, the Class of 2007 has chosen Kathy as this year’s Special Tribute honoree.

Kathy began her work in the College of Medicine in 1980 as the staff secretary for the Medical Scholars Program. The MSP had only been in existence for two years at the time, so Kathy has had the opportunity to see a fledgling program grow into a model for excellence in physician-scholar education.

Now the secretary to Dean of Students, Kathy works directly with MSP and traditional students to assist them with clerkship schedules and residency applications—a process that has changed significantly in her 27-year tenure. “When I first came we made hundreds and hundreds of copies of residency applications, all of which had to be individually signed and mailed,” she says. “It was a very time-consuming administrative task. But about 10 years ago we started using the ERAS program, and it has really streamlined the process because it is now all done on computer, both the application submission and the matching.”

According to Graham Huesmann of the Class of 2007, Kathy’s help has been invaluable. “Scheduling can be exceptionally complicated when we’re doing our rotations,” he says. “She keeps track of everything, coordinates it all for us, and is a calming influence at a time when we need it most. She seems to be able to make magic happen with our schedules and offers great advice. She has a lot of experience and she uses it to help us every day.”

To Kathy, that’s the priority. “Our job is to make things easier for the students,” Kathy says. “They are the lifeblood of the College, and I feel so fortunate to be in a position to help them and to get to know them personally,” she says. “They are an absolutely amazing group of people that you come to care for as your own. It’s always a sad day for me when they graduate and move on.”

In Memoriam

Thomas E. Gamble, Ph.D., passed away on November 7, 2006. Dr. Gamble was the first Dean for Student Affairs for the College of Medicine.

Paul C. Lauterbur, Ph.D., passed away on March 27, 2007. Dr. Lauterbur was a professor in the Department of Chemistry with a joint appointment in the College of Medicine. He won the Nobel Prize in Medicine or Physiology in 2003.

Leo Perucca, M.D., passed away on October 20, 2006. He was a physician at Carle Clinic Association for 35 years and on the faculty of the College of Medicine since 1972.
Special Recognition Award
Jennifer L. Bloom

In 1986, the University of Illinois College of Medicine at Urbana-Champaign established a Special Recognition Award to honor individuals who have provided outstanding contributions or service to the College. In 2007, the Special Recognition Award recipient is Jennifer L. Bloom, Ed.D.

In her 12 years with the College of Medicine, Jenny Bloom has had several titles—first she served as coordinator of the Medical Scholars Program, then its assistant director, associate director, and administrative director, before being named associate dean for student affairs when the MSP and student affairs offices merged in 2003. But while those have been her official titles, colleagues and students who have worked with Jenny say it’s her role as a committed student advocate and advisor that is truly at the heart of her work.

And for Jenny, it’s that opportunity to assist students that brings the greatest satisfaction. “To me, the heart and soul of this work has been and always will be the students,” she says. “We are so blessed because we have amazing students in our program. They are extremely talented, committed, and motivated. Working with them is an absolute joy.”

But Jenny doesn’t just work with them, she works for them, streamlining processes, initiating creative programming, and solving problems—all skills she’s been honing since she began advising students in 1989 while working on her master’s degree in athletic administration. “I absolutely feel in love with advising and knew that’s what I wanted to do,” she says. So she continued working with students while pursuing her doctorate in educational organization and leadership, a degree she received in 1995, just before joining the College.

Jenny’s passion for working with the students has meant assisting them when they are applying for residencies, trouble-shooting for them when there are issues, and, most importantly, building relationships. Her work has resulted in programmatic improvements such as a more student-friendly admissions process, the Bench to Bedside Seminar series, the Future Physician-Scholars Seminar series, and Grand Rounds Seminar series. It’s meant finding ways to reach out to underrepresented undergraduate groups, so that they are exposed to the field of medicine, research opportunities, and minority role models.

“This is one of my passions,” says Jenny. “We’ve become known among other MD/PhD programs for our work in recruiting and developing underrepresented minority undergraduate students. Some stay here, and others go elsewhere, which is fine. We can’t do this from a selfish perspective, because you have to be in it for what’s best for the students and sometimes that means going elsewhere. We have mentored three NIH Undergraduate Scholarship winners.”

In addition to her work with the students in the College, Jenny is an adjunct associate professor in the higher education program at Illinois. In this role, she advises nearly 20 master’s students each year and has taught a class on academic advising in that department. Research that she has conducted on the topic of appreciative inquiry in academic advising (i.e., using positive, open-ended questions to build rapport with advisees) is breaking new ground. Her role in this work and her commitment to the profession earned her election as the next president of the National Academic Advising Association (NACADA), a position she will assume in October.

Jenny will be “graduating” along with the Class of 2007, as she leaves the College to join the University of South Carolina as clinical associate professor and director of the master’s degree program in higher education and student affairs. Our gratitude and best wishes go with Jenny and her husband, Steve Sanderson, for their many years of dedication to the College and the students.
Abdel-Moneim M. Attia, M.D.

Dr. Attia earned his medical degree from Cairo University in Egypt. He completed an internship with the Cairo University Hospitals in Egypt and an internal medicine residency at ESKO General Hospital in Egypt. He also completed an internal medicine residency and a renal fellowship at Nassau University Medical Center in East Meadow, New York. Dr. Attia is a staff nephrologists at Carle Clinic Association. As a clinical assistant professor for the College of Medicine, he serves as a preceptor for medical students in the nephrology clerkship elective, provides lectures for medical students and residents and serves as teaching attending for medical students and residents.

Andrew Batey, M.D.

Dr. Batey received his medical degree from the University of Benin in Benin City, Nigeria. He completed an internship at Baptist Hospital in Eku, Nigeria and an adult medicine residency at Scarborough/ Bridlington General Hospital in Scarborough, United Kingdom. He also completed an internal medicine residency at the College of Medicine, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and a GI and hepatology fellowship at the University of Wisconsin in Madison. Currently, he practices at Carle Foundation Hospital and Carle Clinic Association as a staff physician in gastroenterology. As a clinical assistant professor with the College of Medicine, Dr. Batey serves as an office-based clinical practice preceptor for M-1 students, presents lectures for the Pathophysiology and Fundamental Clinical Problems courses for M-2 students and acts as a preceptor for the students in the gastroenterology/hepatology clerkship elective. In addition, he presents lectures for the Internal Medicine Residency Program’s Core Conference Series and provides patient-based work with students. Dr. Batey’s enjoys serving as a research mentor for students and residents.

Neil S. Biegler, M.S.N., C.R.N.A.

Neil Biegler received his master's in nursing and his certified registered nurse anesthetist degrees from Bradley University in Peoria, Illinois. He currently works at Carle and is a teaching associate for the College of Medicine. His responsibilities with the College of Medicine include acting as preceptor under the supervision of an attending anesthesiologist in student electives and the Surgery Core Clerkship.

Ismail A. Bobat, M.S., M.D.

Dr. Bobat earned his master’s degree in chemistry, specializing in biochemistry, from the University of Illinois at Chicago and his medical degree from SABA University School of Medicine in the Netherlands, Antilles. He completed an internal medicine residency at Harbor Hospital Center at the University of Maryland School of Medicine in Baltimore. He also completed a fellowship in pulmonary/critical care medicine and a fellowship in sleep medicine at Wayne State University School of Medicine in Detroit, Michigan. Dr. Bobat is a staff physician in pulmonary/critical care medicine at Provena Covenant Medical Center and the Medical Director of the Sleep Center at Provena. As a clinical assistant professor for the College of Medicine, he enjoys working with the students and is interested in contributing in all areas of teaching in the undergraduate and graduate programs of the College.

Ronald Cossman, M.D.

Dr. Cossman received his medical degree from the University of Michigan Medical School in Ann Arbor, Michigan. He completed post-graduate training at the University of Texas Health Science Center in San Antonio and at the University of Tennessee in Knoxville. Currently, Dr. Cossman practices at Provena Covenant Medical Center. As a clinical instructor for the College of Medicine, his responsibilities include acting as a lecturer and as a preceptor in cardiovascular surgery.
Benjamin P. Davis, M.D.
Dr. Davis earned his medical degree from the University of Illinois at Chicago. He completed an emergency medicine residency at Carolinas Medical Center in Charlotte, North Carolina. Currently, he practices at the Department of Emergency Medicine at Carle Clinic Association. As a clinical instructor for the College of Medicine, his responsibilities include lecturing and acting as a preceptor in emergency medicine.

Ehsan Ghods, D.O.
Dr. Ghods earned his doctor of osteopathic medicine degree from the University of Health Sciences in Kansas City, Missouri and completed post-graduate training at Genesys Regional Medical Center in Grand Blanc, Michigan. He currently practices at the Danville branch of Carle Clinic Association. Dr. Ghods is a clinical instructor with the Department of Family Medicine for the College of Medicine. His responsibilities include acting as a clerkship preceptor for M-3 and M-4 students as they rotate through the family medicine core clerkship. Dr. Ghods’ research interests include osteopathic manipulative medicine and treatment, preventative medicine, and chronic non-healing wounds. He is a member of the American College of Osteopathic Family Physicians and the American Osteopathic Association.

Tamara Gammill Helfer, M.D.
Dr. Helfer received her medical degree from the University of Illinois College of Medicine, Peoria and completed her post-graduate training at the University of Missouri Hospital and Clinics in Columbus, Missouri. Currently, she practices obstetrics and gynecology at Christie Clinic. As a clinical instructor for the College of Medicine, Dr. Helfer’s responsibilities include preceptoring M-3 and M-4 students in the obstetrics and gynecology clerkship.

Irene E. Jensen-MacAllister, Ph.D.
Dr. Jensen-MacAllister earned her Ph.D. in Biochemistry from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. She completed post-graduate training with the departments of Biochemistry, Microbiology, and Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering, also at the University of Illinois. Dr. Jensen-MacAllister is a researcher with the University of Illinois’ Department of Biochemistry. As an adjunct assistant professor for the College of Medicine, she assists Dr. Michael Jakoby on the research project entitled “Exploitation of Thyroid Chemistry for Perchlorate Detection.” She also assists with the design of experiments; executes experiments in the laboratory; prepares results for analysis by the principal investigator and co-investigators; and helps with the preparation of abstracts, posters and manuscripts for presentations at meetings and submission to peer-reviewed journals.

Stuart King, M.D.
Dr. King received his medical degree from the University of Illinois College of Medicine, Peoria. He completed post-graduate training at Duke University Medical Center in Durham, North Carolina and the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor. Currently, he practices at Christie Clinic Association in the Spine and Pain Management Department. As a clinical lecturer for the College of Medicine, his responsibilities include lecturing and acting as a preceptor in anesthesiology and pain management.

Christopher D. Lansford, M.D., F.A.C.S.
Dr. Lansford earned his medical degree from the University of Michigan Medical School in Ann Arbor. He completed a general surgery internship and anotolaryngology/head and neck surgery residency at Duke University in Durham, North Carolina. He also completed a fellowship in head and neck oncologic surgery and microvascular reconstruction at the University of Michigan Health System. Dr. Lansford currently practices in the Department of Otolaryngology at Carle Clinic Association. As a clinical assistant professor with the College of Medicine, his responsibilities include lecturing and acting as a preceptor in ENT.
Michael Neuwirth, M.D.
Dr. Neuwirth received his medical degree from the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey, Robert Wood Johnson Medical School at Camden in Camden, New Jersey. He completed a general surgery residency and a diagnostic radiology residency at SUNY at Buffalo School of Medicine in Buffalo, New York. He also completed a diagnostic radiology residency at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center and an interventional radiology fellowship at Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine in Baltimore, Maryland. Dr. Neuwirth is a staff radiologist and the Director of Interventional Radiology at Carle Clinic Association. As a clinical assistant professor for the College of Medicine, his responsibilities include presenting lectures on various radiology topics for medical students and residents, and providing patient-based work with residents.

William C. Olivero, M.D.
Dr. Olivero received his medical degree from the University of Illinois College of Medicine in Chicago. He completed a surgery residency at Saint Francis Medical Center in Peoria, Illinois; a neurosurgery residency at the University of Illinois College of Medicine at Peoria; and a pediatric neurosurgery fellowship at Barrow Neurological Institute in Phoenix, Arizona. Currently Dr. Olivero practices with the department of neurosurgery at Carle Clinic Association. As a clinical professor for the College of Medicine, his responsibilities include lecturing and acting as a preceptor in the Neurosurgery and Bioengineering programs. Dr. Olivero is member of the American Association of Neurological Surgeons and the Society of Neurological Surgery.

Stephen M. Rudawski, D.O.
Dr. Rudawski earned his doctor of osteopathic medicine degree from the Chicago College of Osteopathic Medicine in Elmhurst, Illinois. He completed family medicine residency with the Advocate Christ Hospital in Hometown, Illinois. He practices in the Department of Family Medicine at Carle Clinic Association, Rantoul Branch. As a clinical instructor for the College of Medicine, his responsibilities include acting as a clerkship preceptor for M-3 and M-4 students as they rotate through the family medicine core clerkship. Dr. Rudawski is a member of the American Osteopathic Association, the American Academy of Family Physicians and the Ukrainian Medical Association of North America.

Reinaldo Juan Sanchez-Torres, M.D.
Dr. Sanchez-Torres received his medical degree from the University of Puerto Rico School of Medicine in San Juan, Puerto Rico. He completed an internal medicine residency at the University of Puerto Rico University District Hospital and a cardiology fellowship with the University of Puerto. Dr. Sanchez-Torres is a staff cardiologist with Carle Clinic Association. As a clinical assistant professor for the College of Medicine, his responsibilities include acting as preceptor for office-based clinical practice for M-1 students, participating in the Introduction to Human Disease course for M-1 students, participating in tutorials and History and Physical instruction for M-2 students, and serving as teaching attending for students and residents. In addition, he presents lectures to students and residents, acts as a student advisor, participates in the Objective Structural Clinic Exam for residents, serves as a judge for the annual vignette competition and provides patient-based work with residents.
Kalika P. Sarma, M.D.

Dr. Sarma received his medical degree from All India Institute of Medical Sciences in New Delhi, India. He completed an internal medicine internship at Mercy Catholic Medical Center in Upper Darby, Pennsylvania; a radiation oncology residency at Temple University – Albert Einstein Medical Center in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; and a radiation oncology fellowship at the University of Rochester in Rochester, New York. Dr. Sarma is a staff radiologist with the Department of Radiation Oncology at Carle Clinic Association. As a clinical assistant professor with the College of Medicine, his responsibilities include presenting lectures for medical students and residents and providing patient-based work with residents. Dr. Sarma’s research interests include breast cancer and the interaction of radiation and drugs, head and neck cancer and pediatric cancer.

Ayaz Shaikh, M.D.

Dr. Shaikh earned his medical degree from Rawalpindi Medical College in Pakistan. He completed general surgery residencies at Episcopal Hospital, Medical College of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia and at St. Joseph’s Mercy Oakland Hospital in Pontiac, Michigan, as well as, a plastic surgery residency at McMaster University Faculty of Health Science in Hamilton, Ontario, Canada. Dr. Shaikh also completed fellowships in advanced plastic and reconstructive surgery at McMaster University Faculty of Health Science; hand surgery at Baylor College of Medicine, Division of Plastic Surgery, St. Luke’s Episcopal Hospital in Houston, Texas; craniofacial and pediatric plastic surgery with the Carolinas Healthcare System in Charlotte, North Carolina; and aesthetic and breast surgery at the Cleveland Clinic Foundation, Department of Plastic Surgery in Cleveland, Ohio. Dr. Shaikh practices with the Carle Center for Plastic Surgery. As a clinical instructor for the College of Medicine, his responsibilities include lecturing and acting as a preceptor in plastic surgery.

Michael A. Smith, M.D.

Dr. Smith received his medical degree from the Indiana University School of Medicine in Indianapolis, Indiana. He completed his post-graduate training at Wright State University School of Medicine in Dayton, Ohio. Dr. Smith practices in the Obstetrics and Gynecology Department of Christie Clinic. As a clinical instructor for the College of Medicine, his responsibilities include preceptoring M-3 and M-4 students in the obstetrics and gynecology clerkship.

William B. Weir, M.D.

Dr. Weir earned his medical degree from the University of Illinois College of Medicine at Chicago. He completed an emergency medicine residency at Indiana University in Indianapolis. He practices emergency medicine at Carle Clinic Association. As a clinical instructor for the College of Medicine, Dr. Weir’s responsibilities include lecturing in emergency medicine and acting as a preceptor. He is a member of the National Association of EMS physicians, the Society for Academic Emergency Medicine, the American Academy of Emergency Medicine and the American College of Emergency Physicians.

Karen C. White, M.D., Ph.D.

Dr. White earned her Ph.D. in Chemical Engineering from Pennsylvania State University and her medical degree from the College of Medicine, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. She completed an internal medicine residency at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and a critical care medicine fellowship at St. John’s Mercy Medical Center and St. Louis University. Dr. White is a critical care physician at Carle Clinic Association. As a clinical assistant professor for the College of Medicine, her responsibilities include participating in Tutorials and History and Physical instruction for M-2 students, acting as teaching attending for M-3 and M-4 students and residents and providing patient-based work with residents.
The College of Medicine at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign is proud of the partnerships that enable us to offer or participate in the continued education of physicians through local residency programs. The newest participants in these local residency programs are:

**Family Practice**
Carle Clinic Association & Carle Foundation Hospital
Erich Hanel, M.D.
Arsalan Khan, M.D.
Edmar Lacay, M.D.
Amy MacDougall, M.D.
Natalie Opanasets, M.D.

**Internal Medicine**
College of Medicine
Ashraf Al-Dadah, M.D.
Chaitanya Are, M.D.
Muhammad Atiq, M.D.
Tavinder Basra, M.D.
Himanshu Bhutani, M.D.
Dennis Chairman, M.D.
Lakshmi Datla, M.D.
Vikesh Gupta, M.D.
Graham Huesmann, M.D.
Aerin Huyn, M.D., M.P.H.
Sadia Ijlaluddin, M.D.
Deepika Jain, M.D.
Rajat Kapoor, M.D.
Sabrina Merchant, M.D.
Vidu Mokkala, M.D.
Mazher Rasool, M.D.
Noaman Siddiqi, M.D.
Prashant Sharma, M.D.
Mohit Turagam, M.D.
Yan Yang, M.D.

**Surgery – Oral & Maxillofacial**
Carle Clinic Association & Carle Foundation Hospital
Daniel Cannon, D.D.S.
Brock McKinley, D.D.S.

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**Michael F. Wozniak, M.D.**
Dr. Wozniak received his medical degree from Rush Medical College in Chicago. He completed an internship with Riverside Methodist Hospital in Columbus, Ohio and an anesthesiology residency with Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston. Dr. Wozniak practices at Carle Clinic Association. As a clinical instructor for the College of Medicine, his responsibilities include lecturing and acting as a preceptor. He is a member of the American Society of Anesthesiology.

**Rebecca J. Wright, M.D., F.A.A.P.**
Dr. Wright earned her medical degree at the College of Medicine, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. She completed her post-graduate training at the Lutheran General Hospital in Park Ridge, Illinois. Dr. Wright has a practice in pediatrics and adolescent medicine at Carle Clinic Association. As a clinical instructor for the College of Medicine, her responsibilities include acting as a clerkship preceptor for M-3 and M-4 students as they rotate through the pediatrics core clerkship. Dr. Wright is a fellow of the American Academy of Pediatrics.

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The medical future is uncertain and paradoxical. We are about to surpass the GNP of the 1950s, while the expectation of life is increasing. The paradox is that we have more wealth than ever before, yet we are suffering more than ever before. The answer to the paradox lies in the nature of our health system. The current system is designed to treat illnesses rather than prevent them. We need a new system that is focused on prevention and wellness. This will require a shift in the way we think about healthcare. We need to think about healthcare as a right, not a privilege. We need to think about healthcare as a public good, not a private one. We need to think about healthcare as a service, not a commodity. We need to think about healthcare as a profession, not a business. We need to think about healthcare as a science, not an art. We need to think about healthcare as a community, not an individual. We need to think about healthcare as a society, not an economy. We need to think about healthcare as a philosophy, not a politics. We need to think about healthcare as a humanity, not a technology.
1981

Lance Becker, M.D., was featured in an article in the May 7, 2007 issue of Newsweek. Lance, the Director of the University of Pennsylvania Center for Resuscitation Science, discussed new research in cell death and resuscitation.

1984

Kenneth Mack, M.D., Ph.D., is working as a Mayo Clinic neurologist. He was quoted in a national news story about, Jeanna Giese, the only person to survive rabies without the vaccination. Jeanna, now a college student, was infected after being bitten by a bat; Ken was one of her doctors.

1990

Steven Prstojevich, M.D., D.D.S., was among 1,186 Initiates from around the world who became Fellows of the American College of Surgeons (ACS). He was recognized during convolution ceremonies at the College’s recent 92nd annual Clinical Congress in Chicago.

Mark S. Thoeleke, M.D., was recently promoted to Associate Professor of Medicine at Washington University School of Medicine. He is still Clinical Director of the Division of Hospital Medicine and co-wrote the first chapter of General Care of the Patient, in the most recent edition of the Washington Manual of Medical Therapeutics.

1992

William Schuh, M.D., Ph.D., is actively involved in the training of residents and students on a daily basis. He served as chief resident in the Internal Medicine Residency and was a foundation developer of the hospitalist program at Carle Foundation Hospital. Recently, he assisted to develop complete on-line and integrated patient records. William returned to the College as the keynote speaker during the Homecoming CME program. He was also selected as the recipient of the 2007 Contributions to the College of Medicine Alumni Award.

1993

Jamie L. Feldman, M.D., Ph.D., returned to campus to speak during the Homecoming CME program on Ethics, Policy and Politics in Healthcare.

1996

Delmas Bolin, M.D., Ph.D., is currently serving in his 4th year as the Virginia Tech Men’s Basketball Team Physician. He is in Private Practice in Family and Sports Medicine. He is also a Professor of Osteopathic Medicine where he conducts research and teaches. He is currently teaching six different courses including Biochem, Histogenetics and Molecular Basis of Disease. Some of his recent research projects have included presentation of pain after open heart surgery and a published article on the high school wrestling weight certification process.

1999

Sarah Hartz, M.D., and husband Yehuda Ben Sahar, welcomed daughter Noa in August 2007. She joins brother, Itai. Sarah is in the midst of her psychiatry residency at the University of Iowa.

2000

Robert Fuller, M.D., Ph.D., is currently completing the third year of his Maternal-Fetal Medicine fellowship at the University of Vermont. He is board certified from ACOG as a general OB/GYN (FACOG). He plans to practice MFM in Macon, Georgia, where he will be adjunct to Mercer University and continue to work with residents and medical students. Current research activities include vascular remodeling in pregnancy and he gave an oral and poster presentation at the Society of Gynecologic investigation in Reno in March 2007.

Eric Horn, M.D., Ph.D., and his wife, Lori, are the proud parents of their first child, Nicholas Elliot Horn. Nick was born on November 22, 2006. He weighed 7lbs, 9oz, and was 21 inches long. Eric and his family moved to Indianapolis, where he will be Assistant Professor Neurosurgery and Director of Spinal Neurosurgery at Indiana University. His new position began in August 2007.

Sally Salmons, M.D., M.B.A., moderated the Homecoming CME program on Ethics, Policy and Politics in Healthcare.

2001

Sarah Janssen, M.D., Ph.D., and Sean Avent welcomed their daughter Zoe Elizabeth Avent into the world on August 5, 2007. Sarah is currently a Science Fellow at the Natural Resources Defense Council in San Francisco. She returned to campus to speak during the Homecoming CME program on Ethics, Policy and Politics in Healthcare.

Deborah Oh, M.D., Ph.D., and her husband, Damian Lowe, are the proud parents of their first child. Kian Lowe, born April 24, 2006.

Kevin Sanders, M.D., Ph.D., and Brenda Sanders, M.D., Ph.D. (2003), are now in Tacoma, Washington. Brenda accepted a position with Pediatrics Northwest, a group of 20 pediatricians and 5 nurse practitioners in Tacoma. Kevin is a Radiation Oncologist.
Samuel Steffen, M.D., was interviewed by Robert Bazell, NBC News’ Chief Science and Health Correspondent, for a piece on Mr. Spencer Johansen, the local police chief in Lexington, IL, who was recently diagnosed with Alzheimer’s. NBC Nightly News is doing a piece on Johansen and his honesty within his community. Sam is Mr. Johansen’s physician.

Scott Walker, M.D., Ph.D., is currently working at the University of Washington, in Neuroradiology Fellowship. After August 2007, Scott will begin at Medical Imaging Northwest, in Lakewood, WA.

Sandra Ettema, M.D., Ph.D., completed her otolaryngology residency at the Medical College of Wisconsin in Milwaukee in June 2007. She is now at Southern Illinois University School of Medicine to complete a fellowship in laryngology. In addition, Sandra plans on marrying her fiancé, Steve Everitt in September 2008.

Niranjan Karnik, M.D., Ph.D., is an adjunct faculty member in the Department of Anthropology, History and Social Medicine at UCSF. He is also an assistant professor with a second appointment in Psychiatry. Niranjan divides his time between working at a shelter conducting detailed psychiatric assessments, working at his own child psychiatric clinic, and doing research. He was also selected as the recipient of the 2007 Art of Medicine Alumni Award from the College of Medicine.

Rachel Coel, M.D., Ph.D., was matched at University of Colorado at Denver in their pediatric sports medicine fellowship program. She began her fellowship in July 2007.

Arvin Gee, M.D., Ph.D. is engaged to be married. His fiancée, Sherily is a Speech Pathologist in the Beaverton, Oregon School District.

Connie Rhodes, M.D., wrote an article approved for publication in the Journal of Trauma. In addition, an abstract she submitted was accepted for a poster at the Southeastern Surgical Society meeting in February.

In Memoriam

Ernesto Garza, M.D., class of 1992, passed away in Albuquerque, New Mexico on June 27, 2007. Ernesto devoted much of his career to the treatment of patients with debilitating conditions, including Parkinson’s, the disease which contributed to his own death.

Alumni Gatherings

Los Angeles, CA, February 2007

Poulsbo, WA, August 2007

Would you like to get together with alums in your area, or arrange a regional gathering? If so, contact the Office of Public Affairs and Advancement at 217-333-6524 for assistance with planning and coordination.
Student Milestones

White Coat Ceremony

On January 5, 2007, second-year students celebrated the beginning of their clinical studies with the presentation of their white coats.

Arnold P. Gold Humanism in Medicine Induction Dinner

On April 11, 2007, the College of Medicine was honored with the installation of a chapter of the Arnold P. Gold Humanism in Medicine Society. Society was founded by the Arnold P. Gold Foundation in order to both recognize and encourage humanistic approaches to the practice of medicine. In April, at the inaugural dinner, five students and one faculty member were inducted.

Faculty
James S. Gregory, M.D.

Students
Russell H. Horwitz
Aerin M. Hyun
Joe Yosup Kwon
Connie M. Rhodes
Anobel Tamrazi
Match Day

On Thursday, March 15, 2007, graduating students celebrated as they found out where they will head for the next step in their training.

Match List—March 2007

**DERMATOLOGY**
Shery Varghese University of Pittsburgh Medical Center, Pittsburgh, PA

**EMERGENCY MEDICINE**
David Bell Maricopa Medical Center, Phoenix, AZ
Joni Dorf Michigan State University ñ Kalamazoo, Kalamazoo, MI
Peder Lindberg University of Chicago Medical Center, Chicago, IL

**INTERNAL MEDICINE**
Angel Chan Johns Hopkins Hospital, Baltimore, MD
Obiageli Ntukogu Indiana University School of Medicine, Indianapolis, IN

**NEUROLOGY**
Aziz Ander Virginia Commonwealth University Health System, Richmond, VA
Graham Huesmann Massachusetts General Hospital, Boston, MA

**OB/GYN**
Jessie Dorais University of Utah Affiliated Hospitals, Salt Lake City, UT

**PATHOLOGY**
Aras Mattis University of California at San Francisco (UCSF), San Francisco, CA
Brent Orr Johns Hopkins Hospital, Baltimore, MD

**PSYCHIATRY**
Christopher Hsu University of Chicago Medical Center, Chicago, IL
Renee Potera Southern Illinois University School of Medicine & Affiliated Hospitals, Springfield, IL
Russell Horwitz Massachusetts General Hospital, Boston, MA
Aerin Hyun Columbia University Medical Center/New York-Presbyterian, New York, NY
Joe Kwon NYU School of Medicine, New York, NY

**RADIOLOGY**
Anobel Tamrazi Stanford University Programs, Stanford, CA

**SURGERY**
Connie Rhodes Eisenhower Army Medical Center, Augusta, GA

**INTERNAL MEDICINE—PRELIMINARY**
Graham Huesmann University of Illinois College of Medicine ñ Urbana, Urbana, IL
Aerin Hyun University of Illinois College of Medicine ñ Urbana, Urbana, IL
Aswin Krishnamoorthy St. Francis Hospital, Evanston, IL
Anobel Tamrazi Greenwich Hospital, Greenwich, CT
Shery Varghese University of Pittsburgh Medical Center, Pittsburgh, PA
Convocation and Awards Ceremony

Convocation was held on May 6, 2007.

First Row: Shery Varghese, M.D., Ph.D., Christopher Hsu, M.D., Ph.D., Jessie Dorais, M.D., Aerin Hyun, M.D., Shelly Cohen, M.D., Joe Kwon, M.D., Renee Potera, M.D., Angel Chan, M.D.

Second Row: Amanda Cuevas, M.A. (Assistant Dean, Student Affairs and Medical Scholars Program), James Hall, Ed.D. (Assistant Dean, Student Affairs and Medical Scholars Program), Brent Orr, M.D., Ph.D., Aswin Krishnamoorthy, M.D., Obiageli Ntukogu, M.D., Joni Dorf, M.D., Connie Rhodes, M.D., Jennifer Bloom, Ed.D. (Associate Dean, Student Affairs and Medical Scholars Program), Bradford Schwartz (Regional Dean)

Third Row: Aras Mattis, M.D., Ph.D., Peder Lindberg, M.D., Ph.D., Charles Smittkamp, M.D., Ph.D., Graham Huesmann, M.D., Ph.D., Anobel Tamrazi, M.D., Ph.D.
College Celebrations

Holiday Reception

Faculty and staff gather to celebrate and enjoy the holidays.

Administrative Assistants’ Luncheon

A luncheon was held on April 25, 2007 to honor the dedication of our civil service staff.
Length of Service

On October 11, 2007, faculty and staff gathered to recognize the hard work and achievements of their colleagues. Tod Jebe was the recipient of the Academic Professional Employee of the Year Award and Debbie Deedrich was the recipient of the Staff Employee of the Year Award.

Retirement Receptions

The College celebrated a major milestone in the lives of several as they retired or left the University.
Once in a Blue… and Orange Moon
Community Outreach

Future Physicians Program

Each year, area students who are interested in medical careers gather with College of Medicine faculty and students and learn what life is really like as a doctor or med student.

Illinois State Fair

Each year, the College joins other units in the University of Illinois tent at the Illinois State Fair.
Community Medical School

Twice a year, the College of Medicine, along with Carle Foundation Hospital, offers a three-part medical series to the public. This series of informative presentations on current medical topics is delivered by College of Medicine faculty and area physicians in a manner that can be understood by the layperson, as well as, offer new information to the medical professional. With the addition of displays and information from local organizations, this truly is a community event.

Spring 2007: The Musculoskeletal System
Fall 2007: An Eye Opening View of Sleep Disorders

Chamber After Hours

On April 19, 2007, the College hosted Chamber After Hours for members of the Champaign County Chamber of Commerce.
ADMINISTRATION AND FACULTY

CHICAGO

Joseph A. Flaherty, M.D.
Dean
Sarah J. Kilpatrick, M.D., Ph.D.
Vice Dean
Karen Colley, Ph.D.
Interim Senior Associate Dean for Research
Leslie J. Sandlow, M.D.
Senior Associate Dean for Medical Education

URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

Bradford S. Schwartz, M.D.
Dean
Robert W. Kirby, M.D.
Associate Dean for Clinical Affairs and G/CME
James W. Hall, Ed.D.
Associate Dean for Student Affairs and Medical Scholars Program
Susan M. Kies, Ed.D.
Associate Dean for Curriculum Management
Dedra Williams, Ed.M.
Associate Dean, Administration
James M. Slauch, Ph.D.
Director, Medical Scholars Program
Nora J. Few, Ph.D.
Executive Assistant Dean for Student Affairs and Medical Scholars Program
Amanda E. Cuevas, M.A.
Assistant Dean for Student Affairs and Medical Scholars Program
Richard J. Schimmel, Ed.D.
Director, Business and Financial Affairs
Vacant
Director of Advancement

DEPARTMENT HEADS

Sari Gilman Aronson, M.D., Head
Department of Psychiatry
Phillip M. Best, Ph.D., Head
Department of Molecular & Integrative Physiology
M. Kathleen Buetow, M.D., Dr.P.H., Head
Department of Pediatrics
John E. Cronan, Ph.D, Head
Department of Microbiology
Gregory G. Freund, M.D., Head
Department of Pathology
Martha U. Gillette, Ph.D., Head
Department of Cell and Developmental Biology
Ralph J. Kehl, M.D., Head
Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology
Byron W. Kemper, Ph.D., Head
Department of Pharmacology
Curtis J. Krock, M.D., Head
Department of Internal Medicine
Evan M. Melhado, Ph.D., Head
Medical Humanities and Social Sciences Program
Uretz J. Oliphant, M.D., Head
Department of Surgery
Bruce Schatz, Ph.D., Head
Department of Medical Information Sciences
Christian E. Wagner, M.D., Head
Department of Family Medicine
Colin A. Wraight, Ph.D., Head
Department of Biochemistry
ENVISIONING THE FUTURE

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS
AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

COLLEGE OF MEDICINE

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