Inside:
NIH Grant to Transform Clinical Research | 5
UIC Cancer Center Unites Researchers | 28
New Understanding of Neurological Disorders | 32
Leadership in Patient Safety | 34

Insights and Soundings

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College of Medicine Annual Fund
New Chancellor Paula Allen-Meares Plans to Build on College of Medicine’s Strengths

by Kevin McKeough

Paula Allen-Meares, MSW ’71, PhD ’75, became the sixth chancellor of the University of Illinois at Chicago in January.

“I am very excited and enthusiastic about the opportunity to lead this great institution,” Allen-Meares says. “Today’s world needs UIC’s knowledge and expertise. The university has taken and will continue to take a leadership role in solving pressing societal needs, particularly in the realm of healthcare.”

Allen-Meares took over from Eric Ginalson, interim chancellor, who served since the retirement of Sylvia Manning, former chancellor, in December 2007.

Allen-Meares was selected from a field of more than 100 candidates.

“We were looking for an exemplary academic leader and in Dr. Allen-Meares—a graduate of the University of Illinois and a former member of our community, a highly successful dean and a member of the Institute of Medicine of the National Academies—we found her,” says University of Illinois President B. Joseph White.

Allen-Meares led Michigan’s School of Social Work to a consistent ranking of No. 1 in the nation, improving its research profile with externally funded interdisciplinary research awards totaling more than $100 million. Under her leadership, the school established interdisciplinary degree programs that included law, public policy, psychology, sociology, anthropology and economics and set up partnerships with other agencies, institutes and communities.

At Michigan, she was principal investigator of the Global Program on Youth, an initiative sponsored by the W.K. Kellogg Foundation, and the National Institute of Mental Health’s Social Work Research Center on Poverty, Risk and Mental Health. She was principal investigator of the Skillman Good Neighbor Grant. She is a member of the Institute of Medicine of the National Academies and a trustee of the New York Academy of Medicine.

“Given my long professional involvement in health and mental health, one of the most attractive aspects of becoming chancellor was the opportunity to work with Joseph Flaherty to build on the excitement of the College of Medicine,” Allen-Meares says. “I’m very impressed by the breadth and ambitions of the research taking place in the college, its ability to attract top faculty to provide outstanding medical education to future physicians, and the faculty’s commitment to providing high-quality healthcare to all, particularly the underserved.

“My intent in this quickly evolving climate of higher education is to sustain and strengthen what the university does best. UIC progresses toward its goal to become the nation’s premier urban public research university by providing access and opportunity to a diverse community of students and faculty. We reach beyond our classrooms and laboratories through our Great Cities Commitment, as well as our promotion of healthy societies, in order to bring a mission of public service to our home community and the world.”

Today’s world needs UIC’s knowledge and expertise. The university has taken and will continue to take a leadership role in solving pressing societal needs, particularly in the realm of healthcare.”

Paula Allen-Meares, MSW, PhD

UIC Chancellor Paula Allen-Meares, MSW, PhD

Campus News | Chicago
In a nationwide U.S. Department of Health and Human Services survey, University of Illinois Medical Center patients rated their hospital experience more highly than patients at other Chicago-area academic medical centers in five out of 10 categories. More than 3,700 hospitals in five out of 10 categories. More than 3,700 hospitals across the country were surveyed reported that their doctors “always” communicated well. Improved communication with patients is a significant factor in improving care, as demonstrated by patient satisfaction on important issues such as reducing patients’ pain and improving their knowledge about the medications they take, observes William Chamberlin, MD ’74, chief medical officer. “Sixty-nine percent of UMC patients said the risks and benefits of medications were “always” explained to them, a score significantly higher than the state and national averages. Nurses at the medical center make a point to explain basic drug information in order to better educate patients and families about new medications, even if the medication is as common as Tylenol. Technology also plays a vital role in caring for patients at the medical center. For example, the hospital’s electronic medical record automatically triggers a consultation with a clinical pharmacist if the patient is taking multiple medications. President Obama’s healthcare proposal calls for the implementation of electronic medical records systems in every hospital in the country. The medical center long has been a national leader in this area, having implemented its electronic medical records system in 1987.

These scores reaffirm the importance of being a patient-centered hospital that is sensitive to the needs of patients and their families. “These scores reaffirm the importance of being a patient-centered hospital that is sensitive to the needs of patients and their families.”

In August, Hospitals and Health Networks, the journal of the American Hospital Association, named the medical center among the top 100 “Most Wired Hospitals” nationwide for the first consecutive year. The list recognizes hospitals for using information technology to streamline business and clinical practices, reduce medical errors and improve clinical outcomes.

“This recognition reflects our commitment to the role of information technology to sustain the highest level of patient care and safety,” DeNardo says. “We believe that everyone at the medical center—patients, physicians, nurses and staff—are positively affected by the technology we’ve implemented to support our missions of patient care, research and teaching.”

The medical center’s electronic medical records system securely links medical data on more than 2 million patients throughout the hospital, outpatient centers, satellite facilities, academic offices and laboratories. This integration provides clinicians in a variety of locations access to the same information simultaneously, which supports best practices in clinical care.

The system provides an automated process for all aspects of medication reconciliation and aids work flow with a wide range of clinical information, such as vital signs and the charting of drug doses. The system also includes a suite of applications to better manage patient visits.

The National Institutes of Health has awarded UIC’s Center for Clinical and Translational Science a five-year, $20 million grant, the largest in the university’s history.

Translational research—turning new, basic science knowledge into useful applications for health and medicine—is “an urgent need and a continuing challenge,” says R. Michael Tanner, PhD, UIC provost and vice chancellor for academic affairs. “Insights from basic research need much development and further study to create beneficial clinical practices, and the NIH is funding us to accelerate the process.”

The NIH launched the Clinical Translational Science Award program in 2006 to fund a national consortium of medical research institutions that now includes 19 leading centers in 23 states. When the program is fully implemented, about 60 centers will be connected with an annual budget of $500 million.

The UIC center was established in 2007 to create new collaborations and support the movement of knowledge from the lab bench into the community. The center provides a Web-based as well as a geographic single point of access for investigators—including a match-making service to identify potential new collaborations.

To provide support for research, the center offers six core services: statistical design and analysis, clinical interface, biomedical informatics, regulatory support and advocacy, community engagement and research, and translational technologies and resources. In addition, the center includes educational programs for pre- and post-doctoral trainees and faculty researchers to train the next generation of translational researchers.

The center also includes researchers at Advocate Health Care and the Jesse Brown VA Medical Center. Some projects already funded by the center include developing a collaborative research program in asthma and allergic diseases; exploring a promising immunotherapy to treat severe infections in patients with compromised immune systems; and a multidisciplinary approach to improving cancer care for rural residents.

“The center will capitalize on mature conceptual and technological resources at UIC to foster collaboration and innovation,” says Theodore Mazzone, MD, professor of medicine and director of the center. “Our goal is to facilitate the work of translational investigators, to make it easier and more attractive for them to think beyond traditional disciplinary boundaries.”

“This grant enables UIC to enhance its collaborative research in the health sciences, from basic science to community engagement, bringing in virtually all the colleges at UIC as well as great collaborations with the Urbana-Champaign campus and the medical campuses at Pooa and Rockford,” says Joseph Flaherty, MD, dean of the College of Medicine.

The scope of the collaborations makes the UIC center “unique as a statewide translational science program,” Flaherty says.

“This is an important award for UIC,” adds Larry Damigenti ’79, ’96, PharmD, UIC interim vice chancellor for research and professor of pharmacy practice. “We are excited about the ways in which this award will facilitate increased collaborations among our basic science and clinical researchers on campus, our local community partners, and our national peers to move basic science findings more quickly into clinical trial and community settings.”

In a nationwide U.S. Department of Health and Human Services survey, University of Illinois Medical Center patients rated their hospital experience more highly than patients at other Chicago-area academic medical centers in five out of 10 categories. More than 3,700 hospitals submitted data for the survey, the largest of its kind. The results were released in March.

“We are very proud of the highly dedicated staff at our medical center and of the excellent care they provide,” says John DeNardo, MS, MPH, CEO of the UIC Healthcare System. “These scores reaffirm the excellent care they provide,” says John DeNardo, MS, MPH, CEO of the UIC Healthcare System.

“T H E O D O R E  M A Z Z O N E ,  M D  “The center will capitalize on mature conceptual and technological resources at UIC to foster collaboration and innovation.”

by Sherri McGinnis Gonzalez

by Jeanne Galatzer-Levy

$20 Million NIH Grant to Transform Clinical Research at UIC
IC researchers have been awarded a five-year, $2.1 million grant from the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke to lead a multicenter study to assess the relationship between blood flow in the back of the brain and stroke risk.

“There’s been a lot of emphasis in prior medical research on the type of stroke that affects the anterior circulation, or blood supply to the major lobes in the front of the brain,” says Sepideh Amin-Hanjani, MD, assistant professor of neurological surgery and principal investigator of the study. “But there’s another set of arteries that supply the back part of the brain, including the brain stem, which is a smaller but in some ways a much more functionally important part of the brain with a lot of important real estate.”

Even a very small stroke in this area of the brain can have very devastating consequences, Amin-Hanjani adds. Ischemic strokes—the type caused by blockages in the blood vessels to the brain—account for 80 percent of all strokes and are immediately evident,” says Giulianotti. “The benefits of this kind of surgery are immediately evident,” says Giulianotti. “The possibility of offering to the donor a perfect minimally invasive operation, increasing the accuracy of the resection while minimizing operative risk and blood loss, is a major step forward.”

Robotic surgery to remove the parathyroid glands, or the smaller thyroid gland, involves making a four-inch incision in the lower neck, leaving a noticeable scar after surgery. Instead, Giulianotti and his team made one small incision under the patient’s right arm and another tiny incision in the chest, through which they threaded robotic arms and a powerful endoscopic camera, enabling them to locate and remove the hard-to-find glands.

“The robotic surgery program at the University of Illinois Medical Center continues to pioneer new procedures that are improving patient outcomes and shaping the future of surgery. The program’s latest advances include the world’s first minimally invasive robotic liver resection for living-donor transplant and the first robotic parathyroidectomy in the United States. During robotic surgery, physicians guide robotic arms— which allow for greater steadiness and precision than human hands—in order to perform extremely delicate, minimally invasive procedures.

In April 2008, Pier Cristoforo Giulianotti, MD, chief of general surgery and Lloyd M. Nyhus Professor of Surgery, and his colleague Fabio Sirana, MD, surgery attending, removed 60 percent of Charles Tongue’s healthy liver in order to replace the diseased liver of Gary Tongue, Charles’ half-brother. In a typical adult living-donor liver procurement procedure, a long incision covering the entire upper abdomen is made to remove the right lobe of the liver. The UIC surgical team used a minimally invasive approach, aided by the da Vinci Robotic System, to complete the procedure through four small incisions. The surgeons then removed the lobe through a three-inch incision in the lower abdomen to minimize postoperative pain.

Charles’ liver then was transplanted into Gary by Enrico Benedetti, MD, Res ’93, Warren H. Cole Chair and head of transplantation and professor of surgery, endocrinology and bioengineering.

“This transplant could be a turning point event heralding a new era in living-donor liver transplantation,” says Giulianotti. “The possibility of offering to the donor a perfect minimally invasive operation, increasing the accuracy of the resection while minimizing operative risk and blood loss, is a major step forward.”

Gary, who runs a siding business in Rockford, was diagnosed with hepatitis C in 2007 and subsequently developed a cancerous tumor on his liver, necessitating a transplant. A wait for a cadaver donor might have led to his tumor growing to the point that a transplant would have been unsuccessful.

Charles, who works for a Rockford-area company, discovered that as a blood-type match for his half-brother, he could donate a portion of his liver to him and potentially save his life. Both brothers are doing well after their procedures.

In October, the robotic surgery team achieved another first when they performed a procedure that removed a patient’s parathyroid glands without making an incision in or leaving a scar on his neck.

Bilal Akbar suffered from hyperparathyroidism caused by chronic kidney failure. His overactive parathyroid glands produced too much parathyroid hormone, which caused dangerously high calcium levels in the blood.

“I’m so glad they didn’t have to cut my neck,” says Akbar, the first person in the United States or Europe to undergo a robotic parathyroidectomy. He was released from the hospital one day after surgery. Most people have four tiny parathyroid glands behind or near the thyroid gland. Traditional surgery to remove the parathyroid glands, or the larger thyroid gland, involves making a four-inch incision in the lower neck, leaving a noticeable scar after surgery. Instead, Giulianotti and his team made one small incision under the patient’s right arm and another tiny incision in the chest, through which they threaded robotic arms and a powerful endoscopic camera, enabling them to locate and remove the hard-to-find glands.

The robotic team also has been using robotic techniques to remove the thyroid gland without leaving a scar. “For these patients, the cosmetic and psychological benefits of this kind of surgery are immediately evident,” Giulianotti says.
The College of Medicine recently celebrated the excellence of its faculty with a pair of June 11 events in honor of the UIC physicians included in this year’s print editions of The Best Doctors in America® and America’s Top Doctors®.

In all, 123 members of the College of Medicine and University of Illinois Medical Center faculty were chosen by their peers for inclusion in these America’s most respected guides. Many of them were on hand for the Best Doctors breakfast at the medical center and the Best Doctors reception that evening at Student Center West on the UIC campus.

“They choose us because of our dedication to our patients. People come to us for our top-ranked doctors. Thank you for making us what we are,” John DeNardo, MS, MD, PhD, CEO of the UIC Healthcare System, told the honorees at the reception. In addition to the doctors being recognized, many of whom were accompanied by their spouses and other family members, the group also included UIC Chancellor Paula Allen-Meares, MWS, PhD, and Eben Thomas, JD, chair of the UIC Medical Advancement Council.

Thomas spoke glowingly of her own personal experience receiving care at the University of Illinois Medical Center. “I’m so proud, so fortunate to have received care at UIC,” said Thomas, who has received both wellness care and treatment for injuries after an accident. “It’s a wonderful place to be taken care of.”

Many of the remarks and conversations during the evening had a common theme—that care at UIC is characterized by personalized attention to patients and their overall health needs. “The physicians here don’t forget the cardinal rule: ‘It’s not just what you do, it’s how you do it,’” said Joseph Flaherty, MD, dean of the College of Medicine.

Michael J. Bell, PhD, DO, professor of radiology and nuclear medicine, observed that UIC physicians seek to understand the backgrounds of their patients—many of whom have multiple, interconnected health problems—so they can address unhealthy behaviors and other issues underlying these illnesses. “We’re very holistic in our approach,” Bell said. “When a patient comes through our doors, we don’t see a liver problem or a heart problem, we see a person with a liver or cardiac problem. We try to help the patient address their medical problem in every aspect of their lives.”

“One of the benefits of academic medicine is that I can see fewer patients that are more complicated; you get to know them better and spend more time with them,” observed Russell Brown, MD, associate professor of medicine in the section of digestive disease and nutrition. “Communication with the patient is key. It’s a question of setting aside the time to make the phone call.”

Because no physician works alone, the Best Doctors breakfast recognized the support staff who assist with patient care. “It’s the collaboration between physicians and the staff that makes our job possible. There is no great doctor without a great staff,” Enrico Benedito, MD, Wman H. Cole Chair and head of surgery, told the gathering, recounting how a transplant team assembled on only a few hours’ notice to assist him in performing a transplant on a Sunday morning when a donor organ suddenly became available.

“We help the doctors focus on patient care because we take care of all these other issues,” reflected Ellyn Jacobs, division coordinator in the department of obstetrics and gynecology. “We help the doctors be efficient,” added Diane Ruiz, administrative and financial director, obstetrics and gynecology, who switched her ob/gyn care to UIC three years ago after seeing the same doctor for 30 years. “They work to explain things to you. Even though it’s a large hospital, we maintain an intimate setting like a private practice so you don’t feel like a number.”

Best Docs Events Celebrate Excellence of UIC Physicians and Staff

by Kevin McKenna

The College of Medicine recently celebrated the excellence of its faculty with a pair of June 11 events in honor of the UIC physicians included in this year’s print editions of The Best Doctors in America® and America’s Top Doctors®.
Endowed chairs and professorships provide the College of Medicine with a permanent financial foundation for its endeavors, creating legacies that span generations.

Endowed funds are held permanently as principal, while the interest income they generate enables the college to provide faculty members with the support they need to pursue breakthroughs in research and clinical care and impart their knowledge to the next generation of physicians. Such support is crucial to the college’s ability to retain and recruit the highest-quality faculty.

Thanks to the generosity of its supporters, since the beginning of 2008 the College of Medicine has installed faculty members in two new endowed chairs and three new endowed professorships—the most of any college at the University of Illinois at Chicago.

In addition, this August the college installed Leela M. Prasad, MD, clinical professor of surgery, as the second recipient of the Turi Joseffson Chair in Colon-Rectal Surgery. Funded by Leon Hirsh, the founder and former CEO of United States Surgical Corporation, the chair was created to honor Joseffson, the former executive vice-president of USSC.

“These endowed positions recognize the excellence of our faculty and the generosity of our donors. We are far from done, as we have a wealth of talent and want to shine the light on it,” says Joseph A. Flaherty, MD, dean of the College of Medicine. “I congratulate my colleagues on these well-deserved honors, and give my deepest thanks to the supporters who made it possible.”

1 In April of 2008, Enrico Benedetti, MD, Res ’93, head of surgery, was installed as the Warren H. Cole Chair of Surgery. Named for the late first head of surgery at UIC, who served for 36 years, the chair was made possible by contributions from Cole and his late wife, Clara, and Cole’s colleagues, friends and former residents. Left to right: Benedetti, Joseph A. Flaherty, MD, dean of the College of Medicine, and Eric A. Gislason, PhD, former interim chancellor of UIC.

2 In August of 2008, Lawrence S. Chan, MD, head of dermatology (right), was made the Dr. Oniville J. Stone Professor of Dermatology. The late Oniville J. Stone ’10, ’54, MD ’56, served on the faculty of the University of Texas Medical School at Galveston and the University of California Irvine College of Medicine. Stone’s oldest son, Gregory Stone, PhD (left), represented his father at the investiture. The professorship was made possible by a gift from an anonymous donor in Stone’s honor.

3 Last October, Philip B. Gorelick, MD, MPH ’88, head of neurology and rehabilitation, became the Dr. John S. Garvin Chair of Neurology. John S. Garvin ’42, ’43, MD ’44, joined the neurology department at UIC in 1951 and served as department head from 1972 to 1988. The fund in his honor was made possible by generous gifts from Garvin’s sisters, Eleanor Garvin Skinner and the late Mary Ann Garvin Coleman ’36, MB ’41. During the dinner after his investiture, Gorelick (standing) presented a framed copy of his investiture medallion (to left) to Skinner. Garvin and his wife, Suzanne Garvin, were also made possible by a gift from an anonymous donor in Stone’s honor.

4 This past November, Sarah Kilpatrick, MD, PhD, vice dean of the College of Medicine and head of obstetrics and gynecology (left), was installed as the Dr. Theresa S. Falcon-Cullinan Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology. The professorship was made possible by a $500,000 gift from its namesake, Theresa Falcon-Cullinan, MD, who passed away in late August. She was the retired founder and CEO of the Falcon Center for Women, a women’s healthcare practice in Peoria. With her husband, Stephen Cullinan, MD, PhD, who was installed as the Dr. Richard Barmada Professorship in Orthopaedics after completing a residency at the University of Illinois Hospital in 1965, Barmada joined the College of Medicine in 1967 and served as department head from 1984 until his retirement at the beginning of 1999. The professorship was made possible by gifts from Edward Abraham, MD, Res ’75, Barmada’s successor as head of orthopaedics; and Barmada’s former residents, particularly the generosity of Steve Irwin, MD ’77, Res ’82, and his wife, Kathy Irwin. Left to right: Irwin; Richard B. Riesman ’95, MD ’98, a donor to the Barmada professorship endowment; Gonzalez and Barrameda.

5 This past April, Mark Gonzalez ’76, MD, Res ’85, MBEG ’94, head of orthopaedics, assumed the Dr. Richard Barmada Professorship in Orthopaedics. After completing a residency at the University of Illinois Hospital in 1965, Barmada joined the College of Medicine in 1967 and served as department head from 1984 until his retirement at the beginning of 1999. The professorship was made possible by gifts from Edward Abraham, MD, Res ’75, Barmada’s successor as head of orthopaedics; and Barmada’s former residents, particularly the generosity of Steve Irwin, MD ’77, Res ’82, and his wife, Kathy Irwin. Left to right: Irwin; Richard B. Riesman ’95, MD ’98, a donor to the Barmada professorship endowment; Gonzalez and Barrameda.

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To enhance the medical education it provides, the College of Medicine at Peoria will be adding a psychiatry residency and upgrading its facilities to provide new study and learning spaces. “The college is committed to excellence in medical education, and that commitment includes both the programs we provide and the facilities in which those programs take place,” says Sara Rusch, MD, Ren B. regional dean. “These new initiatives will enable the college to serve our students and residents better and also to benefit the greater Peoria community where many of our trainees practice.”

The college has recruited a new chair of the department of psychiatry and behavioral medicine, Ryan Finkenbine, MD, who joined the faculty last January. He previously served as program director of the psychiatry residency and forensic fellowship at West Virginia University School of Medicine.

Finkenbine has been charged with collaborating with UICOMP’s affiliated Methodist Medical Center of Illinois to develop the new psychiatry residency program. He also will develop a forensic psychiatry practice and support the clinical, educational and research efforts of the department.

The psychiatric residency program is being established in order to provide greater educational opportunities for the college’s students and the mental health needs of the Peoria region. The college’s plans call for the program to begin training its first group of residents in July of 2011.

“Peoria is a relatively large city with a wide regional catchment area of individuals who could benefit from the greater availability of mental health care for everything from depression and simple anxiety all the way through to alcohol and drug problems, bipolar disorder and schizophrenia,” Finkenbine observes. “Starting in 2011 we’ll immediately add four new caregivers, and by 2014, we’ll have 16 new providers participating in the residency here in Peoria. That probably doubles the number of psychiatrists in the area.”

**Student Learning Enhancement Project Will Reconfigure Medical Education**

The study areas used by the college’s 150 medical students have not been changed significantly since the College of Medicine at Peoria building first opened in 1976. The college plans to renovate these facilities thoroughly in order to provide students with comfortable, modern study areas equipped with the technology that contemporary medical education requires.

“We need to transform our existing space into a technology-rich, student-friendly learning center,” Rusch says. “We believe that in order to educate students for the future, we need to move to a greater emphasis on small-group teaching and learning. We want to give our students the benefit of enhanced educational technology.”

Dubbed the Student Learning Enhancement Project, the renovation will create multipurpose rooms that can be used both for individual study and student collaboration. Plans for the project also include a learning lab to facilitate educating both students and faculty on how to teach and learn using new educational technologies.

“Medical students, especially second-year students, spend most of their day at the College of Medicine for lectures and there are very large amounts of information to study afterwards,” says recent College of Medicine at Peoria graduate Ingrid Krauss, MD ’09. “Sometimes it’s hard to find a place in the school to study. Modern study areas would definitely make the medical school a more inviting and enjoyable place to study.”

So far, about $260,000 of the project’s $450,000 budget has been raised due to the generosity of alumni, faculty and the community. “An investment in the Student Learning Enhancement Project is an investment in the future of medical education and healthcare,” observes Susan Dunnan, director of development for the College of Medicine at Peoria.

Work on the project is scheduled to begin during the winter break at the end of this year. “When the students return, they will find renovated and updated learning spaces that will be well-suited for interactive learning,” Rusch says.

In 2008, the College of Medicine at Rockford partnered with a local nonprofit service agency in a program that evaluates children who may be victims of sexual or physical abuse and neglect.

The goal of the Medical Evaluation Response Initiative Team program is to ensure that such children receive an appropriate and timely physical evaluation by qualified medical experts as part of a thorough and collaborative investigation into every allegation of child abuse and neglect.

Winnebago County, which includes Rockford, coordinates medical evaluations of children who may be victims of abuse through the Carrie Lynn Children’s Center. However, significant barriers existed that prevented suspected victims of physical child abuse and neglect from receiving these evaluations, causing problems in the investigation process and making it more difficult for the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services to intervene effectively.

“Many providers do not have the knowledge of injury science to determine whether the history and injury are consistent. They frequently operate under assumptions and biases that lead them to underestimate the significance of the findings and fail to act,” says David Deutsch ’84, MD ’89, chair of pediatrics at the College of Medicine at Rockford. “We can address these problems by providing an evidence-based, expertly trained referral source.”

In partnership with the Carrie Lynn Children’s Center and with DCFS grant funding and support from the three Rockford hospitals, the college now provides the medical team that conducts evaluations in suspected physical abuse cases. The MERIT team includes Ray Davis, MD ’74, a Rockford pediatrician with extensive training and experience in treating and evaluating child abuse; Lori Thompson, NP, MS ’05; Tammy Dunkel, RN; pediatric sexual assault nurse examiner; and CoGe Powell, coordinator.

Abuse evaluations are handled by MERIT in the hospitals’ emergency rooms or at Rockford Health Physicians, the clinic where Davis is in practice. Staff at Carrie Lynn coordinate the evaluations and the reporting back to DCFS and the court system, and prepare for court cases when child abuse charges are filed.

“In MERIT’s first five months, we saw 98 children,” Thompson says. “Abuse is a severe national health problem. One in 6 children is abused, compared with one in 30,000 with acute leukemia, says Mary Clyde Pierce, MD, associate professor of pediatrics and medical director, University of Louisville. “Eighty percent of fatal abuse victims were known to a professional who did not act,” Pierce adds. In Illinois, reports of abuse have nearly doubled from 31,674 in 1985 to 117,042 in 2007, according to DCFS.

When abuse is suspected, MERIT receives a request for evaluation from DCFS, law enforcement, emergency department physicians and/or primary care providers. The MERIT case coordinator arranges for consultations and second opinions from other child advocacy centers or DCFS investigators in the Northwest Illinois region. Each case is assigned to one of the providers, who collaborates with investigative and medical personnel as needed.

Medical services include comprehensive expert medical evaluation and diagnosis, case coordination of each child’s health needs, appropriate and timely follow-up of medical services, documentation of findings and recommendations for follow-up to a referral source, data tracking, parent education and support, and court testimony.

In addition to evaluating patients, the MERIT program is helping train medical personnel and other professionals to recognize and report child abuse and to perform quality evaluations. The department of pediatrics at the College of Medicine at Rockford is establishing a rotation in the evaluation of child abuse for both medical students and family medicine residents.

“Just as all doctors should know something about heart attacks, they should all have a fundamental understanding of abuse. MERIT will work with our students to ensure that everyone who graduates from Rockford has the knowledge and skill to tackle this issue,” says Martin Lipsky, MD, dean of the College of Medicine at Rockford. “I am excited by the opportunity to educate our students to identify and refer children for help, and as a result, prevent more harm to this most vulnerable group.”
Stephen Boppart, MD, PhD, has developed novel ways to use light to generate high-resolution, real-time, noninvasive images of biological tissue at the cellular and molecular levels. His goal is to radically improve the tools physicians use to treat and diagnose diseases.

"Why should the final decision on the presence of diseased tissue take place in the laboratory, on excised tissue, days after surgery?" Boppart asks. "Why not create the tools to make those decisions right at the bedside without removing the tissue?"

A professor of electrical and computer engineering who also is affiliated with the department of internal medicine in the College of Medicine at Urbana-Champaign, Boppart heads the Biophotonics Imaging Laboratory at the university’s Beckman Institute. The central focus of his research is integrative imaging, which brings together the principles of imaging science and new technologies to create the next generation of imaging instruments.

Boppart has published more than 165 papers and book chapters related to optical imaging, and holds seven patents with more than a dozen pending.

One of the emerging imaging techniques Boppart is developing is optical coherence tomography (OCT). OCT uses near-infrared light to produce high-resolution images of the subsurface of biological tissue. Several applications of this technology currently are undergoing clinical trials.

OCT is being used to provide surgeons with a real-time “optical biopsy” of diseased tissue. Although surgeons make every effort with currently available technology to remove all of a patient’s tumor without damaging healthy tissue, they often do not know how successful they have been until after they’ve closed up the patient and read the pathology report. OCT allows the surgeon to see images of the tumor, down to the cellular and molecular level, while the operation is in progress. The goal is to achieve what surgeons call 100% clear margins of all of the diseased tissue removed, none of the healthy tissue damaged.

Boppart’s Biophotonics Imaging Laboratory has a large and highly interdisciplinary team of researchers developing and translating many other optical imaging and diagnostic technologies. Advanced microscopy techniques include multiphoton microscopy for visualizing fluorescent molecules and label-free coherent anti-Stokes Raman scattering microscopy for generating images based on molecular composition, not just structure. Optomechanical methods can determine the biomechanical properties of tissues and cells, and novel types of molecular imaging agents are being developed for enhancing contrast and delivering therapy.

Once developed, these advanced methods are then applied across many areas of biology, medicine and surgery.

An Illinois native, Boppart received his PhD in electrical and medical engineering from MIT in 1998 and his MD from Harvard Medical School in 2000. After Harvard, he chose the University of Illinois as his academic home because of the cross-disciplinary research opportunities at the Beckman Institute, which brings together more than four researchers from 40 UIUC departments.

If imaging science and technology evolve as Boppart envisions, principles of integrative imaging soon will be central to the diagnosis and treatment of disease. One day, he believes, doctors will swipe a finger across a screen to call up images of diseased tissue, display biological analyses of the tissue in numerical and visual formats and compare the data observed to patterns of disease origin, progression or recovery in medical data banks.

“With the university I’d never be a doctor,” Mason continues. “I’m grateful for what they gave me, and I feel I should give back in turn. It’s been fun, too. I’ve enjoyed coming back to the university and being in contact with the alumni.”
New Loan Repayment Regulations Add New Challenge for Students

by Pat Kampert

mita Patel, MPH, MD ’98, graduated from the College of Medicine this past May looking forward to her psychiatry residency at Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore, but another aspect of her post-medical school life was less appealing. In addition to her medical degree, Patel and most of her fellow College of Medicine graduates got something else they weren’t expecting: changes in the federal rules regarding deferment of medical student loans that will prevent most residents from qualifying.

Previously, students who met the government’s economic hardship criteria—which includes the majority of College of Medicine students—were allowed to defer repayment of their federally subsidized loans during residency without accruing interest. Instead, the government made the interest payments for them.

The average College of Medicine student has amassed more than $310,000 in loans by the time he or she graduates.

“When I first started medical school, I was counting on the deferment,” Patel says. “That is what we were all thinking of as students. Things have really changed. It’s kind of a shocker.”

Kathleen Kashima, PhD, senior associate dean of students at the College of Medicine, agrees. “This is a disappointing change in federal loans for our students, because they will either have to start repaying their loans while in residency or will have their total educational loan debt increase.”

One piece of good news on the financial aid front is the new federal Income Based Repayment Plan that began July 1. The plan caps medical school loan repayment at 15 percent of the student’s available income (defined as 15 percent of whatever a student earns above 15 percent of the poverty line) and provides an alternative for students who will no longer qualify for the economic hardship deferment.

Still, the change is daunting for students like Patel, who says she has seen friends seriously considering abandoning medical careers for professions that are more lucrative.

“At a time when most people are buying homes and starting families, we’re going to be just coming out of residency with all this debt,” she says. “It’s scary.”

College Opens New Student Lounge

by Pat Kampert

Students passing through the Clinical Science North Building in the fall may find a few new reasons to linger there. A renovation is under way to create a new student lounge in the first floor hallway that will include a coffee kiosk and wireless Internet access.

Efficiency walls and partitions will help to reduce noise, and power outlets will aid students who want to bring their laptops to study at the lounge. The kiosk will offer sandwiches, pastries, yogurt and—perhaps most importantly for sleep-deprived medical students—a wide array of Starbucks coffee drinks.

The lounge is the latest move by the college to create new areas for student access and follows a renovation of the Edelstone Lounge, the addition of a study annex and the opening of meeting rooms in the Medical Research building for student use. In addition, the hours of the library were extended in response to student requests, and the Medical Alumni Lounge will become a secure study area for students when it’s not being used for other functions and activities.

“I think it’s a great thing to have,” says Carrie Nieman, M4, president of the Chicago Medical Student Council. “Facilities are always a top priority for students. Whatever we can do to create a space for students to gather is terrific.”

Leaders in Medicine

Philip B. Gorelick, MD, MPH

John S. Garvin Professor and head of neurology and rehabilitation at UIC, made a presentation on vascular cognitive impairment at the Tianjin International Stroke Conference, held this past June in Beijing.

Gorelick was part of a contingent of distinguished scientists representing the American Heart Association who were invited to the conference to discuss state-of-the-art treatments for stroke and worldwide expansion of stroke knowledge.

Gail Hocht, MD

Professor of medicine and chief of digestive disease and nutrition, is president of the AGA Institute, which conducts education, practice and research programs for the American Gastroenterological Association. She began her term as president June 1 during Digestive Disease Week, the largest international conference devoted to the science and practice of gastroenterology.

Hocht is only the second woman to be named president in the 112-year history of the AGA, one of the oldest medical specialty societies in the country. An active member of the AGA for nearly 20 years, Hocht has served on committees focused on research and education, and was elected to the AGA Council as chair of the Intestinal Disorders Section and to the AGA Institute Governing Board as a basic science counselor. She was recognized by the AGA Foundation in 2008 as one of 14 outstanding women scientists who have made exemplary contributions to digestive disease science.

Linda J. Kenney, PhD

Professor of microbiology and immunology, recently was elected to a four-year term as treasurer of the Biophysical Society. The society promotes knowledge in biophysics, which studies the workings of biological systems using a combination of chemistry, mathematical analysis and computer modeling.

Sarah J. Kilpatrick, MD, PhD

Vice dean and Theresa S. Falcon-Cullinan Professor and head of obstetrics and gynecology, is the 2009 president of the Society of Maternal-Fetal Medicine, the major academic society for maternal-fetal medicine specialists, with approximately 2,000 members.

Craig Niederberger, MD

Professor of medicine, section of endocrinology, diabetes and metabolism, and professor of physiology and biophysics, has been appointed to the executive advisory council of the Central Society for Clinical Investigation, one of the oldest and largest academic medical societies in the Midwest. He also serves on a National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases special emphasis panel on diabetes, endocrinology and metabolic disease training fellowships.
The College of Medicine welcomed back alumni during the 2008 reunion weekend in September.

Thursday evening, alumni mingled during the welcome reception. “I wanted to see everybody, see how they’ve aged, how they’re doing,” said Gerald Gronert ’56, MD ’58, a retired anesthesiologist who lives in Albuquerque. “I’ll be interested in seeing the changes in the school as well as the changes in the folks,” said William Winkler ’56, MD ’58, a former major general in the U.S. Army and deputy assistant secretary of defense for health officials who later served as executive director of the Kentucky Opera in Louisville, where he lives.

A campus bus tour on Friday provided Winkler and his fellow alumni with the opportunity to take in new and old sights alike. During the day, the alums also listened to talks from faculty members and attended the Dean’s Luncheon.

That evening, the alumni gathered at the UIC Forum, a new event facility on the UIC East Campus, for a reception and dinner dance. During dinner, the college’s Distinguished Alumnus Award was presented to Georges C. Benjamin, MD ’78, the executive director of the American Public Health Association, and James C. Pritchard ’54, MD ’58, Res ’63, a retired pathologist.

In addition, the Alumni Association Loyalty Award was presented to John C. Mason ’53, MD ’55, Res ’59, a retired obstetrician and the president of the College of Medicine’s Medical Alumni Council; David B. Mayer ’78, MD ’82, Res ’04, associate dean of curriculum at the University of Illinois at Chicago College of Medicine and director of cardiothoracic anesthesiology at the University of Illinois Medical Center; and William H. Kaufman ’49, MD ’51, a retired surgeon in Dearborn, Mich.

“I fell in love with emergency medicine as a medical student and hung out in the emergency room,” Benjamin recalled. “I learned a lot about managing complex medical projects and how to think on my feet.”

“I think the medical education here is par excellence. It can hold up to anything in the country,” Pritchard enthused. “It’s exhilarating to see my classmates, quite a few of whom I haven’t seen in 50 years. When we’re together for a while, the memories come back and it seems like it was yesterday.”
When ophthalmologist Edward Lorenzo Holmes opened a charitable eye and ear infirmary in Chicago in 1858—nearly three years before the start of the Civil War—more than half of Chicago’s 91,000 residents were struggling for sustenance in the midst of a nationwide economic depression. Holmes’ one-room infirmary began providing free care for the city’s indigent before its inpatient areas were even furnished—the first overnight patient slept on a blanket on the floor.

More than 150 years after its founding, that humble infirmary has become one of the world’s foremost centers for patient care, physician training, innovation and discovery. Today, the University of Illinois Eye and Ear Infirmary stands at the forefront of advances in medicine inconceivable in Holmes’ day. The infirmary’s founder undoubtedly would be amazed, and proud, to learn that physicians in the department of otolaryngology–head and neck surgery performed the first auditory brain stem implant in Chicago this past year, or that the department of ophthalmology and visual sciences has embarked on cutting-edge research that may one day make it possible to perform total eye transplantation to restore vision.

As the accomplishments and advances described on the following pages show, the Eye and Ear Infirmary had much to celebrate as it marked its 150th anniversary in 2008. The future is sure to bring more innovation and more life-enhancing medical breakthroughs as the infirmary’s physicians, researchers and staff continue Holmes’ founding mission “to prevent blindness and deafness… and avert the misery which must always attend them.”
Jennifer Lim, MD, is professor of ophthalmology and director of the department’s retina service in July 2007 is part of a multifaceted initiative to build on the department’s expertise by developing a center for innovation in retina care.

Many new programs and initiatives have come to fruition, paving the way for important advances in ophthalmology.

**Forward-Looking**

**The Retina Service**

The recruitment of Jennifer I. Lim, MD, Res ’90, as professor of ophthalmology and director of the department’s retina service was part of a multifaceted initiative to build on the department’s expertise by developing a center for innovation in retina care.

Having directed more than 25 clinical trials over the past decade, Lim brings significant expertise in retinal research to the department. Under her leadership, the retina service already has launched eight new clinical trials involving macular degeneration, diabetic retinopathy and other retinal vascular diseases.

“We are at the leading edge of innovation in developing new treatments for these illnesses,” Lim says. “Our extensive clinical trials are advancing our understanding of retinal disease. We can translate what we learn in the lab directly to patient care, while giving our patients access to the newest drugs and therapies being tested.”

The retina service’s physical space underwent a renovation and expansion in 2008 to support the growth of the faculty and accommodate a patient load that continues to increase as the population ages. Seven new exam rooms were added, and the space was reconfigured to improve patient flow.

Other signs of growth include the purchase of state-of-the-art equipment that enables doctors to employ minimally invasive surgical techniques and the development of a new community outreach program to educate Chicago-area residents about macular degeneration and other retinal diseases.

“These are all components of a great critical care retina center,” Lim says.

**Broad View**

**The Cornea and Refractive Surgery Service**

The department also boasts an accomplished and dynamic cornea and refractive surgery service. “We have six nationally and internationally known cornea specialists on staff who have expertise in every aspect of cornea and external disease—including specialists in dry eye, limbal stem cells, artificial corneas, infectious disease and dystrophies,” observes Elmer Tu, MD, director of the service.

“This team is an incredible resource that enables us to treat and research virtually any disease that affects the cornea.”

The service expanded its reach in 2007 with the opening of the state-of-the-art Millennium Park Eye Center on Michigan Avenue downtown Chicago. In addition to LASKF procedures, the center offers a variety of nonlaser treatments, including conductive keratoplasty, intracorneal ring segments, phakic and refractive intraocular lenses and cataract surgery.

Tu also was involved in a research study that had global impact. In 2006, Charlotte E. Joslin, OD, PhD ’09, assistant professor of ophthalmology in the contact lens service, received a Prevent Blindness America Investigator Award to study a statistically significant rise in the number of Acanthamoeba keratitis cases diagnosed at the Eye and Ear Infirmary. A parasitic eye infection that can cause corneal scarring and blindness, Acanthamoeba keratitis can afflict contact lens wearers—especially those who used a particular brand of lens solution, swim in lake water, shower while wearing contact lenses or use tap water to rinse their lenses or lens storage cases.

The results of the study, in which Tu was a co-investigator, were shared with the Illinois Department of Public Health and the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, leading to a worldwide recall of certain contact lens care products. The Acanthamoeba researchers also have discovered potential links between the infection and local water distribution and national water treatment standards. If proved, this correlation would have significant implications for the safety of the nation’s water supply.

**Fresh Eyes**

**Research**

The Acanthamoeba study is just one of more than 30 research projects under way in the department, with support from more than $1.5 million in National Institutes of Health grants. The research endeavors focus on age-related macular degeneration, glaucoma, corneal disease, the development of diagnostic instruments and treatment options for patients with eye disease.
ments, improving diagnostics for low-vision patients and reading rehabilitation. Research topics range from the regeneration of damaged retinal cells to the impact of vision loss on quality of life.

The department also has embarked on an ambitious whole-eye transplantation project that involves multidisciplinary research on tissue regeneration, muscular and neural issues and other factors involved in replacing the entire eye. Azar is leading the project, assembling an interdisciplinary team of leading experts in neuroscience, vascular biology, nanotechnology, immunology, biomedical engineering and surgery from across the country.

Enlightened Pupils
Education

As the department’s researchers seek new knowledge that will enhance the lives of their patients, they also are ensuring that the next generation of clinicians and scientists is equipped with the knowledge and skills to enhance the lives of their patients, they also are ensuring that the next generation of clinicians and scientists is equipped with the knowledge and tools needed to improve patient care and advance the field of medicine.

The department’s faculty members also teach at the American Academy of Ophthalmology, the American Society of Cataract and Refractive Surgeons and at major ophthalmology conferences around the globe.

Each March for the past two years, the department has hosted the Illinois Eye Review program, which annually draws more than 300 residents, fellows and practicing clinicians. A comprehensive, intensive review of ophthalmology facts and advanced concepts across all ophthalmic subspecialties, this program will continue to foster excellence in the field by combining the knowledge of the department’s experienced clinicians and teachers with the expertise of leading ophthalmic educators from around the world.

“As a leader in eye care and research, we have a responsibility to share what we’ve learned to enable other physicians to provide better care,” Azar observes. “The department of ophthalmology and visual sciences as it exists today is the result of more than 150 years of cumulative effort by the clinicians and researchers who came before us, and we are preparing today’s physicians to continue our mission into the future.”

Sound Foundation
Otolaryngology Leadership

The University of Illinois at Chicago department of otolaryngology–head and neck surgery also continues to build on the Eye and Ear Infirmary’s legacy of invention, education and excellent patient care. The department provides a range of services for the treatment of diseases of the ear, nose and throat—including an audiology division for the treatment of hearing problems, a division of speech pathology, and services devoted to the treatment of ear, nose and throat disorders in children.

“As the oldest department of otolaryngology in the country, we have a long history of innovation,” reflects J. Regan Thomas, MD, FACS, Francis Lederer Professor and head of otolaryngology–head and neck surgery. “Some of the founding aspects of the specialty came out of the infirmary as it evolved over the course of the past 150 years—from the popularization of intubation as an alternative to tracheotomy for patients with diphtheria in 1885 to the development of the first successful endoscopic camera in the mid-20th century.”

Frequently invited to speak at medical conferences and teach at continuing education seminars around the globe, Thomas has authored more than 120 scientific papers and publications, including three textbooks on facial plastic surgery. His tenure as chair of the department since 2001 has coincided with the expansion of the department to include fellowship programs in the mid-20th century.

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But Doctors in America® numerous times. The center specializes in rhinoplasty (cosmetic surgery of the nose)—with an emphasis on correction of noses damaged by previous surgeries—blepharoplasty (cosmetic surgery of the eyelids), facelift and brow lift.

“Dr. Toriumi and I, following in the footsteps of Dr. Gene Tardy [professor emeritus of otolaryngology], have worked hard to ensure that we are not only a leading center for facial plastic surgery, but also to provide a premier educational experience in facial plastic surgery for our fellows and residents,” Thomas says.

Head Start
Auditory Brain Stem Implant and Skull Base Surgery

The department is growing in other areas as well. The arrival of neurologist Thomas Haberkamp, MD—who came to UIC in January 2008 from the neighboring Rush University Medical Center—paved the way for the only currently active auditory brain stem implant program in the city of Chicago. The...
Strong Voices
The Chicago Institute for Voice Care

For people who depend on their voice to make a living—such as singers, actors, broadcasters, voice-over artists and teachers—voice problems are serious. The institute treats vocal problems brought on by illness or overuse. "The institute offers total voice care, from evaluation and diagnosis to surgical management and rehabilitative speech practice of medicine," Sims says. "We are one of the few centers in the world to be this comprehensive."

The department has always done this informally," Haberkamp says, "but now we are developing a team that will work together in a more formal, explicit manner. The big benefit here is that there are types of disorders and, in particular, types of tumors. There is a lot of potential here for improved patient outcomes."

Nosing Around
The Nikhil J. Bhatt Surgical Training Center

Even as it pioneers new advances in patient care, the department of otolaryngology—head and neck surgery continues to commit to its leadership role in training the physicians of the future. Its superb faculty attracts and trains an elite pool of four new residents each year from more than 350 applicants to the department’s five-year residency program, while the university and its generous benefactors continue to invest in state-of-the-art teaching tools to prepare them for distinguished careers as leading physicians and researchers.

The Nikhil J. Bhatt Surgical Training Center, dedicated in 2006, represents one of the department’s latest educational innovations. The first and only cadaver lab dedicated to sinus dissection in the Chicago area and one of a limited number nationally, the Bhatt Center offers state-of-the-art facilities for dissection in the Chicago area and one of a limited number nationally. The first and only cadaver lab dedicated to sinus dissection in the Chicago area and one of a limited number nationally, the Bhatt Center offers state-of-the-art facilities for dissection in the Chicago area and one of a limited number nationally.

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Sims surgery has become quite complicated," Thomas observes. "Learning the anatomy as well as gaining skill in using the instruments is a challenge for every young physician. This lab will allow us to teach them those skills with greater ease. We are proud to be one of the only departments in the country with this type of laboratory facility and anticipate that it will begin to teach modern techniques in sinus surgery.”

A Common Sense

For both Azar and Thomas, the 150th anniversary of the University of Illinois Eye and Ear Infirmary was an occasion to appreciate how far medicine has come over the past century and a half, and to look forward with excitement at the transformative advances that the future promises.

"For more than 150 years, our department has led the way in improving the diagnosis, treatment and management of a wide range of diseases,” Thomas reflects. "This 150-year anniversay of the University of Illinois Eye and Ear Infirmary celebrates excellence in patient care, leadership in medical education, and scientific advancement through research."

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Cancer Center Director Gary Kruh Aims to Unite UIC in Translating Research Into Patient Care

Gary Kruh, MD, PhD, is working to unite the efforts of many UIC researchers and clinicians in the fight against cancer. He is particularly enthusiastic about the medical center’s commitment to bringing care to the underserved, as evidenced by UIC being one of 13 institutions in the U.S. to be designated a Minority-Serving Institution. Program leaders were appointed at the end of 2008. At the start of 2009, the programs began to meet monthly, and a high-priority, national cooperative protocols in cancer treatment and control research within one cancer center, he realizes that its success ultimately will rely on the investigators involved. “You can have an infrastructure, but ultimately it’s dependent upon discoveries by curious cancer researchers,” he says. “The sorts of trials that will be particularly valuable will be the ones that grow out of our own labs.”

Fortunately, his colleagues in other UIC colleges share Kruh’s enthusiasm and his commitment to translational cancer research. At the College of Dentistry, Dean Bruce S. Graham, DDS, has built a team of nine investigators that studies head, neck and oral cancers. “It’s more common than melanoma, and fortunately his colleagues in other UIC colleges share Kruh’s enthusiasm and his commitment to translational cancer research. For example, the College of Engineering and Applied Sciences is home to the Clinical Engineering Research Laboratory, which is working on developing new technologies for cancer treatment and control. The strength of having all these health-related colleges with strong, well-funded researchers and high-priority, national cooperative protocols in cancer treatment and control research within one cancer center is considerable.”

Kruh also sees room to grow. In the near term, his focus is on establishing core facilities to support the work of cancer researchers. Another goal is to foster research that has clinical relevance. “I want to put more focus on the discoveries in the laboratory being translated into clinical trials that affect patients, and on clinical trials fueling laboratory studies,” he says. Kruh also plans to develop a network of donors and advocates to support the center.

After reviewing the university’s cancer research grant portfolio and consulting with deans, department heads and individual scientists, Kruh reconfigured the cancer center’s research programs into programs focusing on cancer control and population science, carcinogenesis and chemoprevention, experimental therapeutics and imaging, and tumor cell biology. Program leaders were appointed at the end of 2008. At the start of 2009, the programs began to meet monthly, and a weekly cancer center seminar that draws on both cancer center members and outside speakers was launched.

In spring of 2009, Kruh partnered with the departments of medicine and pediatrics to support a new clinic that provides long-term follow-up and management for survivors of childhood cancer who are more than 18 years old and are free of cancer for at least three years. An estimated 10,000 such adult survivors of childhood cancer reside in the Chicagoland area. The clinic is linked to members of the cancer center’s cancer control and population science research program from the colleges of Medicine and Nursing.

While Kruh is working diligently to lay the groundwork for the cancer center, he realizes that its success ultimately will rely on the investigators involved. “You can have an infrastructure, but ultimately it’s dependent upon discoveries by curious cancer researchers,” he says. “The sorts of trials that will be particularly valuable will be the ones that grow out of our own labs.”

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Gary Kruh, MD, PhD

"The strength of having all these health-related colleges with strong, well-funded laboratories and cancer control research within one university is considerable."
Every summer, Mark Gonzalez ’76, MD, Res ’85, MEng ’04, and Farid Amirouche, PhD, hang up their lab coats for a few days and head for the remote streams of Colorado or Wisconsin to go fly fishing together. The two professors keep talking science while they cast their lines into the water.

Perhaps it’s no surprise that their conversation stays focused on the lab. As the head of the College of Medicine’s department of orthopaedic surgery, Gonzalez is focusing on integrating biomechanical engineering with orthopaedics. He believes the next wave of advancement in prosthesis design and integration will come from doctors and engineers working together. Gonzalez isn’t just casting a line in the water in pursuit of this idea; he’s wading chest-deep into the river. He keeps an office in the biomechanics lab that Amirouche directs; he has Amirouche lecture his orthopaedics residents; and he is researching a thesis project that will earn him a PhD in mechanical engineering.

That multiasking role is typical of Gonzalez, who has initiated changes to most aspects of the department, including research, teaching and facilities, since he became head of orthopaedic surgery in May of 2007.

“I’ve never seen someone who can do so many things at the same time,” says Amirouche, who himself has dual appointments as a professor in the departments of biomechanizing and mechanical and industrial engineering at UIC. “The level of energy that he has is unbelievable. It’s like he can’t see limitations.”

Gonzalez’s career at the College of Medicine began with his residency program himself, Gonzalez shares that passion. His fishing buddy, Mark Gonzalez ‘76, MD, Res ‘85, MEng ‘04, and Joseph Flaherty, MD, dean of the College of Medicine. “I’m excited to see the impact that Mark has made with the ideas and energy he’s brought to this role. Mark has the enthusiasm and talent of a gifted surgeon; that combined with his engineering background and entrepreneurial spirit will make his department truly extraordinary in the era of translational medicine.”

Gonzalez’s intensified focus on research within the department reflects not only his interests in biomechanics and nerve regeneration, but also a belief that even future clinicians benefit from time in the lab.

“Once students finish medical school and go out and practice, their ongoing contact with the world of orthopaedic research typically is through journals,” says Gonzalez, who continues to perform surgeries in addition to his academic duties. “By participating in research, our residents will be better able to tell which of these studies apply to their patients, and which studies might be poorly constructed.”

To provide this preparation, Gonzalez and his team have increased the amount of research required of residents, involving them in one of several ongoing departmental research projects and ensuring that each resident has a good chance of publication. In fact, residents have received credit as the co-authors of several faculty papers published since the beginning of 2008.

The converse idea—that a practitioner’s perspective is helpful in the lab—is central to Gonzalez’s collaborative efforts with Amirouche. “The next generation of prostheses won’t just come from engineers. These ideas are going to come from the medical side.”

Gonzalez’s PhD thesis provides one example of these possibilities. He’s developing a mathematical modeling system that uses CT scans to create a three-dimensional computer model of a patient’s hip socket. Using this model, surgeons can customize artificial hip components before surgery takes place, so that fewer fitting adjustments are needed during the actual operation. Other research projects in the department include using wireless sensors to make sure artificial knees are properly fitted by measuring the pressure being applied to the knee and leg.

“This is a field that used to be somewhat subjective,” Gonzalez says. “Technology is enabling us to be more quantitative, to do better, more precise and more reproducible surgeries.”

Gonzalez also has initiated changes to the residency programs, furthering a transition that began in 2002 when Alfonso Mejia, MD, MPH ’90, Res ’95, became program director for the orthopaedic residency. Speaking from his own experience, Mejia says UIC orthopaedic residents long have been well-rounded, confident decision-makers who excel at developing reasonable, structured operation and post-operation plans.

On the other hand, he recognized that formal classroom education was less-developed, and Mejia added two weekly classroom sessions to the Wednesday resident conferences that dramatically improved the residents’ success on the Orthopaedic In-Training Examination, a standardized test for orthopaedic residents. In each of the past four years, UIC residents’ scores have placed the school at or above the 90th percentile of residency programs.

Past graduates of the residency program also are responding to the new energy in the department. Alumni already have given more than $800,000 for a planned $3.2 million comprehensive renovation of each of the department’s four floors in the college’s Medical Science Building, including offices, classrooms and laboratories.

Gonzalez is building on this fundraising success, and he’s gratified by the response he’s receiving from the alumni he’s met. “People really care about this place, and they’re thrilled that we’re doing research, advancing and improving didactics,” he says.

As an alum of the College of Medicine and the residency program himself, Gonzalez shares that passion. His fishing buddy says that Gonzalez exudes the contagious energy of a visionary leader. “He’s got everyone involved,” Amirouche says. “The faculty, the residents, the engineering students, can see that he will do anything to move things forward. He’s been such a positive force.”

Innovation can’t be forced any more than a fish can be compelled to jump at a lure. But just as success in fishing starts with putting a line in the water, orthopaedic researchers and residents at the College of Medicine know they are pursuing breakthroughs with the sense of determination fostered by a leader who thinks anything is possible.
Steadying Nerves
Anatomy and Cell Biology Head Scott Brady Leads the Quest to Understand Neurological Disorders

Typically microscopic in width but up to a meter in length, axons are the part of nerve cells that carry neurological signals throughout the body, and they’ve fascinated Scott Brady, PhD, throughout his career. “I wanted to understand how a neuron that large could develop and maintain itself for 75 or 80 years,” says Brady, head of the UIC department of anatomy and cell biology. “It leads to the question of what happens when things go wrong.”

Brady has made understanding how neurological processes go wrong in diseases such as Alzheimer’s, Parkinson’s, Huntington’s and other adult-onset neurodegenerative diseases a personal goal. “These processes are important because many of the neurological diseases once thought to be diseases of cell death are, understood more explicitly, diseases of abnormal axonal transport,” Brady reflects. “The thinking goes that if you can restore the transport, you can save the cell and defeat the disease.”

His work is supported regularly by the NIH, Muscular Dystrophy Association and ALS Association.

He’s equally passionate about supporting his young researchers in their own novel explorations. “Scott loves to see people succeed,” says Mary Jo LaDu, PhD ’91, associate professor of anatomy and cell biology.

Recruited from the ENH Research Institute, the research arm of Northwestern University and Evanston Northwestern Healthcare, LaDu is studying the interactions between the protein apoE, the primary genetic risk factor for Alzheimer’s disease, and Abeta peptide, the only known genetic causative factor for the disease. She’s using a variety of techniques to explore how these proteins can be manipulated to treat the disease.

Since the beginning of 2009, LaDu has been directing a five-site, $11.5 million NIH study centered at UIC examining how apoE modulates the function of nerves in the brain.

Brady credits LaDu’s work for helping to determine that it is not the accumulation of plaques that triggers Alzheimer’s disease, as commonly was thought, but rather a component part of plaques, small soluble oligomers, that wreak havoc upon the human brain.

Other recent recruits reflect Brady’s commitment to both diversity and innovative research science. Orly Lazarov, PhD, a native of Israel who had been a research fellow at the University of Southern California prior to joining the department, is studying the molecular mechanisms that are common to both neurogenetic—all the production of nerve cells—and Alzheimer’s disease. Hailing from Buenos Aires by way of UCLA and a gene therapy institute in Milan, Ernesto Bongarzone, PhD, is examining the root causes of neuronal damage in childhood diseases such as leukodystrophies and adult diseases such as multiple sclerosis.

Gerardo Morfini, PhD, an Argentinean who came with Brady from University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center, is focusing on how regulatory pathways in the brain are affected by pathogenic proteins associated with Alzheimer’s, Parkinson’s, amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (Lou Gehrig’s disease) and other diseases. All three researchers are assistant professors in anatomy and cell biology.

“One advantage of bringing together multiple research groups that share an interest in neurodegenerative diseases is that the whole becomes greater than the sum of its parts,” Brady notes. “Each of these recruits to our departmental faculty now has collaborations within the department. The resulting exchange of ideas and approaches creates an opportunity to answer questions that individual laboratories might not undertake.”

One example of this interaction is a recent publication in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences that included members of the Brady, LaDu and Morfini laboratories among its authors. The study received attention nationally because it provided new insights into how the small oligomeric form of the Abeta peptide damages neurons in Alzheimer’s disease patients and identified a promising new set of therapeutic targets.

Brady sees the concentration in neuroscience the department has developed over the six years he’s been at its helm as a stepping stone to his ultimate goal: establishing a center for the study of neurodegenerative disease at UIC. “A center would enable us to recruit a critical mass of researchers who share questions and methods,” he says. “That kind of collaboration would allow us to make progress in our research more quickly than we can individually, and speed the development of potential treatments for these diseases.”
What do Legos, seesaws and robots have in common?

They are all part of the College of Medicine’s innovative patient safety curriculum, which has become a model for medical schools across the country and throughout the world.

David Mayer ‘78, MD ‘82, Res ‘04, associate dean of curriculum, co-executive director of the UIC Institute for Patient Safety Excellence and director of cardiothoracic anesthesia, began to integrate patient safety into classes six years ago in response to the Institute of Medicine’s 1999 estimate that as many as 98,000 annual deaths occur due to preventable medical errors.

With the help of a $500,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Education to develop and implement this curriculum, patient safety now has become an integral part of core classes and the focus of a growing number of workshops.

Patient safety is taught along with subjects such as ethics, informatics and professionalism in the first- and second-year essentials in Clinical Medicine course. A dozen required workshops held in the first two years of school teach safety-related topics including teamwork, communication, leadership, stress management and error disclosure.

“Teams learn to work together and communicate effectively through games, simulation exercises and role-playing using actors who play patients or caregivers. Students use Lego blocks to build models of healthcare organizational structures, helping them practice and appreciate effective communication skills.”

Another group exercise uses a seesaw to stress the impact group actions have on patient safety. During the exercise, raw eggs representing patients are placed under both ends of a board balanced on a cinder block, which represents a new medical technology. In the role of the patients’ clinical team, groups of four to five students each are charged with safely “implementing” the medical technology by finding a way for eight students to stand together on the board for 10 seconds without tipping the seesaw and breaking the eggs. (The other four students on each team act as coaches.)

“It sounds simple, but the exercise stresses the importance of communication, teamwork and planning to the students,” Mayer observes. “Above all, it makes them aware of how vulnerable patients are in a medical system and the need to act carefully.”

During the 2008-09 academic year, third-year student teams began applying patient safety principles while working with a robotic human simulator mannequin. If the simulator receives the wrong medication, it responds the same way a human would. The exercise is videotaped, results are discussed and improvements are suggested.

“Those are things you really can’t teach from books or in traditional classrooms; you’ve got to practice it,” Mayer says.

Another first for the program is an elective two-week intensive patient safety course, in which seniors can get a much deeper understanding of full disclosure, quality improvement, electronic records management and other methods for ensuring and improving patient safety. Students learn that simple changes can make huge differences.

Kristin Donaldson, MD, MPH, was impressed with a procedure implemented in 2005 at the University of Illinois Medical Center that reduced the number of surgical instruments left in patients after surgery. Surgeons, the staff started to label instruments using pink tape for retained objects, such as emergency abdominal and chest surgery patients, even if the sponge and instrument count made after surgery matched the pre-surgery number.

“We’re all human, so making sure there are processes in place to address those human errors is important,” says Donaldson, who currently is an emergency medicine resident at the University of Illinois Medical Center.

After graduation, newly minted doctors will face significant challenges working with new regulations and reimbursement penalties designed to ensure patient safety. The culture change we are experiencing right now is fairly significant,” says Yoska Ruddipalli ‘02, MBA ‘04, MD ’09, who has begun his residency in internal medicine at the University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health. “Starting with this generation of doctors, patient safety will be a central focus of the practice.”

Timothy McDonald, MD, JD, associate chief medical officer for safety and risk management, co-executive director of the UIC Institute for Patient Safety Excellence and professor of anesthesiology and pediatrics, already has seen this change taking place among young doctors at the University of Illinois Medical Center.

“Residents in our program who came from our medical school are far more likely, when they see an adverse event, to tell the people who need to know about it,” he says.

In addition, College of Medicine students are spreading the word on safety as they venture forth after graduation. “It’s really exciting to see,” Mayer says. “Because many of the students who take the course head into residency or professional practice and become leaders in patient safety themselves.”

Feature
NEW HOPE
in the Battle Against Childhood Obesity

Weighing 360 pounds when he was 15 years old, MacGregor Downey never imagined that a year later, he’d be almost half his size—and on The Oprah Winfrey Show talking about it.

Yet there he was in October of 2007, a fit and healthy 150 pounds, speaking to an audience of millions about the dramatic 150-pound weight loss he achieved thanks to an experimental treatment he received at the University of Illinois Medical Center.

This past May, Mac—as he is known to family and friends—completed his first year of college, where he participated in and organized intramural football and basketball games. It’s a dramatic change for a young man who had been overweight since fourth grade despite many years of diets, fitness camps and weight loss programs. “I have more confidence as a person. It’s like being reborn,” he says.

During the program’s monthly three-hour consultations, Mac spent a half hour with each member of the New Hope team, which included a physical therapist, dietitian, social worker, nurse practitioner, psychologist and pediatric surgeon. “Everyone was so understanding and loving,” he says. “They became like family.”

In gratitude for Mac’s care, Jacqueline and Robert Downey, his mother, consulted Mac’s pediatrician, who told her about a study of gastric banding surgery for teens being conducted at the New Hope Project for Pediatric and Adolescent Weight Management at the University of Illinois Medical Center. Jacqueline enrolled Mac in the study in April of 2006, and for the next year she traveled with him as often as twice a month to Chicago from their home in Columbus, Ohio.

The New Hope Project is one of the only programs nationwide treating teens who are typically more than 100 pounds overweight. In April 2004, it launched the first FDA-approved study looking for the genetic markers for obesity, trying to predict which kids will respond to lap band. By comparison, the program has found that about 20 to 30 percent of kids lose weight when solely using traditional weight loss methods focused on diet, exercise and behavior modification. By comparison, 80 percent of children with a gastric band lose an average of one to two pounds a week.

“Banding isn’t a magic bullet,” Holterman says. “Kids have to change many behaviors, and it takes hard work every day. We always conduct a six-month evaluation before approving the procedure. Kids have to show us they have the discipline and commitment required, plus the right parental support.”

Mac had all of these attributes, but in the beginning, he didn’t like the program. Like many kids, he’d burned out on diets and programs. “Thinking back on it, I had lost hope. I was tired of failing,” he says.

When Mac hit 350 pounds, his mother, Jacqueline Downey, consulted Mac’s pediatrician, who told her about a study of gastric banding surgery for teens being conducted at the New Hope Project for Pediatric and Adolescent Weight Management at the University of Illinois Medical Center. Jacqueline enrolled Mac in the study in April of 2006, and for the next year she traveled with him as often as twice a month to Chicago from their home in Columbus, Ohio.

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In gratitude for Mac’s care, Jacqueline and Robert Downey, his father, have donated more than $30,000 to support New Hope. Philanthropy is critical to the program’s success. “We’re so grateful for the Downeys’ generous support,” Holterman says. “We want to show the FDA that banding works, then convince the American Academy of Pediatrics to get behind it. Until we discover better therapies—and we will—the band is the best bet for these kids.”

Meanwhile, the need for such treatment is increasing. Mac is one of a growing number of children struggling with obesity, which is considered by many experts to be a public health epidemic, like polio. Defined as 30 pounds over normal weight, obesity will affect almost 20 percent of youth in the U.S. by 2010, according to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The Surgeon General’s report notes that the number of obese children has tripled since 1988, and a 2007 report in the New England Journal of Medicine reported that because of obesity

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Dear Alumni and Friends,

I am glad to have the opportunity to be a part of the University of Illinois medicine family. I became UIC's chief development officer for philanthropy, and how we can work together to build an even better and stronger University of Illinois College of Medicine and University of Illinois Medical Center.

Knowing that the college provides this kind of opportunity is very meaningful to me personally. I grew up in rural South Carolina, and my upbringing emphasized the small-town values of charity, helping others and making a positive difference in people’s lives. These values are what led me to my more than 20-year career as a fundraiser in academic medicine. I want to make an impact by helping raise money to continue the University of Illinois’ tradition of offering affordable education, finding new treatments for disease and making healthcare more accessible to everyone.

I know you want to make a similar impact, because philanthropic support has been the bedrock of those efforts. Thanks in large part to our alumni and other generous individual, corporate and foundation donors, the College of Medicine has raised more than $272 million so far during the Brilliant Futures campaign for the University of Illinois.

But this campaign is about so much more than the number we achieve—it’s about what that number represents. It’s about providing support that led to a new protocol in hepatitis C that gives patients a 50 percent greater chance of recovery. It’s about the eight endowed professorships that the college and medical center use to support and retain such distinguished scientists at UIC and in renowned laboratories around the world.

UIC’s ability to make an impact clinically and scientifically, locally and internationally, is the reason Washington Square has provided more than $1 million in grants to different university programs since 1990. For the past decade, the foundation has helped fund a collaboration between the College of Nursing’s Integrated Health Care program and Thresholds, a mental health services agency in Chicago, to provide care for people with mental illness at multiple sites in the city. Last year, it made a grant to Goldie’s Place, a support center for homeless people located on Chicago’s Far Northwest Side, to help provide equipment for a free dental clinic staffed by volunteer professionals and students from the UIC College of Dentistry.

Numerous College of Medicine initiatives also have received crucial support from the foundation. Washington Square provided the impetus and initial seed funding for the Chicago Diabetes Project, an international research collaboration to find a cure for diabetes that is headquartered in the College of Medicine (see related story on the following page). The foundation has continued to make grants to enhance and expand this effort.

“The foundation feels that bringing researchers together through the Chicago Diabetes Project greatly increases the likelihood of finding a cure,” says Nochumson, who first conceived of the effort and brought the idea to UIC for its researchers to develop.

I look forward to meeting you as opportunity allows. I hope you won’t hesitate to tell me how we are doing in being stewards of your community and beyond. The ways we partner with you are saving lives!
Local Foundations Enable Global Effort

by Steve Hendershot

A Personal Connection

Carr has a deeply personal understanding of the Chicago Diabetes Project’s potential impact on diabetics, because he’s one himself. He’s not the only donor with an up-close understanding of the disease.

In fact, the Naperville-based Tellabs Foundation, another donor, learned about the Chicago Diabetes Project from a longtime employee who is a diabetic—and one of the project’s success stories.

Kim Carlson learned she had diabetes as a high school senior in 1984, 40 years before she discovered the Chicago Diabetes Project. Her illness was always difficult to control, but after her daughter was born 10 years ago, it got worse. Carlson couldn’t tell when she was having hypoglycemic episodes and would unexpectedly lose consciousness. She was afraid she would pass out while driving, so she would test her blood sugar before she got behind the wheel, which required pricking a finger each time. She drew her blood at least seven times a day, along with giving herself four daily insulin injections.

In 2005, after meeting with Oberholzer, she received an islet cell transplant at UIC. Transplantation of the insulin-producing cells, which reside in the pancreas, is the basis for the Chicago Diabetes Project’s efforts. For Carlson, the effects were dramatic. Within five weeks of the transplant, she was completely insulin-independent. That change meant no more finger pricks and an end to the 26,000 shots she’d taken to control her diabetes. Although Carlson suffered a brief setback in 2008 that necessitated her taking small amounts of insulin, she received another islet transplant at UIC in November of last year that again has freed her from needing injections.

Carlson has worked at Tellabs, Inc. for more than 20 years—nearly her entire diabetic life. She introduced Oberholzer to members of the company’s charitable foundation, which includes healthcare as one of its focus areas. Upon hearing Carlson’s story and learning about Oberholzer’s research, supporting the Chicago Diabetes Project was an easy choice, according to Michael Bink, the foundation’s president and chairman of Tellabs’ corporate board. The Tellabs Foundation committed $100,000 to the project.

For Carlson, it was a chance to give back to a cause that had radically improved her life. “I always hoped a cure would come during my lifetime. My diabetes was out of control, and I knew it would get worse,” she says. “It’s turned out wonderfully. Like everything was aligned, that I could help out with funding and return the favor.”

Enabling Progress

Achieving a functional cure for all diabetics will require two distinct breakthroughs by Chicago Diabetes Project researchers: first, developing a means to create islet cells that can be used in transplantation; and second, finding a way to protect the transplanted islet cells from the attacks of the body’s immune system. Chicago Diabetes Project scientists have made recent progress on both fronts. The team successfully has divided insulin-producing islet cells and regrown each part into a whole cell. While the researchers can’t generate these cells in large quantities yet, this technique still is a significant advance. Previously, the islets used in transplantation were only available in limited quantities from donor cadavers.

There have been two advances related to helping the body receive transplanted cells. Oberholzer’s team, using immunosuppressant drugs, now is able to transplant enough islet cells to take a patient off insulin after only one procedure. (Prior to this advance, patients often needed two or three transplants to become insulin-independent.) In the long term, though, the team hopes to develop a delivery method that doesn’t require suppression of the immune system. Chicago Diabetes Project scientists in Perugia, Italy, and Tübingen, Norway, successfully have transplanted islet cells without immunosuppression by encapsulating the cells.

That’s welcome news to donors such as Eric Hartka, who chairs the Chicago Diabetes Project’s steering committee. He has been volunteering on behalf of diabetes researchers for 33 years—ever since his then-two-year-old daughter was diagnosed with the disease. When he retired from the advertising agency BBDO Worldwide, where he was a senior vice president until 2008, he asked friends and co-workers to donate to the project in lieu of a retirement gift. He raised $50,000.

“The Chicago Diabetes Project has made enormous, remarkable progress,” says Hartka, noting that based on its successes, the project finally is in line for grants from larger entities like the National Institutes of Health and the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation, both of which have funded subsidiary projects of the initiative.

“We’d never have gotten to this stage without personal and foundation grants. A lot of Chicago donors have stepped up to the plate,” Hartka continues. “This effort has global implications, but its roots are right here in Chicago and at UIC.”
The College of Medicine is honoring two storied members of its faculty and further extending their impact by establishing funds in their names.

The Truman O. Anderson, MD, PhD. Fund for Excellence in Medicine will support capital improvements at the University of Illinois Medical Center and an award for department of medicine residents and fellows, both with the aim of encouraging the development of physician-researchers that has been a focus of Anderson's long and distinguished career. Since joining the microbiology faculty as an instructor in 1965, Anderson has held numerous faculty and administrative positions in the College of Medicine, including service as executive dean of the college from 1980 to 1990. His leadership has had a profound effect on the college.

In 1969, Anderson '50, PhD '55, MD '60, Rex '61, established the James Scholar Program for Independent Study in the College of Medicine, which he led from 1966 to 1970 and again from 1996 to this day. The program led to the development of the combined MD/PhD programs on both the Chicago and Urbana campuses.

In the 1970s, he was instrumental in developing the college’s regional campuses in Urbana-Champaign, Peoria and Rockford. Later, he led the campaign to prevent the closing of the University of Illinois Hospital, enabling it to evolve into the major medical and research center that it is today. Even in his ostensible retirement, Anderson continues to serve the College of Medicine as special assistant to the dean, acting as a liaison between the dean’s office and the three regional campuses.

Consistent with Anderson’s personal career, achievements and interests, an emphasis of the fund in his name will be to support the career development of trainees interested in academic medicine. Toward this end, the fund in part will support the renovation of two meeting rooms in the University of Illinois Medical Center to include modern audiovisual and educational equipment, accommodate a greater number of computers, and provide comfortable, appealing space for meetings, rounds, seminars and conferences. The fund also will support an award in Anderson’s name to recruit and retain residents who wish to pursue the physician-scientist pathway for their residency and/or fellowship training.

“Over the years, Truman Anderson has provided strong leadership when dealing with difficult issues facing the College of Medicine and the university. He is a person of impeccable ethics and judgment,” says former UIC Chancellor (1991–1996) and former University of Illinois President (1996–2005) James Stukuls, MS ’63, PhD ’68. “It is our hope that this award will foster the same passion for academic excellence that Dr. Anderson has espoused for more than 50 years.”

The College of Medicine invites Truman Anderson’s past and present colleagues and students to submit written tributes for a publication in his honor. They may be sent to TrumanTribute@uic.edu.

Lloyd Nyhus, who passed away last January at 85 (see obituary on page 57), served for more than 20 years as the Warren H. Cole Professor and head of the department of surgery at the University of Illinois Medical Center. When he joined UIC in 1967, Nyhus followed Cole as the second full-time academic surgeon at the institution. Under Nyhus, the department grew to include 52 full-time faculty members. One of his legacies is a surgical residency program that trained more than 300 graduates during his tenure.

The College of Medicine established an endowed chair to honor Nyhus in 2007. Now the department of surgery is raising funds to establish the annual Lloyd M. Nyhus, MD, Memorial Lecture in Surgery, with the hope of hosting the first lecture this December.

“Dr. Nyhus had an enormous impact on the many surgeons he trained during his years as department head,” says Enrico Benezart, MD, FS ’93, Warren H. Cole Chair of Surgery. “It seemed appropriate to honor his memory by establishing a lectureship in his name and continue his legacy of teaching and training surgeons.”

Lloyd Nyhus, MD

Goldstein Gift Helps Orthopaedics Research Move Forward

by Steve Hendershot

The Goldstein gift’s aim is broadly defined to encompass research in biomechanics at UIC. Biomechanics includes most of orthopaedics: how tendons, ligaments, muscles and bones respond to forces like motion and gravity. Goldstein, who worked on research projects as a resident, hopes that the fund not only will lead to breakthrough research, but also will provide training opportunities for future clinicians so they can see the value of research and stay engaged with developments in orthopaedics.

“The worst thing you can do in medicine is to stop learning,” he says. “If you don’t learn, you don’t change. Without change, we’d be opening people’s knees to remove cartilage instead of doing it in 15-minute outpatient surgery. Because of learning and change, patients have less pain.”

The Goldstein fund fits perfectly with the renewed research focus of the orthopaedics department under department head Mark Gonzalez, MD, MD Eng [see related story on page 30]. Gonzalez says the fund will act as an incubator for research ideas at UIC.

“Funds of this nature give us a head start,” Gonzalez says. “They allow us to do basic experimentation and grow our projects to the point where we can apply for larger funding sources such as federal grants. I’m very grateful to Wayne and Linda for giving us the crucial funding to support this kind of first-stage research.”

The importance of seed money resonates with Goldstein, particularly in his role as a clinical professor at UIC. “One of the problems with research is that you may have a great idea, but without resources—mechanical equipment, support personnel, or human tissue to test—you can’t develop it,” Goldstein says.

Goldstein remembers that when he was a medical student and resident, UIC’s research on scoliosis and arthroscopy couldn’t get the funding needed to achieve national recognition. “I’m hopeful that his gift will help launch UIC’s orthopaedics research into a position of greater national prominence. And why not? It’s a field in constant flux—always in motion.

Linda and Wayne Goldstein, MD, at the College of Medicine’s 15th Anniversary Gala
Hair Today, Gains Tomorrow—St. Baldrick's Foundation Supports Pediatric Cancer Research

by Lisa Haweschild

When a young cancer patient of Mary Lou Schmidt, MD, dared her to shave her head as part of a fundraiser, she jokingly told him, “Sure, for a million dollars.” Schmidt, an associate professor of pediatrics and head of the division of pediatric hematology/oncology at UIC, assumed her long locks were safe.

But in the spring of 2008, 44 Chicago-area schools joined together to raise $1 million for pediatric oncology research as part of a fundraising event called St. Baldrick’s. That day, Schmidt had her head shaved, her St. Baldrick’s (left), shortly after Mary Lou Schmidt, MD, did the trimming. 10-year-old patient, gleefully watched her hair drop to the floor of St. Baldrick’s Foundation.

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Since April of last year, the St. Baldrick’s Foundation has awarded grants totaling $450,000 to a research team of 55 faculty members from UIC, Rush University Medical Center and John H. Stroger Jr. Hospital of Cook County. The three institutions— UIC, Rush and Stroger— are located near each other in Chicago’s West Side Medical District.

The collaboration among the three hospitals has increased the availability of potentially life-saving trials to patients. “The cure rate for pediatric cancers has gone from 30 percent to 81 percent in 50 years because of these trials, which take the best knowledge about cancer care and work to further improve the patients’ chance for cure while minimizing side effects,” Schmidt says. “Kids wouldn’t be alive today if hospitals and physicians hadn’t begun collaborating in the late 1950s.”

Erdös Prize, Endowment Fund Extend Legacy of Breakthrough Research

by Dan Liberty

The advances in medicine that clinicians bring to the patient bedside would not be possible without the bench researchers whose diligent labors pave the way for these advances.

Erdös Prize

“Professor Erdös is a giant in the field of pharmacology who deserves to be honored, and the department of pharmacology is honored in turn by his research,” Schmidt says. “Sure, for a million dollars.”

Professor Erdös is a giant in the field of pharmacology who deserves to be honored, and the department of pharmacology is honored in turn by the recognition of his research.”

Erdös Prize

Professor Erdös is a giant in the field of pharmacology who deserves to be honored, and the department of pharmacology is honored in turn by his research. The endowed professorship will extend his legacy in research and education.

“Professor Erdös is a giant in the field of pharmacology who deserves to be honored, and the department of pharmacology is honored in turn by his research. The endowed professorship will extend his legacy in research and education. By encouraging students’ interest in basic research, he hopes to help them become better doctors—even if they don’t make the lifelong commitment to research that he has. “My hope is that by expanding their horizons, the ones who become clinicians will think more about the causes and the effects of certain biochemical changes and what follows the administration of medicines,” he says, “or that the award will encourage them to stay in basic research and make important contributions to our knowledge that make it possible to treat patients better.”
Pitesky Endowment Honors Brother’s Memory and Achievements
by Lisa Haufschild

When Sheldon Pitesky was growing up during the Depression, his hero was his brother Isadore, 13 years Sheldon’s senior, who set an example of educational attainment and personal aspiration. “Isadore was the first person in our family to attend college,” recalls Sheldon, a retired schoolteacher in California. “We all were thrilled.”

Devoted to his family and driven to succeed, Isadore went on to become a physician who treated the Pitesky brothers’ own father and an entrepreneur who took on Sheldon as a business partner. These accomplishments were made possible by Isadore’s education at the University of Illinois College of Medicine, from which he received his MD in 1948 and a master’s in pharmacology in 1952.

In gratitude for those opportunities, Sheldon and his wife, Shirl Lee Pitesky, made a $100,000 gift to the College of Medicine, from which he received his MD in 1948 and a master’s in pharmacology in 1952.

“Isadore was a true Renaissance man, a gifted inventor, chemist, wood and metal worker, photographer and musician,” Sheldon says. “At UIC, he played bass in the orchestra and sat in on classes outside his field of study. For his business, he made prototypes of all his inventions in his shop, photographed them himself and made his own brochures.”

A bachelor most of his life, Isadore married Eba, née Hiscock, in 1976. She was an instructor at the University of Chicago and University of Illinois—Isadore had been one of her students—head dictionist at the Long Beach VA Hospital, and a dietary consultant to VA hospitals nationwide.

After Isadore died in 2007, at age 87, and Eba passed away at 92 in 2007, Sheldon and Shirl Lee wanted to honor their memory. “Even today I feel enormous gratitude to the government for establishing the GI Bill,” Sheldon says. “It allowed Isadore to get to medical school and fulfill his dream.”

Inspired by a desire to treat his arthritic father, Isadore decided to become an allergist. When an internship at the Long Beach VA Hospital took Isadore west, the Pitesky family soon followed.

After his residency, Isadore established a successful asthma allergy practice in California, and saw patients for 59 years. He also founded an innovative medical products company, Creative Scientific, and ran it for many years with Sheldon as vice president of manufacturing. Isadore held about two dozen patents for medical devices, some of which still are in use.

“Isadore was a true Renaissance man, a gifted inventor, chemist, wood and metal worker, photographer and musician,” Sheldon says. “At UIC, he played bass in the orchestra and sat in on classes outside his field of study. For his business, he made prototypes of all his inventions in his shop, photographed them himself and made his own brochures.”

A bachelor most of his life, Isadore married Eba, née Hiscock, in 1976. She was an instructor at the University of Chicago and University of Illinois—Isadore had been one of her students—head dictionist at the Long Beach VA Hospital, and a dietary consultant to VA hospitals nationwide.

After Isadore died in 2007, at age 87, and Eba passed away at 92 in 2007, Sheldon and Shirl Lee wanted to honor their memory.

Making a gift to the College of Medicine and the department of pharmacology just made sense,” he explains. “Isadore always spoke glowingly about his days at the University of Illinois medical school. It opened up a whole world for him.”

It’s a story to warn any parent’s heart:
First the sons and daughter of four ophthalmologists followed in their fathers’ footsteps, receiving their education and training at the College of Medicine and the UIC department of ophthalmology. Now they also have endowed a lectureship in their fathers’ honor.

The Four Fathers Lecture at the College of Medicine honors Arnold D. Curnyn ’37, MD ’39, Res’ 45; the late Harold Q. Kirk, MD, Res’ 50; John H. Panton, MD, Res’ 53; and Karl E. Ticho, MD. The annual lecture on ophthalmology is made possible by gifts from the doctors’ children and other family members.

“The department of ophthalmology is proud to see this legacy of education and care handed down from one generation to the next,” says Dimitri Azar, MD, head of ophthalmology. “The annual Four Fathers Lecture will continue to further educate ophthalmologists on the management of the most difficult and complicated ophthalmic cases. It is a fitting tribute to these accomplished gentlemen, and I am delighted that their children have honored their fathers with their joint gift.”

“We wanted to honor our fathers’ contributions to their profession and to do something that would emphasize education,” says Benjamin Ticho, who spearheaded the initiative. “It’s a way of recognizing both our parents and the whole concept of continuity in medicine, and of bringing together a bunch of friends who first met when we did our training at UIC.”

Ticho notes with pride that the three living fathers all are still practicing ophthalmology, exemplifying the love of the profession they passed on to the next generation. “Having done this work now for nearly two decades ourselves, it makes us appreciate their dedication all the more,” he says.

After completing his medical training and serving as a captain in the U.S. Air Force Medical Corps, Arnold Curnyn became a clinical associate professor of ophthalmology at UIC, a position he held until the early 1990s. He performed medical missions to Africa, an experience that inspired Kimberlee Curnyn—a medical volunteer staff at the Illinois Eye and Ear Infirmary for four decades, attending grand rounds and participating in the training of hundreds of residents. “We know that all our fathers were just one piece of the history in ophthalmology at UIC,” Kimberlee Curnyn reflects, “but it shows how one person can have an impact that can last generations, whether it’s teaching residents that may set examples for other residents for generations, or just setting an example for their own children.”

A native of Greece, John H. Panton received his MD from the National University of Athens Medical School in 1951, then came to Chicago for his internship and residency training. He subsequently opened a private practice, which he maintains to this day, joined by his sons, Robert and Peter, and his daughter, Elizabeth Panton Karkazis ‘86, OD.

Karl Ticho fled his native Czechoslovakia to escape the Holocaust, which took the lives of his parents and siblings, returning at the end of the war only to flee again, this time from communist rule. He received a medical degree from the University of Innsbruck in 1952, then immigrated to Chicago for his subsequent training. He established a successful private practice on the city’s Southwest Side, which he continues in his 90s with Benjamin Ticho. In all, four of Ticho’s five children became physicians. He also served on the volunteer staff at the Illinois Eye and Ear Infirmary for four decades, attending grand rounds and participating in the training of hundreds of residents.

“We know that all our fathers were just one piece of the history in ophthalmology at UIC,” Kimberlee Curnyn reflects, “but it shows how one person can have an impact that can last generations, whether it’s teaching residents that may set examples for other residents for generations, or just setting an example for their own children.”
Attention Must Be Paid

by Terri Yablonsky Stat

He world of medicine has changed greatly since Howard N. Allen ‘58, MD ‘60, first became a physician, but he still holds fast to the time-honored, albeit time-consuming, virtues of personalized attention to patients and careful consideration of each one’s condition.

His approach is rooted in compassion gained from personal experience, which has guided his successful career in both academic medicine and private practice.

For Allen, a cardiologist with the Cardiovascular Medical Group of Southern California in Beverly Hills, spending two hours with a new patient is standard procedure. That’s how long it takes him to question, examine, review his findings and counsel a patient, as well as to truly get to know a patient. “I ask all the questions as I did when I was a medical student,” he says. “I obtain a detailed, face-to-face history.”

Allen also has dedicated himself to instilling his thoroughness in future physicians. He’s program director for Cardiology Grand Rounds at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center in Los Angeles and a clinical professor of medicine at the David Geffen School of Medicine at the University of California, Los Angeles.

Allen credits his patient evaluation approach to the late Edmund F. Foley, MD, and the late famed pharmacologist Harris Busch, MD. He feels that cardiology gave him more tools to approach that he was exposed to during his medical school years and that cardiology has allowed him to feel more involved in his work.

Allen completed his internship at St. Mary’s Hospital in London, England, with Aubrey Leatham, MB. He feels that the patient approach that he was exposed to during his medical school years and that cardiology has allowed him to feel more involved in his work.

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Allen’s devoted approach to patient care. Undoubtedly, thousands of patients, both famed and anonymous, have been calmed, comforted and healed thanks to him.

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Charles B. Denis, MD, served in the U.S. Navy as a medical officer in Vietnam from 1967 to 1970. He has been a clinician professor at the University of California and a leader in the development of biophysics of medicine, also serves as a professor and consultant for the Elmhurst Clinic, where he traveled to Jamaica with their dog, Abby.

1956

Elio J. Fornatto, MD, of Scottsdale, Ariz., is a clinical professor at the University of Arizona and director of the National Tuberculosis Central Division of the arts. Named after Rikli, a supporter of the University of Missouri and alumni of Los Angeles, is a retired orthopedic surgery. He and his wife, Joan, and his family practiced in Chicago for more than 30 years. He retired as medical director of the University of Washington, D.C., is a clinical professor of orthopedic surgery at the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine. He is an early proponent of small-incision cataract surgery. Along with maintaining a private practice, he served as clinical professor at the University of Oahu and was a founder of ASCRS. He retired in 2007.

1957

Mehor Schnur, MD, of Los Angeles, is a retired psychoanalyst. He served in several positions with the Southern California Psychiatric Institute for more than 40 years. He also worked for the city of Los Angeles as a psychiatric medical consultant. Prior to moving to Los Angeles, Schnur practiced in Chicago for more than 30 years. He is currently semi-retired and enjoys golfing in his free time.

1958

Joe Lazarus, ’51, MD, and his wife, Adeline Lazarus, ’52, attended the department of otolaryngology’s gala celebration of the 120th anniversary of the Eye and Ear Infirmary. With his wife of 48 years, Mary Elizabeth, Retired from the Elmhurst Clinic, where he maintained a thriving practice for 43 years. Fermi and his wife, a registered nurse, have traveled to Jamaica with their daughter and son-in-law, Joff, throughout their life, in help of dental clinics.

1959

Nicholas A. Ladoulis, MD, MS, ’58, BS, ’55, PhD, ’72, MD, of Morton, Stan, is a scientific mentor and consultant for the University City Science Center in Philadelphia. In 1977, he established the center’s Connector Research Institute. Kefalides also serves as a professor of orthopaedic surgery at the University of California and director of the National Tuberculosis Central Division of the arts. Named after Rikli, a supporter of the University of Missouri and alumni of Los Angeles, is a retired orthopedic surgery. He and his wife, Joan, and his family practiced in Chicago for more than 30 years. He retired as medical director of the University of Washington, D.C., is a clinical professor of orthopedic surgery at the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine. He is an early proponent of small-incision cataract surgery. Along with maintaining a private practice, he served as clinical professor at the University of Oahu and was a founder of ASCRS. He retired in 2007.

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William J. Donovan, MD, of Glencoe, has published “How to Be a Paladin” and “The Paladin’s Guide to Playing Healthy”. Donovan is a retired board president. The founder of the Schaller Anderson Institute, he was a former family practitioner in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. Denis was cited for his service and leadership to the board from 1967 to 2012. He now resides in Naples, FL, with his wife, Dena, and their dog, Abby.

1961

John R. Shepherd, MD, ’65, PhD ‘65, of Bloomington, retired on staff at OSF St. Francis Medical Center. Prior to moving to Bloomington, he initiated EMT classes at Delavan High School and established Delavan’s first ambulance service. From 1959 to 1974, he served as a medical missionary in a clinic in2.

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1963

Vigil D. Short, MD, of Bloomington, retired in 2006 after serving as an intern in Bloomington-Normal for 35 years.

1964

Ronald L. Ariagno, MD, ’74, MS ’74, PhD ’74, of Oak Brook, is a board-certified colon-rectal surgeon in private practice with offices in Chicago and Streamwood. He co-located the John Olin Eye clinic, ’56, MD ’58, of surgery, as an outstanding inspiration for his career in medicine. He and his wife, Joan, have retired and currently reside in the Atherton hiring joint replacements. In planning their studies, he concluded that I had to be just right. Dan Norvell, MD, Adeline Lazarus, ’52, attended the department of otolaryngology’s gala celebration of the 120th anniversary of the Eye and Ear Infirmary. With his wife of 48 years, Mary Elizabeth, Retired from the Elmhurst Clinic, where he maintained a thriving practice for 43 years. Fermi and his wife, a registered nurse, have traveled to Jamaica with their daughter and son-in-law, Joff, throughout their life, in help of dental clinics.

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1967

Alphonse Soderstrom, MD, of Elmhurst, has served as a chair of the National Committee for Quality Assurance and the Goodman Samaritan Hospital Family Practice Residency Program.

1968

Kenneth C. Lindahl, MD, Res ’56, PhD ’58, of Sugar Grove, retired as medical director of Schaller Anderson Institute. Prior to moving to Bloomington, he initiated EMT classes at Delavan High School and established Delavan’s first ambulance service. From 1959 to 1974, he served as a medical missionary in a clinic in

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1970

James Scholar Program at UIC, which gives students more freedom and options in planning their studies. "I think it’s important that I had USC just outstanding. It certainly gave me a great start in medicine," he remembers. "The clinical experience was good, and the physicians were so accessible to the medical students. That was terrific.”

1971

Lucile Packard Children’s Hospital, Stanford, Calif., has family practice and teaches at the School of Medicine at the University of California-San Francisco. Scholarship

1972

Morton C. Morris, MD, ’69, of Oak Brook, is a board-certified colon-rectal surgeon in private practice with offices in Chicago and Streamwood. He co-located the John Olin Eye clinic, ’56, MD ’58, of surgery, as an outstanding inspiration for his career in medicine. He and his wife, Joan, have retired and currently reside in the Atherton hiring joint replacements. In planning their studies, he concluded that I had to be just right. Dan Norvell, MD, Adeline Lazarus, ’52, attended the department of otolaryngology’s gala celebration of the 120th anniversary of the Eye and Ear Infirmary. With his wife of 48 years, Mary Elizabeth, Retired from the Elmhurst Clinic, where he maintained a thriving practice for 43 years. Fermi and his wife, a registered nurse, have traveled to Jamaica with their daughter and son-in-law, Joff, throughout their life, in help of dental clinics.

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Myron B. Steinberg, MD, ’74, MS ’74, PhD ’74, of Oak Brook, is a board-certified colon-rectal surgeon in private practice with offices in Chicago and Streamwood. He co-located the John Olin Eye clinic, ’56, MD ’58, of surgery, as an outstanding inspiration for his career in medicine. He and his wife, Joan, have retired and currently reside in the Atherton hiring joint replacements. In planning their studies, he concluded that I had to be just right. Dan Norvell, MD, Adeline Lazarus, ’52, attended the department of otolaryngology’s gala celebration of the 120th anniversary of the Eye and Ear Infirmary. With his wife of 48 years, Mary Elizabeth, Retired from the Elmhurst Clinic, where he maintained a thriving practice for 43 years. Fermi and his wife, a registered nurse, have traveled to Jamaica with their daughter and son-in-law, Joff, throughout their life, in help of dental clinics.

1975

Allan Friedman, MD ’74
Class Notes

What’s New?

Nancy Hanming, MD, Res ’79, Fellow ’85, is in a group practice that recently moved to North Lake. In addi-
tion, she is assistant professor and oncology board consultant at Rush Universi-
ty and serves on the board of directors of the American College of Physicians.
She is married to Eunice C. Hung-

Michael A. Hasbargen, MS ’75, PhD ’82, is founder and president of Instructi-
ons in published medical journals. His research interests are in the areas of virology and eukaryotic gene expression.

Robert D. Rondinelli, AM ’74, MD, is in private surgical practice as a plastic surgeon in Green Bay, Wis. He has been married to Brenda A. Walter, RN, BSN, for 17 years. He lives in the Metro program.

Lee Jampol, MD, Fellow ’75, is chief medical officer and president of MRF, a drug development company. He directs the MRF Foundation, a nonprofit, which focuses on research into the causes, prevention, and treatment of inflammatory bowel disease.

Michelle Grant Ervin, MD, Res ’93, is founder and president of Extra Virgin, a St. Louis-based olive oil shop. Her shop has been featured in The New York Times, Food & Wine, and Eater magazine.

James C. Lian, MD, Res ’80, MPH ’97, is a professor of pediatrics at the University of Colorado School of Medicine and an associate professor of pediatrics at the University of Colorado School of Public Health. He is also the director of the Children’s Hospital Colorado Center of Excellence for Perinatal Research.

Dianne F. RIce, MD, FACP, is the visiting medical director for the University of Illinois Medical Group since 1993. He is a general surgeon with OSF Sacred Heart Medical Center in Winfield.

Mark H. Feinblatt, MD, FACP, is a staff attending physician at Memorial Hospital in Chicago and an associate professor of medicine at the University of Chicago. He is also a principal investigator of the National Cancer Institute’s Surveillance, Epidemiology, and End Results Program.

Marianne Unger Prey, MD, Res ’93, MHPE ’95, is a member of the American Academy of Family Physicians and serves as the association’s president-elect. She is also director of the Illinois Academy of Family Physicians.

Matthew P. Donohue, MD, PhD, is a neurosurgeon and attending neurosurgeon at the University of Illinois at Chicago. He is also an associate professor of neurosurgery at the University of Illinois College of Medicine.

Diane F. Rice, MD, is chairman of cardiology at the University of Illinois Medical Center in Chicago. She is also a professor of medicine at the University of Illinois College of Medicine.

Joseph-Redding, MD, is president of Takeda Global Research and Development Operations. He became a member of the Johnson & Johnson Pharmaceutical Research & Development Advisory Committee in 2009.

Theodore S. Tevethia, MD, PhD, is a professor of medicine at the University of Illinois at Chicago. He is also the director of the Center for Pediatric Research at NorthShore University HealthSystem.

David Thompson ’83, MD, is a co-author of SymptomMD, an iPhone application that provides users with medical advice regarding common illnesses to help them determine if they need to seek physician treatment.

Matthew S. Martin, MD, Res ’85, is in private practice in the Chicago area. He is also a member of the American Medical Association and the American Academy of Family Physicians.

Ezra S. Simmons, MD, is in private practice in the Chicago area. He is also a member of the American Medical Association and the American Academy of Family Physicians.

Daniel P. McGrew, MD, is the chief medical officer at the University of Illinois at Chicago. He is also a member of the American College of Physicians and the American Academy of Family Physicians.

Jay Goldstein, MD, Res ’84, is in private practice in the Chicago area. He is also a member of the American Medical Association and the American Academy of Family Physicians.

Michelle Grant Ervin, MD, Res ’93, is founder and president of Extra Virgin, a St. Louis-based olive oil shop. Her shop has been featured in The New York Times, Food & Wine, and Eater magazine.

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Curious about what
Your classmates are
UIC Medicine.
The next issue of uic.edu, and we'll be
News?

Vess training in craniomaxil-
He also has completed fellow-
In Neptune, N.J.
Stephen A. Chidyllo, MD, DDS, Res’92
Medical Affairs there.
Bruce Sumlin, MD
University Medical and Trau-
Surgery with Jersey Shore
at Howard University and
1992

...A.	Chidyllo,	MD,	DDS,	Res	’92
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Prepared for Innovative BioSensors and
Research company. He is an
vice president of research
for Neuralstem, a stem-cell
itive vice president of research
for Innovative Biosensors and
sientist for the National Institutes of
Health.

Merle S. Rust, MD, of Janes-
Dermatologic Surgery.

Kimberly J. Mitchell, MD
from Northwestern University
7.5 hotmail.com.

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School of Law.

Kimberly J. Mitchell, MD, of Hinsdale is an interventional
radiologist with Central Du-
Page Hospital. He specializes
in lymphology, a minimally
invasive spinal surgery
procedure. Before joining the
hospital in February 2008, Kim
served as a radiologist at Delnor Community Hospital,
UIC Medical Center and
West Los Angeles Veterans Affairs Hospital. Kim is a
member of the Radiological Society of North America.

Trent D. Proud, MD, of Pontiac, is a surgeon at OSF St.
James John W. Albrecht Medical Center in Pontiac.
He recently became a Fellow of the American College of
Surgeons.
Obituaries

In Memoriam

JULIUS RICHMOND ’37, MS ’39, MD ’40, HONOR ’79, of Hamburg, N.Y., died July 27, 2008. He was a veteran, he practiced internal medicine in Decatur, Ill., and was a former member of the College of Medicine. He received the Mayo Distinguished Investigator Award in 1994. His work on pituitary gland research was recognized. He served on the boards and committees of many professional societies and was a member of many professional and civic organizations.

SAMUEL W. BECKER JR., MD, ’47, of Jacksonville, Fla., died Oct. 4, 2008. A long-time resident of Holmes Beach, Fla., he was a veteran of World War II. Prior to entering private practice in dermatology, he joined the faculty of U of F as an instructor in 1955, where he held his academic rank until 1974.

VASTHUNI CAPEK, MD, of Dallas, Tex., and Marquette, Wis., died Sept. 20, 2008. After immigrating from Czechoslovakia in 1965, Capek joined the faculty at the University of Illinois Medical College and achieved the rank of professor with being named chairman of the department of radiology in 1972. He maintained that appointment until 1989, when he retired from active practice. Capek was admired for his teaching and administrative skills.

GUSTAV W. GIEBELHAUSEN, MD ’43, of Peoria, died March 18, 2008. A faculty member at the College of Medicine at Peoria, he taught medicine, surgery and for many years. Giebelhausen began his private practice in 1958. Later he completed further training in general surgery and chest surgery, and was active in surgery at Methodist St. Francis and Proctor hospi- tals. He was a Diplomat of the American College of Surgeons and a veteran of the Army Medical Corps.

EDWIN E. GOLDBERG, MD, of Benton Springs, Fla., died April 25, 2009. An Air Force veteran, he practiced internal medicine in Decatur until 1980. While in Decatur, Goldberg served as chief of medicine at the College of Medicine at Urbana-Champaign. During this time, he also was appointed vice president of medical and environmental affairs at the A.E. Staley Mfg. Company (now Tate & Lyle). He was an active member of several professional societies and was appointed to the Illinois Governor’s Council for Health and Physical Fitness, where he enjoyed working on many healthcare issues at the legislative level. Goldberg and his wife, Janee Goldberg ’49, MD, performed medical mission work in Honduras and Vietnam and were honored by the Honduran government for their medical assistance following Hurricane Mitch.

ROBERT L. GRISOM ’39, MD ’41, MS ’47, of Omaha, Neb., died March 17, 2009. A former associate professor of internal medicine at the College of Medicine, he was recruited to the University of Nebraska Medical Center in 1955, where he served for more than 30 years. Grisom was the first full-time chair of internal medicine, professor emeritus of the department of cardiology and one of four original full-time clinical faculty members.

HAROLD L. MANFREDI, MD, RES ’54, of Chicago, died June 20, 2009. He was a faculty member at UIC from 1974-1998. Manfredi was a member of numerous professional societies and served as a professor in the U.S. Army. He received his medical degree from the Northwestern University Medical School in 1950 and completed his residency training at the Cleveland Veterans Administration Medical Center.

COYTE C. MASON, CERTIF. ’39, MD ’40, a member of the department of pathology faculty for 27 years, died Feb. 6, 2009. He was born in Grand Rapids, Mich. Mason came to Chicago in 1929 to study medical illustration at the Art Institute of Chicago, which led him to his becoming a physician. He was influential in establishing numerous blood banks and was co-founder of the Council of Community Blood Banks, now known as American Blood Centers.

During his career, Mason also served as one of America’s first pathologists and helped establish the medical technology program at Aurora College (now Aurora University), where he was professor of anatomy and assisted in establishing the surgical pathology program.

LARRY W. MCDONALD, MD, of Glens- ford, died May 18, 2009. He joined the College of Medicine in 1978 as professor of neurosurgery and a physician surgeon. In 1993, he collaborated with UIC neurosurgeon Manuel Dujovny and initiated a proj- ect to catalogue and label a large and well-preserved collection of specimens from brain injuries and dis- eases. After rotating from full-time work, McDonald remained a part-time neurosurgeon, continuing to track and mentor medical students until May 2005.

Prior to coming to UIC, McDonald worked for the federal government’s Lawrence Radiation Laboratories and taught at the University of California Davis School of Medicine and at Wright State University in Dayton, Ohio.

HUGH J. McMCNAMARA ’50, MD ’52, of Peoria, died Oct. 30, 2007. He was a clinical assoc- iate professor at the College of Medicine in Peoria and was chief of the physical medicine and rehabilita- tion at the Mononoree Hospital in Bloomington. A World War II navy veteran, his staff appointments included consulting with Rockwell Automation, Normal, DuPage Hospital and St. John’s Hospital in Springfield.

LLOYD M. NYHUS, MD, of Chicago, Warren W. Cole Professor and head of surgery at the College of Medicine for more than 20 years. Dr. Nyhus began his career to provide solid data rather than sentiment in informing programs that might better the lives of children.

ROBERT J. JENSIK, CERTIF. ’38, MS ’38, MD ’39, RES ’48, of Omaha, Neb., died March 19, 2008. A former assistant professor of internal medicine at the College of Medicine, he was recruited to the University of Nebraska Medical Center in 1955, where he served for more than 30 years. Grisom was the first full-time chair of internal medicine, professor emeritus of the department of cardiology and one of four original full-time clinical faculty members.

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ROBERT L. GRISOM ’39, MD ’41, MS ’47, of Omaha, Neb., died March 17, 2009. A former associate professor of internal medicine at the College of Medicine, he was recruited to the University of Nebraska Medical Center in 1955, where he served for more than 30 years. Grisom was the first full-time chair of internal medicine, professor emeritus of the department of cardiology and one of four original full-time clinical faculty members.

Throughout his career, he held many leadership positions and received numerous awards, including becoming one of the second practicing physicians in Nebraska to achieve mastership status in the American College of Physicians.

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Throughout his career, he held many leadership positions and received numerous awards, including becoming one of the second practicing physicians in Nebraska to achieve mastership status in the American College of Physicians.

OBITUARIES

In Memoriam

Faculty

ROBERT J. RYAN, MD, of Rochester, Minn., died Oct. 30, 2008. He was a member of UIC’s faculty for many years before joining Mayo Clinic in 1979. At Mayo, Ryan rose through the ranks as a professor and was chairman of two departments. He remained more than 40 professional fellowships and received the Mayo Distinguished Investigator Award in 1986 and the Mayo Distinguished Alumnus Award in 1994. His work on primary glaucoma hemorrhages earned both national and international recognition. He served on the boards and committees of many professional societies, earning a number of awards.

JOHN E. SHEEN, MD, of Moline, Ill., died Oct. 18, 2007. A World War II Navy pharmacist mate and public health officer who served in general practice in Brincau from 1945 to 1955. He then went into private practice as a psychiatrist until 1958 and served as medical director for the Human Service Center until 2004. He was a faculty member of the College of Medicine in Peoria and served as off-fist Saint Francis Medical Center. He was a member of several professional and civic societies. She was past vice president of the Central Illinois Psychiatric Association.

WILLIAM GERARD SMITH, MD, of Ful- lin, Va., died Sept. 20, 2008. He was a former professor of psychiatry and was the originating chair of the department of psychiatry for the University of Illinois College of Medicine at Rockford. Smith also served as the dean of research for the Illinois Department of Mental Health in Rockford. A gradu- ate of St. Joseph’s University and the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine, Smith completed his psychiatric residency at the Pennsylvania Hospital and served in the Public Health Service in Los Angeles, Calif. Throughout his 49-year career, he maintained an active clinical practice. His works were published in many professional journals.

HAROLD W. SPIES, MD, RES ’35, of Fargo, N.D., died Jan. 5, 2009. He served in the U.S. Army Medical Corps from 1942-1945 and was medical superintendent of the Municipal Dunn County Hospital in Chicago from 1955-1966. He then worked as health and safety director of American Oil Co. (which became Amoco Corp.), where he retired as medical director in 1988. Spiers also was a clinical associate professor of preventive medicine at the College of Medicine.

OSCAR SUGAR, MD, PH.D., of Chicago and Madison, Mich., died April 7, 2008. He was a long-time resident of Elmwood Park. Oscar was a pioneer in his field, his career included a number of famous cases, including a 1933 president Sugar led at UIC in which a team of surgeons separated twins joined at the tops of their skulls. External as
Obituaries
In Memoriam

1933
Lawrence E. Foullie, MD, of Waukesha, died November 20, 2007. He was a physician in Waukesha for 38 years and served as a major in the Army Medical Corps from 1941–1945. He also was an active member of many professional and civic organizations.

James E. Knollberg, MD, of Chicago, died January 1, 2009. A practicing physician for 54 years and a World War II veteran, he was honored with a heavy emphasis on obstetrics and general surgery. He maintained a private practice with his wife, Margaret J. Tomasz, MD. He was director of the Family Practice Residency Training Center, Danville, for 10 years and was professor of family practice for the College of Medicine in Urbana-Champaign during this time. He was on staff at the two local hospitals, serving as president of the staff at St. Elizabeth’s Hospital twice. He also was secretary-treasurer of the Vermilion County Medical Society for more than 27 years, a member of the Cancer Club in Illinois, and a long-time participant in the school health and immunization program in the local and county schools. Tanner also served as the medical director for the director for the Danville-Connecticott County from its inception through the following year and sat on the boards of many community organizations.

1934
Charles E. Brunet, MD, of Pipo City, died April 30, 1999. He celebrated his 100th birthday in June 2008. A retired physician and surgeon, he practiced medicine in Pipo City from 1934 to 1977. An ardent plant lover, Brunet cross-pollinated day lilies and created more than 250 flower varieties, including the ‘Brunet Hybrid’ which earned him a Stout Medal from the American Homeopathic Society in 1972.

1935
Marshall L. Fisher, MD, ‘35, LFAPA, of Charlotte, N.C., died Oct. 8, 2008. He served as a major in the U.S. Army during World War II. After the war practiced in Mountain View, California and Virginia. He moved to Charlotte in the 1950s and established the first psychiatric clinic in North Carolina. He stayed with the clinic for a number of years before going into private practice in 1986. He retired and moved to New York City. After being certified to practice in New York, he continued to work until 1994, when he returned to Charlotte.

1937
Bruno A. Dendel, MD, of Yorkville, died June 15, 1998. A general practitioner and surgeon, he began a private practice in 1940 in Eau Claire. At one time, Dendel also was chief of the medical staff at Schmitt Memorial Hospital. During his career, he delivered more than 2,000 babies. He was also a member of many professional and civic organizations and served in the U.S. Navy during World War II.

1940
Henry S. Berent, MD, of Springfield, Mo., died Feb. 12, 2007. A veteran of World War II, he was a physician in internal medicine until 1981 and a medical consultant with the Department of Veterans Affairs, Rehabilitation Services Division.

1941
Earl W. Donnell, MD, of Springfield, died Oct. 30, 1999. After an internship at Cook County Hospital in Chicago, he started the first of his thoracic surgery training programs, and eventually became a professor of surgery and director of the thoracic surgery section at the University of Chicago. He accomplished many surgical firsts in Chicago, including the first repair of a defective mitral valve in a child and the first cleft palate repair in an infant.

1942
George Sharpe, Certf. ‘42, MD, of Silver Spring, Md., died Nov. 23, 1997. An internist who practiced in Kensington, Md., Sharpe served during World War II as a battalion surgeon in the South Pacific, earning four Bronze Stars. In 1984, he published Beyond Broken Bread: A Battalion Surgeon in the Pacific. After the war, he opened a private practice, which he ran for 34 years. He was a former chief of medicine at Suburban Hospital and was an staff Holy Cross Hospital as well as the chief of Family Medicine at George Washington University School of Medicine.

1943
Samuel L. Adamian, MD, of Newport, died May 5, 2003. He was a former health commissioner for the City of Chicago and the first health director for the Village of Skokie.

1944
A. Sherwood Baker, MD, of Mt. Kisco, N.Y., died May 29, 1999. A captain in the U.S. Army Air Force during World War II, Baker worked as a general practitioner from 1945-1967 and was a member of the medical staff at Rockland Memorial Hospital in 1945. He joined the faculty at the University of Auburn Medical School in 1963. There, he initiated the campaign to establish a family medicine residency in Columbus in 1974 and served as MSF’s first director of that residency program. He also served as chair of the department of community health and medical practice. Baker retired in 1982 as professor emeritus.

1947

1948
H.D. Maner, MD, of St. Louis, died Feb. 21, 2007. A native of Frederick, Mo., Dr. Maner earned his medical degree from the University of Missouri. After serving as the medical director of the Gold Human Honor Society at UIC.

1949
Lawrence A. Novak, MD, of Wauconda, died in March 2009. He was a retired chief of medicine at Suburban Hospital and was a longtime chief of the Medical Staff at Quigley Memorial Gifts

To make a memorial gift to the college, please contact the Office of Medical Advancement at (312) 996-4470 or med-alumni@uchicago.edu.
Sidney S. Meyers, MD, of Moro, Wis., died Nov. 20, 2007. A World War II veteran, he practiced internal medicine in the greater Detroit area for over 50 years. He was the former chief of staff of both Holy Cross Hospital and Macomb Hospital Medical Group. He was a Diplomat of the American Board of Obstetrics and Gynecology and received a 57th Year Award from the Michigan State Medical Society in 1993 for his contributions to medicine.

Bruce R. Newman, 42, of La Grange Park, died March 15, 1997. He served in the Medical Corps during World War II, after which he completed advanced medical training and practiced pediatrics for more than 40 years, mostly in the town of his childhood. In the 1970s, Newman added emergency room practice and ended up in general medical practice as a doctor at the Community Hospital at La Grange in the 1970s.

Phyllis T. Szarka Orlandy ’36, MD, of Forest Park, died July 28, 1999. She was a member of Alpha Omega Alpha, she was a pediatrician on staff at Rush and Loyola universities. She also volunteered in many areas of Los Angeles. During his years of practice, Levin was an associate clinical professor at the University of Southern California.

1945
Joseph G. Fetter ’44, MD, of New York, died Feb. 25, 2007. A retired colon cancer surgeon, he was on staff for 45 years at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center, where he founded the gastrointestinal oncology fellowship. He was also a professor of surgery at Cornell Medical College and served as president of the General Surgery Research Foundation. He was a fellow of the American Society of Colon and Rectal Surgeons and is a fellow of the College of Physicians of Philadelphia.

1946
Jack Modick ’44, MD of Beverly Hills, Calif., died March 15, 1995. An orthopaedic surgeon, he joined the Cedars Sinai Medical Center staff in 1955 and served as chief of the orthopaedic surgery department for three years at the U.S. Public Health Service Hospital in Baltimore, Md. After a year as deputy chief of surgery at the Public Health Service Hospital in Seattle, he returned to Los Angeles in 1958 to practice for over 30 years. He was a Diplomat of the American Board of Orthopaedic Surgery. He had served as president of the California Orthopaedic Association, the American College of Surgeons, and the American Board of Orthopaedic Surgery. He was a Diplomate of the American Board of Orthopaedic Surgery.

1947
Newell T. Brodrick, MD, of Mineola, died May 22, 2010. He was a pathologist with the Quad City Pathology Group for 35 years. He was married to the late Mildred M. Brodrick.

1948
Megan J. Tanner, MD, of Danville, Ill., died April 25, 2010. She had been a pediatrician for over 35 years in Danville and surrounding communities.

1949
Lewis W. Tanner, MD, of Portland, Ore., died Feb. 23, 2009. An orthopaedic surgeon, he was on staff for 45 years at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center, where he founded the gastrointestinal oncology fellowship. He was also a professor of surgery at Cornell Medical College and served as president of the General Surgery Research Foundation. He was a fellow of the American Society of Colon and Rectal Surgeons and is a fellow of the College of Physicians of Philadelphia.

1950
Jerome J. Landy ’48, MD, of Chicago, March 7, 2001. A pioneering surgeon and inventor, Landy performed groundbreaking research on antibiotic-resistant staph in 1951. He also invented a protective isolation system to treat severely burned patients and designed equipment to transport and store morselized bone from the Apollo 11 mission.

1951
Garth R. Goodridge, MD, of Portland, Ore., died May 16, 2008. The first African-American board-certified radiologist in the state, he was a radiologist at the Copley Clinic from 1957 to 1997 and in jamison from 1997 to 2000. He returned to Fargo to finish his career in radiology. He taught radiology to medical students for many years and was a Fellow in the American College of Radiology. Shook also was an active member in many professional and community organizations.

1952
Brettman Katz ’46, MD of Hubbard, Ohio, died Dec. 31, 2007. A long-time area gastroenterologist, he was on staff for 40 years at the Cleveland Clinic. In 1957, Katz led a successful campaign to remove a planned highway that would have bisected University Circle. As a result, he was a key figure in the creation of The Cleveland Clinic Foundation.

1953
Harold A. Shafter ’51, MD of Lincolnwood, Ill., died Nov. 29, 2008. Following his service during World War II, he received a Purple Heart and helped liberate a concentration camp in Poland. He practiced internal medicine in Aurora until he took an administrative position at Copley Hospital. As vice president of medical affairs and continuing medical education, he was instrumental in expanding the Copley community and the building of the Rush Copley Medical Center. In retirement, on Feb. 13, 2009, he continued his role of managing the CME program, which is named in his honor.

1954
Robert D. Simpson ’50, MD of Spring Park, Minn., died Dec. 31, 2002. He served in the Army Air Corps during World War II and was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross.

1955
Ronald A. Finkler, MD of Minnetonka, Minn., died July 2, 2007. An internist, he practiced medicine in the San Francisco area for over 50 years. He was a Diplomate of the American Board of Internal Medicine and a member of the American College of Physicians.

1956
Ray O. Ohlmoe, MD, of Des Plaines, Ill., died March 25, 1999. He was a diplomate of the American Board of Internal Medicine and served as chief of staff at Western Illinois University Medical Center in Macomb. He also maintained a private practice.

1957
Jamey F. McDonald ’53, MD of Chicago, Nov. 17, 2008. A radiologist and professor of radiology, he held the position of associate faculty in radiology for many years and was a Fellow in the American College of Radiology. Shook also was an active member in many professional and community organizations.

1958
Otto D. Klassen, MD, of Fargo, N.D., died Nov. 23, 2007. An orthopaedic surgeon, he was on staff for 45 years at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center, where he founded the gastrointestinal oncology fellowship. He was also a professor of surgery at Cornell Medical College and served as president of the General Surgery Research Foundation. He was a fellow of the American Society of Colon and Rectal Surgeons and is a fellow of the College of Physicians of Philadelphia.
Obituaries
In Memoriam

University. A Navy veteran, Eckenweiler was chairman of the board of trustees of the Vancouver Clinic during the 1950s and ’60s.

1095 Howard Greenstone ’30, MD, died May 19, 1995. In 1969, he launched his private practice in Buffalo, N.Y. After retiring from private practice, Aon became a professor and mentor at the University of California San Francisco Medical School, Martin Luther King Jr. Hospital in Ingelwood, Calif., and Jackson Memorial Hospital in Miami.

David M. Barton ’53, MD, of Boise, Idaho, died April 1, 2009. A flight surgeon for the U.S. Air Force, he had a long career as an obstetrician/gynecologist in Boise, during which he delivered thousands of babies. He was a clinical professor with the University of Washington department of obstetrics and gynecology, receiving an Excellence in Teaching award from the university in 1993. He also continued a medical education program in Ada County, Idaho.

Keith C. Kepple, MD, Res ’66, of Chicago, died July 7, 2005. He was a veteran of the U.S. Navy.

Jann S. Morales, MD, Res ’65, of Springfield, Va., died Aug. 25, 2009. He served as an anesthesiologist for 37 years at several hospitals, including Holy Cross Hospital in Chicago. He was induced into the Warren G. Cole Society in 1975. Morales also had a general practice at Chester Hospital in Arena and McFarland Center in Springfield.

Harold P. Schell, MD, Res ’66, of Iowa City, Iowa, died Jan. 31, 2008. He joined the department of internal medical faculty of the University of Iowa in 1960 and remained more than 21 followers and his graduate students in the gastroenterology division. He was the recipient of the Lederle Medical Faculty Award and the Guggenheim, Commonwealth and Macy awards. Schell was also an anesthesiologist who published more than 150 research papers. His most important work was his seminal research on oral rehydration. This revolutionary work, published in Nature 1956, provided a significant part of the scientific basis for the current-day, life-saving, simple treatment of diarrheal diseases such as cholera and infantile diarrhea.

Arthur R. Williamson ’30, MD, Res ’61, of Lincoln, Neb., died Oct. 30, 2001. A veteran of World War II. Williamson received his medical degree from the renowned Warren R. Cook, MD, chief of surgery at UCI. A fellow in the American College of Surgeons, he practiced in his hometown of twins until he retired in 1996. Williamson also served on several civic organizations and was honored as Guest of Honor at the Man of the Year in 1975.

Randell L. Mann ’52, MD, of Kanaskis, died Nov. 5, 2008. An internal medicine physician, he was on staff at Provena St. Mary’s Hospital and Riverside Medical Center in Kankakee. He helped pioneer the development of advanced medical devices and techniques in bone fracture treatment, helped found the International Society for Fracture Repair, was a published author and achieved the rank of captain in the U.S. Air Force.

John A. Stroud, MD, Res ’67, of Alameda, Calif., died June 7, 2005. He practiced medicine for nearly 35 years. He served as chief of surgery at McGuire Veterans Administration Medical Center in Daytona Beach, Fla. In 1973, he attended the U.S. Air Force as chief of orthopaedics at Elgin Memorial Hospital. In 1974, he was appointed as chief of orthopaedics at Presbyterian-St. Luke’s Healthcare from 2006–07. During the Vietnam War, Stroud had practiced medicine for more than 35 years. He also served as chief of ophthalmology at St. Clare’s Doctors Clinic for 31 years. Stroud had practiced medicine in Alameda and was voted “Best Physician of Alameda” by Alameda magazine.

Steven M. Moser, MD, Res ’78, of Maui, Hawaii, died March 16, 1995. A physician and kidney specialist, he was the former chief medical officer at Maui Memorial Medical Center and a community activist.

Memorial Gifts
To make a memorial gift to the college, please contact the Office of Medical Advancement at (312) 996-4470 or med中国企业.com.
Maria Ikenberg Lindberg was a pioneering scientific photographer—a rarity as a woman in her field—who illustrated the hidden secrets of the ear, nose and throat for the department of otolaryngology for more than three decades.

When she died in 2006 at age 99, she bequeathed $250,000 to the university, in addition to the encyclopedic collection of medical images that are her legacy. Some of her bequest supported the organizing and archiving of the department’s historical papers and photos as it celebrated its 150th year. The bequest also will support research and education in new and refurbished laboratories and teaching spaces, including the Bhutt Surgical Training Lab, the Galtar Temporal-Bone Lab and the Tiran Vestibular Lab.

“The department was deeply honored and touched by this generous gift,” says J. Regan Thomas, Francis L. Lederer Professor and head of otolaryngology. “Maria’s superb visual images brought the department world renown, helping to build and enhance our educational and medical mission.”

The first in her family to attend college, Veronica Tirado, MD ’09, worked as a hospital research assistant while a psychology undergraduate at the University of Chicago. Finding she loved interviewing and interacting with patients, she convinced her to pursue medical school.

UC’s Hispanic Center of Excellence helped her with the application and interview process. “They worked with me on my personal statement, coached me for my interview and connected me to a summer fellowship after my first year,” Tirado says. This support inspired her to give back: Tirado spent up to six hours a week tutoring a group of three MD students preparing for the STEP1 exam.

Tirado discovered a love of surgery during her clinical clerkship and now is a general surgery resident at UIC. “I’m excited by the hands-on experience and the chance to problem-solve in a fast-moving environment,” she says.

When her grandmother died in Nigeria of a stroke in 2004, the path in medicine was set for Chibonnam Chioguzem Ezekiel, MD ’09. “There was no healthcare nearby to help her. I want to be a part of changing that,” she says. While earning her bachelor of science in community health at UIC, Ezekiel volunteered in community day care centers and tutored young children. During medical school, she led the Peoria campus chapter of the Student National Medical Association, organizing health fairs and blood drives for underserved communities around Peoria. She also is active in the Nigerian American Public Professionals Association, a group combating HIV/AIDS in African and African-American communities.

Ezekiel now is a resident in anesthesiology at Northwestern Memorial Hospital, and dreams of starting a program to recruit medical students to do mission rotations in Nigeria. She envisions her own career in critical or intensive care somewhere in the U.S.—and Nigeria.

Everything Erik Antonsen ’97, MS ’01, PhD ’04, MD ’09, accomplishes takes him one step closer to a childhood dream most only imagine—becoming an astronaut. As a member of UIC’s combined MD/PhD Medical Scholars Program, he continued the path of his undergraduate and master’s degree studies by earning his doctorate in aeronautical and astronautical engineering, literally making him a rocket scientist.

Antonsen also completed NIH-funded HIV research in Zambia in 2007 as a Fogarty International Center Clinical Research Scholar and made three mission trips to Ecuador to volunteer in public hospitals.

Now a resident in emergency medicine at Brigham and Women’s Hospital in Boston, Antonsen hopes his preparations will distinguish him from the thousands of astronaut applications NASA receives, and make him one of the 10 to 20 mission candidates the space program selects every three to four years.
Supporting the Brilliant Futures campaign will help us invest in knowledge, increase access to education, enhance the student experience, ensure a healthy society and strengthen our commitment to our community. Please contact the Office of Medical Advancement at (312) 996-4470 or med-email@uic.edu, or visit www.brilliantfutures.uic.edu.

Commencement

Members of the College of Medicine’s Class of 2009 received their MD degrees during the annual commencement ceremony, held in May in the UIC Pavilion. Chicago Mayor Richard M. Daley delivered the commencement address.