Extending his legacy

At the Walter Payton Liver Center
The Best Care Available, Is Available to Everybody page 18
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We begin 2008 with a sense of confidence as a college nurtured by our many recent successes and the tremendous support we are receiving from our alumni, faculty and friends in our campaign to make a great college of medicine even better. Looking back on the past year, it has been a particularly exciting time at the College of Medicine.

In October, we celebrated the college’s 125th anniversary with a gala at Chicago’s historic Union Station. If you were among the 1,000 friends of the college who attended the event, you know what a spectacular evening it was. That same weekend, we also welcomed alumni for our annual reunion. Even if you weren’t able to attend these events in person, you can experience them through the photo essays on pages 14 through 17.

As proud as I am of the college’s illustrious history, I am even prouder that it continues to make history by advancing education, research and patient care. In September, the University of Illinois Medical Center at Chicago opened the Walter Payton Liver Center, the first and only medical institution honored by the name of the legendary Chicago Bears running back, whose life was cut short by liver disease. Housed in a newly renovated wing of the hospital, the center is the new home for the university’s internationally renowned programs in liver disease care and research. Our cover story on page 18 discusses how the center came to be and why UIC is the fitting place to carry on Payton’s legacy.

UIC continues to lead in other areas as well. In August, the university was awarded a $9.6 million, five-year grant from the National Institutes of Health to establish the Autism Center of Excellence, one of five NIH-funded centers in the United States and the only one in the Midwest. The center will be an interdisciplinary research program dedicated to studying the underlying causes and treatment for the repetitive behavior associated with autism. You can read about it and other exciting campus news stories starting on the following page.

I am very pleased that our students also are taking up the mantle of leadership at the very outset of their medical careers. As you will read on page 13, members of the UIC chapter of the American Medical Student Association hosted this year’s regional AMSA conference, which drew nationally renowned speakers and hundreds of medical students from schools across the Midwest.

In May our students received their MD degrees during our commencement ceremonies. I welcome the Class of 2007 to the ranks of UIC alumni. I hope they will be as proud of the College of Medicine and supportive of future classes as the alumni with whom I had the pleasure of meeting during my recent trips around the country. In June, I visited with alumni in Southern California, and in November I met with former students in Florida. During these conversations, I was deeply gratified by the strong ties these alums still felt to the college, their interest in the exciting new developments here, and their desire to help us in our endeavors.

I know you feel the same way, and I thank you for your support.

Sincerely,

Joseph A. Flaherty, MD ’71, Res ’75, BS ’68
Dean
UIC College of Medicine
UIC recently was awarded a $9.6 million, five-year grant from the National Institutes of Health to establish an Autism Center of Excellence, one of five funded centers in the United States and the only Midwest site.

The center will be an interdisciplinary program of translational research encompassing genetics, biochemistry, neurophysiology, neuroimaging and behavior. Researchers will investigate the underlying causes and potential treatment for a common problem related to autism known as insistence on sameness, or repetitive behavior.

“Problems related to repetitive behaviors, such as anxiety and aggression, are among the most troublesome and debilitating for individuals with autism and their families,” says Edwin Cook, MD, professor of psychiatry, who is director of the autism center and also director of the laboratory of developmental neuroscience at UIC’s Institute for Juvenile Research.

People with autism often have difficulty communicating and forming relationships. Autism spectrum disorders affect about one in 160 individuals, and approximately one-third of people with autism have serious repetitive behavior problems, according to Cook. Disruption in rituals or routines for these children and adults can result in prolonged tantrums, screaming, violence or physical injury.

Previous research has shown that selective serotonin reuptake inhibitor medications, also known as SSRI drugs, are effective and can improve quality of life dramatically in some patients with repetitive behaviors and obsessive compulsive disorder. “It’s wonderful when we have patients who respond to medication and do well, but we have many patients who either do not respond, or only partially respond, and who end up with strong compulsions involving aggression,” Cook says.

The center’s focus on repetitive behavior will allow testing and development of new individualized treatments and improvement of available drug treatments to best complement behavioral interventions, according to Cook.

Three collaborative projects within the UIC Autism Center of Excellence will investigate the genetics of serotonin in autism, identify patients who best respond to SSRI treatment based on genetic markers, and use brain imaging and neurobehavioral studies to determine the effects of SSRI drugs before and after treatment.

“The goal of the center is to approach this vexing clinical problem from genetic, cognitive neuroscience and pharmacological approaches, across species, in an unusually integrated way,” Cook says.

The center is seeking families of people who have an autism spectrum disorder for a research study of brain disorders and the genetics of autism. For more information, e-mail autism@uic.edu or call (312) 413-4624.

[ PROJECT AND CORE PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATORS ]

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**Collaboration Advances Women’s Health Research**

by Jeanne Galatzer-Levy

The University of Illinois at Chicago is one of 15 universities to receive funding from the National Institutes of Health to foster career development in women’s health research.

The $2.4 million, five-year educational grant from the NIH Office of Research on Women’s Health and the National Institute on Child Health and Human Development will fund and train junior faculty scholars to become independent women’s health investigators.

The program, Building Interdisciplinary Research Careers in Women’s Health, is a collaborative effort among UIC’s National Center of Excellence in Women’s Health; the department of obstetrics and gynecology; the colleges of Medicine, Nursing, Pharmacy, Dentistry and Applied Health Sciences; and the School of Public Health.

“This is a wonderful opportunity to expand the cohort of women’s health researchers on the UIC campus,” says Stacie Geller, PhD, director of the UIC Center of Excellence in Women’s Health and principal investigator of the grant.

**Benefits Found in Hormone Therapy**

by Sherri McGinnis González

Hormone therapy in early post-menopause relieves discomfort and increases sexual interest, but does not improve memory, according to a study led by Pauline Maki, PhD, associate professor of psychiatry and psychology at UIC. The study was published in the Sept. 25 issue of the journal *Neurology*.

“Contrary to what we predicted, hormone therapy did not have a positive effect on memory performance in younger midlife women,” Maki says. “However, if women want to improve hot flashes and night sweats—the primary reason most women seek menopausal relief—or they want to improve their sexual focus and interest, then hormone therapy may be a formulation for them.”

Maki and her colleagues enrolled 180 women between the ages of 45 and 55 whose last menstrual cycle had occurred in the past one to three years. The women randomly were assigned to receive either a placebo or a combination of estrogen and progesterone, also known as Prempro, for four months.

The study evaluated the therapy’s effects on memory, attention, cognitive function, emotional status, sexuality and sleep.

No significant changes in cognitive function were identified in the newly menopausal women taking hormone therapy compared with the placebo group. Although previous smaller studies have suggested that estrogen provides cognitive benefits in recently menopausal women, Maki says that progesterone may counteract these positive effects.

The women treated with hormone therapy reported a 32 percent increase in sexual thoughts and a 44 percent increase in sexual interest when compared with the women taking a placebo, according to the researchers.

The study also found that women with vasomotor symptoms, such as hot flashes and night sweats, showed a reduction in symptoms and an improvement in their overall quality of life when taking hormone therapy versus a placebo.

[**FUNDING**]

Wyeth Pharmaceuticals
Sleep Science Center Combines Rest, Research
by Jeanne Galatzer-Levy

One of the most comfortable places at UIC is also one of its newest research facilities: the new Sleep Science Center, which opened in September.

“Our new sleep center furthers our mission of placing our patients’ needs first while increasing space to advance the field of sleep science through clinical and translational research,” says James Herdegen, MD, BS ’82, associate professor of pulmonary, critical care and sleep medicine and director of the center.

In addition to providing facilities for the diagnosis and treatment of sleep disorders, the center provides sleep experts and staffing for collaborative studies at the College of Medicine that cross traditional medical specialties.

For example, UIC is participating in a study sponsored by the National Institutes of Health that examines sleep problems in patients with chronic renal insufficiency. Other future studies will use the sleep center facilities to examine how treatment for sleep apnea affects metabolic changes in type 2 diabetes and how sleep apnea may affect cerebral blood flow.

Designed to provide the comfort of a quality hotel, the new facility has 10 rooms with private bathrooms, flat-screen TVs and artwork on the wall. Two of the rooms have been outfitted to accommodate pediatric patients, with greater space and chairs that convert to beds to accommodate parents.

“We are seeing more children and adolescents with sleep disorders,” notes Herdegen. Younger patients can be diagnosed and treated better if their parents are there for reassurance, he says.

While the patient rooms resemble the Ritz, the computer monitoring station looks more like a NASA telemetry control room. Patients wear sensors that monitor heart rate, breathing, oxygen levels, sleep stages and even leg movements. The information recorded from the sensors provides physicians information about a patient’s sleep quality and helps them diagnose and treat sleep problems.

The center’s staff offers a full-service facility capable of diagnosing and treating a range of sleep disorders in children and adults, including sleep apnea, excessive sleepiness, restless leg syndrome and sleep problems in shift workers.

“Our own medical center residents can benefit from our improved understanding of the effect of shift work on sleep,” Herdegen says. “With the new facility, UIC will further our national presence in clinical care and sleep research.”

UIC Awarded $7 Million NIH Grant for Infertility Research
by Sherri McGinnis González

The College of Medicine has received a $7 million renewal grant from the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development to conduct innovative basic and clinical research in the reproductive sciences through 2012.

The grant is part of the NICHD’s Specialized Cooperative Centers Program in Reproduction and Infertility Research, a national network of reproductive health research centers.

One of only 14 national sites, the UIC Center for Women’s Health and Reproduction first was funded through an original $7 million, five-year NICHD grant in 2002.

Infertility affects about 6.1 million women and their partners in the United States—about 10 percent of the reproductive-age population, according to the National Center for Health Statistics.

The UIC center focuses on endometriosis—a common cause of infertility—which occurs when endometrial tissue grows outside the uterus and results in bleeding, scarring and pain.

“During the first five years of the grant, we focused on the causes and pathophysiology of endometriosis and began to hone in on some of the mechanisms that might be involved in infertility,” says Asgi Fazleabas, PhD, professor of physiology in obstetrics and gynecology and director of the center.

The new grant is supporting four translational research projects seeking to help determine the cause, development and effects of endometriosis on infertility in order to develop possible therapies and to help understand the basic mechanisms associated with embryo implantation and the establishment of pregnancy.

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World’s Most Powerful MRI Ready to Scan Human Brain

by Jeanne Galatzer-Levy

A new era of brain imaging may be dawning now that researchers recently completed safety trials of the world’s most powerful medical magnetic resonance imaging machine, the 9.4-tesla magnet at UIC. A tesla is a unit of measurement for the strength of a magnetic field.

The results of the FDA-required safety study were published in the November issue of Journal of Magnetic Resonance Imaging, marking another step toward the day when physicians may be able to use the 9.4-tesla magnet to observe metabolic processes as they occur and customize healthcare based on those observations.

Oncologists, for example, one day may be able to tailor radiation therapy based on a brain tumor’s real-time response to treatment. Currently, physicians often must wait weeks to see if a tumor is shrinking in response to therapy. With the 9.4-tesla magnet, it will be possible to see if individual cells within the tumor are dying long before the tumor has begun to shrink.

The 9.4-tesla magnet has a field strength more than three times that of state-of-the-art clinical units. UIC’s magnet is the first such device large enough to scan the head and visualize the human brain.

“Because the more powerful magnet allows us to visualize different types of molecules, we are seeing activity in the brain along a completely different dimension,” says Keith Thulborn, MD, PhD, director of UIC’s Center for Magnetic Resonance Research.

Current MRI visualizes water molecules to track biochemical processes. By visualizing the sodium ions involved in those processes instead, the 9.4-tesla magnet permits researchers to directly follow one of the most important energy-consuming processes in the brain’s cellular machinery.

The strength of magnetic resonance scanners has increased from less than 0.5 tesla up to the first 8 tesla in 1998. As human safety data became available, the FDA limits were revised upwards accordingly, but they have been fixed at the current level of 8 tesla since 2003.

In the safety trial, 25 healthy volunteers—12 men and 13 women—were exposed in random order to a static magnetic field and to sodium imaging using the 9.4-tesla scanner, and to a mock scanner with no magnetic field. An audio recording simulated the sound of a real scanner so that participants would not know when the actual scanner was in use.

Vital signs and cognitive ability were measured in all volunteers before and after the sodium imaging using the 9.4-tesla magnet and the mock scanning. There also were no significant changes in heart rate, blood pressure, respiratory rate or other vital signs when volunteers were exposed to either the magnetic field or the imaging. There were no significant differences in the cognitive testing of volunteers following mock versus real scanning.

The most frequently reported discomfort was lightheadedness or vertigo when being moved into the magnetic field. A few subjects reported a metallic taste, nausea or a visual effect of seeing sparks. The sensations went away once they were stationary in the magnetic field.

The researchers concluded that exposure to a 9.4-tesla static magnetic field does not present a safety concern.

With the safety trials completed, UIC researchers will begin to put the 9.4-tesla magnet to use.

“This initial evaluation of safety is only the first step toward realizing metabolic imaging of the human brain,” Thulborn explains. “We are now moving toward patient studies of sodium imaging and toward safety testing for oxygen and phosphorus imaging in humans.

“These early metabolic signatures of cellular health have great potential to advance detection and monitoring of diseases in the earliest stages, when treatment can produce the greatest benefit.”

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- Holly Burd
- Laura Renteria, PhD
- Neil Pliskin, PhD, BS ’79

FUNDING

State of Illinois Capital Fund
**MD-PhD Program Receives NIH Grant, Designation**

by Jeanne Galatzer-Levy

The College of Medicine’s MD-PhD program has been awarded a prestigious National Institutes of Health grant and designation as a Medical Scientist Training Program. With the five-year grant, the UIC College of Medicine joins an elite group of only 41 medical schools nationwide that may use the designation.

“The awarding of the grant, the NIH cited the range of opportunities for scientific study as one of the strengths of the UIC program,” says Larry Tobacman, MD, professor of medicine and director of the MD-PhD program.

The grant provides tuition and stipends to students entering the program.

In the PhD portion of the program, students work with distinguished researchers in fields such as neuroscience, molecular biology, pharmacology, microbiology and biophysics, as well as engineering and public health.

The UIC College of Medicine has produced physician-scientists with the dual MD-PhD degrees since the 1920s, when the dual degree was achieved through an informal arrangement with each student. Since 1986, MD-PhD training at UIC has been run as an organized program with an integrated curriculum.

Under Tobacman’s leadership over the past four years, the program has been enhanced to merge the two very different learning styles that go into training scientists and clinicians.

Candidates spend their first two years completing the regular medical school curriculum while also taking a research methods course and attending weekly seminars offering an overview of bioscience investigation.

Choice of a thesis adviser and an intensive period of original research follow the second year. In the final years of the program, candidates rejoin other medical students to complete the clinical phase of medical school.

“Our aim is to produce a physician who can apply clinical understanding to the study of disease and a scientist who sees beyond the test tube to apply in-depth thinking and understanding to the whole patient,” says Roberta Bernstein, program coordinator.

Tobacman says the consistent support of the UIC College of Medicine has made it possible to build a program that can attract and train students “who will define the future of medical science.”

---

**Conference Helps Teachers Preserve Their Voices**

by Jeanne Galatzer-Levy

Cheryl Casey, a veteran Chicago Public Schools teacher, thought she would have to give up the career she loved when she was advised that the only way to save what was left of her voice was to stop talking.

Teachers depend on their voices as much as singers do, but are much less likely to give them the care and protection they need, says Steven Sims, MD, director of the Chicago Institute for Voice and assistant professor of otolaryngology at UIC.

In August, the institute hosted the 2007 Midwest Voice Conference, “A Focus on the Classroom,” to help teachers save their voices.

“The inspiration for the conference came from the problems we were seeing in the clinic,” Sims says. “I would see teachers who described starting off fine on Monday, growing hoarser through the week, being barely able to whisper by Friday—and then resting up over the weekend, just to start the cycle all over again on Monday.”

The constant strain on the vocal cords produces nodules, which sometimes require removal through surgery, Sims says.

By the time Casey reached UIC, she could barely speak. Sims referred her to Bonnie Smith, PhD, director of speech pathology, for vocal therapy.

They met eight times. Each time, Smith would give Casey exercises and tapes to take home and practice in the car. The nodules that had developed on Casey’s vocal cords gradually shrank and disappeared, and she was able to return to her classroom.

Because the majority of Casey’s students did not have anyone in their homes who spoke English, it was vital for her to communicate the lesson before the students left the classroom.

“I teach with my voice,” Casey says, describing a day in her life as a third-grade teacher as full of explaining, describing, responding to questions—and reading aloud, while changing her voice for each character.

During the conference, teachers learned how the voice works, how to recognize occupational voice hazards, the basics of voice therapy for teachers, and how to protect their voices, which is particularly important.

“Understanding how to conserve your voice can save teachers from the intensive voice therapy needed to restore what has been lost,” Sims says.
A quick and simple test shows promise as a way to screen for drugs that may be effective in the prevention and treatment of cancer, according to a study published in the Sept. 15 issue of the journal *Clinical Cancer Research*.

“Drug trials of anti-cancer agents require at least five years, the involvement of more than a thousand patients, and may have costs running into the tens of millions of dollars,” says Konstantin Christov, MD, PhD, research associate professor of surgical oncology at UIC and first author of the study. “Our assay provides a way to screen promising drugs in a matter of seven to 10 days using very low doses, making it much easier to decide which drugs have potential that warrants investment.”

In the study, the researchers tested a number of drugs that already are used to treat or prevent human breast cancer and that are known to have varying effectiveness and different mechanisms of action. Using an animal model of cancer that simulates estrogen-positive human breast cancer, the researchers tested the ability of the different agents to prevent or inhibit the growth of tumors.

They then measured how well the different drugs were able to prevent cancer cells from growing and dividing, or to cause the cells to destroy themselves in a process called apoptosis.

Proliferation and apoptosis were selected as biomarkers of efficacy because they are the major cellular mechanisms that regulate tumor growth or regression and because they are good predictors of the effectiveness of both preventative and therapeutic agents, regardless of the agent’s mode of action.

“In our assay we found a very high correlation between how effectively a wide variety of chemopreventative and therapeutic agents were able to suppress cell proliferation and induce apoptosis and the known efficacy of these agents,” Christov says. The correlation held with drugs at differing dose levels and with different mechanisms of action.

An important aspect of the assay is the need for only very small amounts of promising new agents, according to Christov, who notes that synthesizing unproven compounds in large quantities is difficult and expensive.

The assay also was effective in distinguishing highly effective agents from marginally or minimally effective ones, which can be important in prioritizing candidate drugs for the most expensive later-stage trials.

“Because it can be done in a limited amount of time, a matter of days, and requires very small amounts of the proposed anti-cancer agent, this approach offers a real advantage in screening numerous agents preclinically,” Christov says.

In an editorial accompanying the article, Victor Vogel, MD, of the University of Pittsburgh Cancer Institute, an expert on prevention, early diagnosis and risk assessment of breast cancer, said, “As the cancer burden increases in our aging population, we face a public health imperative to identify the most promising agents rapidly and effectively.

“This new model will not eliminate the need for large, prospectively randomized clinical trials to evaluate new preventative agents in humans, but it provides a strategy that will quickly reduce the numbers of agents that need to be considered.”

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**INFORMATION**
For more information about the study, please visit www.melanomatrial.com or call (312) 413-3863.
A protein engineered by University of Illinois researchers one day could be used to treat humans exposed to enterotoxin B, a noxious substance produced by the Staphylococcus aureus bacterium.

S. aureus enterotoxin B is a common cause of food poisoning, and if it is inhaled or produced during an infection it can elicit a systemic—and sometimes fatal—immune response in humans. SEB in purified form is considered to be a potential bioterrorism agent.

These enterotoxins are classed as superantigens because they set off a massive immune response in humans and other animals. They bind to variable regions of T-cell receptors, stimulating a cascade of events, including the systemic release of inflammatory cytokines. In some cases the powerful immune response leads to toxic shock and death.

The research team was led by David M. Kranz, PhD ’82, Phillip A. Sharp professor of biochemistry and professor of medical biochemistry in the College of Medicine. Kranz also is affiliated with the Institute of Genomic Biology at UIUC.

The team also included scientists and clinicians from the Boston Biomedical Research Institute and the University of Minnesota Medical School. Their findings appeared recently in the online edition of Nature Medicine.

The team began by engineering a protein with the same structure as the binding site of the T-cell receptor targeted by SEB. The researchers grew the engineered protein on the surface of yeast cells (using a process they helped develop, called “yeast display”) and generated mutations meant to increase the protein’s ability to bind SEB. After several rounds of mutagenesis and screening, Rebecca A. Buonpane, a U of I microbiology graduate student, developed a soluble protein with an affinity for SEB that was more than a million times greater than that of the original.

“Our approach was to take these receptors that bind to the toxins and to try to make them higher-affinity and therefore act as effective neutralizing agents when delivered in soluble form,” Kranz says. “It’s the binding of the toxin to T-cells that is critical. If you can prevent the toxin from binding to the T-cell receptor then you can prevent it from initiating that cascade.”

The engineered protein prevented the onset of symptoms in rabbits exposed to SEB and reversed the course of the illness in those animals treated two hours after exposure. “We were very pleasantly surprised that it showed effectiveness in every rabbit tested,” Kranz says.

He noted that the protein has some potential advantages and disadvantages when compared with antibodies, which also might be used to fight infection with SEB. One advantage is that the engineered protein is small, about 1/10th the size of an antibody. Its size may allow it to penetrate deeper into tissues, and may make it less likely to spark an immune response in animals. The protein also can be produced in large quantities using the bacterium Escherichia coli.

“E. coli is the cheapest source for making proteins,” Kranz says. “Whenever you can express a protein in E. coli you do so because it is inexpensive, easy and fast.”

Antibodies, on the other hand, can remain in the body for days or weeks, whereas the new protein is cleared within hours. This may make antibodies a better treatment option in some circumstances, Kranz says. However, no antibody has been developed yet that has a comparable affinity for SEB.

[ SUPPORT ]

National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases
Expansion Plans for Peoria, Rockford Campuses Move Forward

**A** $31 million expansion of the College of Medicine at Rockford and the development of an estimated $12 million cancer research facility at the College of Medicine in Peoria are moving forward after the University of Illinois Board of Trustees approved key aspects of the projects.

**Rockford Facility Will Accommodate Interdisciplinary Program**

Trustees approved a financial plan and hiring an architect-engineer for the 58,000-square-foot Rockford expansion. This new building will provide a permanent home for the National Center for Rural Health Professions, which studies the health disparities between rural and urban residents and trains healthcare professionals to practice in rural communities so that everyone can enjoy access to quality healthcare. The addition will include a 100-seat auditorium, a library, a computer lab, research space, offices and areas for teaching clinical skills.

With the expansion, the College of Medicine at Rockford will have the capacity to expand its class size by up to 50 percent. The addition also will provide classrooms for the new 200-student regional College of Pharmacy, which will begin classes on the Rockford campus in 2009. This growth positions the university to create a curriculum that will be one of the first of its kind in the country, bringing medicine and pharmacy students together into an interdisciplinary program.

“UIC already supplies Illinois with more healthcare professionals than any other institution,” observes Sylvia Manning, PhD, UIC chancellor. “This expansion of the Rockford facility will allow us to serve not only northern Illinois, but also citizens in rural areas throughout the state with caring practitioners and professionals who understand the specific healthcare needs of rural areas.

“The increased research capability the addition brings to the Rockford center also will benefit people and communities far beyond the borders of Illinois.”

The board-approved financial plan guarantees the university’s $14.25 million commitment to the new facility and provides financing for construction while the Rockford campus seeks $12 million in philanthropic support for the project. Nearly $3 million in gifts and pledges already have been committed to the building project. With help from U.S. Rep. Don Manzullo, an additional $5 million in federal earmarks have been pledged to bring this expansion to Rockford.

**Collaboration With Peoria Community Advances Cancer Center**

The new 20,000-square-foot cancer research facility on the College of Medicine campus in downtown Peoria will provide additional space for research led by Jasti Rao, PhD, professor and head of the department of cancer biology and pharmacology and director of cancer biology. The center will be dedicated to the study of molecular, cellular and genetic characteristics involved in many cancers, with an emphasis on regulating invasion, migration, blood vessel formation and tumor growth.

Completion of the cancer center is a major step toward realizing the College of Medicine at Peoria’s vision of further developing state-of-the-art research facilities in central Illinois. The project is a collaboration among the University of Illinois, Caterpillar Inc., OSF Saint Francis Medical Center, Methodist Medical Center, federal, state and local government entities, and private donors. More than $9 million already has been committed to the project from public and private sources.

“Thanks to the efforts of our dedicated community partners, a long-standing vision for the College of Medicine and the city of Peoria soon will be within reach,” says Rodney A. Lorenz, MD, interim regional dean at the College of Medicine at Peoria. “This project brings important new resources to central Illinois and the College of Medicine.”

Recent studies and projections suggest that the proposed cancer research center will generate approximately $34 million for Peoria’s economy, including at least 25 new positions at the College of Medicine at Peoria.

“This community as a whole supports our local healthcare industry, and that includes a strong desire to bring groundbreaking biomedical research to the area,” Lorenz says.
Awards and Recognition

**CHICAGO**

Debra Goldstein, MD, associate professor of ophthalmology and visual science, is chair of the Uveitis panel of the American Academy of Ophthalmology COMPASS committee, an initiative to expand the academy’s educational content and make practical information available to clinicians in order to improve patient care.


Gail Hecht, MD,

professor of medicine and chief of the section of digestive disease and nutrition, has been elected vice president of the American Gastroenterology Association. She will become president of the organization in 2009. Hecht also received the College of Medicine Faculty of the Year Award for 2007.

Jennifer I. Lim, MD, Res '90, director of retina service at the Eye and Ear Infirmary and professor of ophthalmology, is secretary of Women in Ophthalmology, a national organization, and president-elect for 2009. She also chairs the committee that reviews all retina submissions to the annual meeting of the American Academy of Ophthalmology.

Ted Mazzone, MD, BS '73,

director of the Center for Clinical and Translational Science, professor of medicine and chief of the section of endocrinology, diabetes and metabolism, is co-editor of a new textbook, Adipose Tissue and Adipokines in Health and Disease, published by Humana Press. It provides a comprehensive survey of adipose tissue, its physiological functions, and its role in disease.

Christopher Sola Olopade, MD, MPH '06,

professor of medicine and director of clinical research in the section of pulmonary, critical care and sleep medicine, is the American College of Chest Physician Governor for Illinois. In this capacity, in October he hosted 16 fellows from around the world for a week of seminars given by UIC faculty.

**ROCKFORD**

Martin Lipsky, MD, dean at left; Mitchell King, MD, associate dean for academic affairs and associate professor of family and community medicine; Robert Bales, MD, MPH, assistant professor of family and community medicine; and Matthew Hunsaker, MD '85, clinical assistant professor of family and community medicine, are co-authors of Family Medicine Certification Review, Second Edition, which was published this May by Lippincott, Williams and Wilkins.

**URBANA**

Jennifer L. Bloom, EdD, associate dean for student affairs and the Medical Scholars Program, was elected president of the National Academic Advising Association. In addition, she received the Special Recognition Award during the 2007 Convocation and Awards Ceremony and the UIUC Chancellor’s Academic Professional Excellence Award in April.

Karen Chapman-Novakofski, PhD '87, BS '79,

associate professor of internal medicine, received the Outstanding Research Paper award and the Distinguished Service award from the American Dietetic Association during its annual convention in September 2007. She also received the 2007 John Clyde and Henrietta Downey Spitzer Teaching Award from the College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences.

Martha L.U. Gillette, PhD,

professor of cell and structural biology, is serving as president of the Society for the Study of Biological Rhythms from 2006 to 2008. Gillette also served as associate editor for the journal SLEEP in 2006.

Anil Gopinath, MD, FAP, CPE,

clinical assistant professor of internal medicine, became a fellow of the American College of Physicians last summer. He also received the Award of Academic Achievement in Medical Management from the American College of Physician Executives.

Masoor Kamalesh, MD, FACC, FACP, associate professor of internal medicine, served on the editorial board of the Journal of the American Society of Echocardiography.

Abraham Kocheril, MD, FACC, FACP, clinical professor of internal medicine, was the invited Chair for Abstract Session at the 28th Annual Scientific Sessions of the Heart Rhythm Society in Denver, Colo.

Leslie J. Reagan, PhD, associate professor of basic sciences administration and history, spent an academic year at University of California Berkeley with the Science, Technology and Society Center and the Beatrice Main Research Group. Her book Medicine’s Moving Pictures: Medicine, Bodies, and Health in American Film and Television was published by the University of Rochester Press in September.

Kenneth Weiss, MD, JD, assistant professor of surgery, has been appointed to the Medical Legal Council for the International Symposium on Methodologies for Intelligent Systems for the 2007-2008 term.
Retiring Chair Emphasizes Alumni Participation and Campaign Support

“One of the college’s most ardent cheerleaders, Kramer feels strongly about the importance of the Brilliant Futures capital campaign. “The college receives limited financial support from the state of Illinois, which places the responsibility on the college and the university to raise funds for capital improvements,” he observes. “We can’t continue to grow as a college in buildings that were old in the 1950s.

“Participation from medical school alumni is paramount in these efforts, and Kramer emphasizes that there are many ways to support the campaign. One way is by making a contribution each year to the College of Medicine’s annual fund. “This gift can vary depending on one’s economic means,” he says. “It’s a broad-based way to give back.”

Those interested in long-range giving also can include the college in estate plans. “A family can plan for a modest estate gift of anywhere from $25,000 up to $100,000,” Kramer says. “Including the College of Medicine in the plans doesn’t have to dilute the estate, and it will have enormous benefits for the college.”

Kramer would not ask anyone to do anything he would not do himself. He supports the annual fund and is a member of the Chancellor’s Circle, a designation bestowed on someone who gives $2,500 or more to the University of Illinois each year. He also has included the College of Medicine in his estate plans, designating a $100,000 bequest to the Class of 1954 Memorial Scholarship.

“It’s important that alumni develop scholarship funds to help students defray the costs of a medical education, so students aren’t burdened with large debts,” he explains.

Kramer adds that it’s also important to support the college’s endowment funds to help bridge the gap between a public and private medical school experience.

With the conclusion of his term, Kramer says he will most remember his work with the college’s administration and advancement office staff in advancing the Medical Alumni Council and recruiting people to serve with him. He feels that because of their efforts, the experiences of UIC medical students have improved greatly and graduating classes have developed a greater focus on developing scholarships.

“Working with the medical students has been a great joy,” he says.
In addition to their education, students in the College of Medicine are preparing for future leadership roles in medicine. In September, the UIC chapter of the American Medical Student Association hosted the AMSA conference for the Midwest region. Nearly 300 medical and osteopathic students from schools in six states attended the conference, titled “Doctors Leading Reform: Activism and Advocacy in Medicine.”

Health advocates Quentin Young, MD, MS ’52, clinical professor of preventive medicine and community health and national coordinator of the Physicians for a National Health Program, and author-comedian Neil Shulman, MD, delivered keynote addresses, and health experts held more than 30 sessions covering issues such as treating the uninsured and homeless, pharmaceutical drug and healthcare pricing, cultural competency, patient safety, malpractice, and physicians’ impact on politics. The conference was held in conjunction with UIC’s annual residency programs from hospitals across the Midwest.

Julia Bregand, M2, and Melissa Goelitz, M2, co-chaired the conference, which was initiated by AMSA chapter co-president Neha Goel, M2.

“It was a great opportunity for UIC to show how much we care about actually making a difference in the world,” Goel says. “UIC students are unique in that we’re not just sitting on the sidelines. We participate in a lot of protests and other kinds of advocacy. I thought it would be a great idea to hold it here to let everyone know we can be a stepping stone and encourage students from the other medical schools to get involved.”
THE 125-YEAR HISTORY OF THE UIC COLLEGE OF MEDICINE has been vibrant and colorful, but for the Oct. 5 gala celebrating the college’s anniversary, the Union Gallery of Union Station and the guests alike were decked out in formal black and white. Milestones deserve a little pomp, after all.

More than 1,000 guests filled the fittingly historic hall, which was decorated with orchids and movie screens broadcasting images from years past. Placed throughout the venue, panels relating the college’s history enabled guests to travel back in time via photos and stories.

But the past most came alive through the personal connections among the guests, who mingled during a cocktail reception before dinner, sipping cosmopolitans and nibbling on hors d’oeuvres. “This school gave me a good education, and they made me work for it,” said Bill Cant, MD. A retired anesthesiologist living in St. Paul, Minn., Cant was with fellow members of the Class of 1957, who were marking their golden anniversary concurrently at the event.

While the gala honored the past, the College of Medicine’s future also was evident in the current students in the crowd, who departed from evening dress by wearing their white lab coats. Scott Saunders, M2, commented that he hoped his presence helped alumni connect back to their time as fresh-faced kids preparing to take on the world.

THE CONSCIENCE OF THE COLLEGE

Prior to the cocktail hour, a VIP reception was held in a small wing just off the Union Gallery, where professor of medicine emeritus Truman Anderson, AB ’50, PhD ’55, MD ’60, Res ’61, was presented with a special award honoring him as the “Conscience of the College.”
After an introduction by UIC College of Medicine Dean Joseph Flaherty, MD ’71, who labeled Anderson both a legend and a rabble-rouser, Anderson took the podium to recount cherished memories from his long affiliation with the college.

While his tenure has encompassed numerous faculty and administrative positions, including service as executive dean of the college from 1976 to 1980, Anderson called the award “the pinnacle of my career.” In between fielding congratulatory handshakes and hugs following his speech, he added: “This celebration represents the value system I have been a part of for 62 years. It’s a chance to give credit to the faculty, staff, students and alumni of the college that I have been fortunate to serve.”

A PROUD LEGACY, A BRILLIANT FUTURE

During dinner, as guests savored beef tenderloin and sea scallops, the college’s leadership spoke of the College of Medicine’s own leading role in education, research and patient care. University of Illinois President B. Joseph White, PhD, spoke about the college’s longstanding commitment to providing members of all ethnic, religious and socioeconomic groups with access to both education and healthcare. “We are all about combining quality with access,” White said. “Access for students regardless of background if they have the ability and the motivation, and access to university-quality healthcare for everyone regardless of circumstance, regardless of wealth.”

University of Illinois at Chicago Chancellor Sylvia Manning, PhD, envisioned UIC becoming the country’s top urban research university. “To do that we need a great college of medicine,” Manning declared, “and we have a great college of medicine, with faculty who are dedicated to teaching students while at the same time staying at the frontiers of research and practice.”

For Dean Flaherty, the anniversary was an occasion to honor the College of Medicine’s graduates—and the impact they’ve made—as much as the school that educated them. “Our alumni have a strong record of public service, teaching and offering charity care. We have more than 17,000 living alumni who in their lives have taken care of more than 60 million unique patients,” Flaherty told the crowd, after first taking time to acknowledge the many VIPS, graduates, donors, sponsors and faculty members in the room.

“You are what make the College of Medicine important. You are what make us proud to be here. You are the College of Medicine.”
MORE THAN 100 COLLEGE OF MEDICINE ALUMNI returned to UIC to reconnect and reminisce during the 2007 reunion, held Oct. 4–6. The reunion events began with a welcome reception on Thursday evening at the Knickerbocker Hotel, where members of the Class of 1957 also joined together for their 50th anniversary dinner. “I loved every minute of medical school, and I’d go through it and do it again now,” said Jeanne Kehoe Mercer, MD, one of the members of the Class of 1947 who gathered at the reception before having dinner together. During the welcome reception, current medical students mingled with alumni. “They’ve been out of school 50 years and they’re still practicing, they still love it,” observed Leanne Trapp, M2. “It shows that medicine is a lifelong journey,” fellow M2 Nimmi Emmanuel added.

On Friday during the campus bus tour, alumni had the chance to see how the college has changed since they were students. “I haven’t been back since we graduated, and I’m looking forward to seeing campus,” said Linda Cunningham, MD ’82, who came to the reunion with husband and fellow Class of 1982 member Edward Schultheiss, MD. The alums also listened to talks from faculty members and attended the Dean’s Luncheon, during which John Anthony DeGiovanni, MD ’72, received the College of Medicine Distinguished Alumnus Award. DeGiovanni, chief of surgery for the Sauk Prairie Memorial Hospital in Prairie du Sac, Wis., was honored for his volunteer work in Haiti. He and his wife, Marian, a registered nurse, repeatedly have taken part in a medical mission to the mountain town of Thiotte, where he has performed hundreds of surgeries without charge.

The reunion coincided with the College of Medicine’s 125th Anniversary Gala Friday night, and many of the alumni joined with faculty and friends of UIC in celebrating this historic milestone (see story on preceding page). On Saturday, several dozen alumni attended the African-American alumni breakfast, where they were joined by Sarah Kilpatrick, MD, PhD, vice dean of the College of Medicine, and Javette Orgain, MD ’81, MPH ’05, assistant dean of the College of Medicine’s Urban Health Program. “The college has a wonderful run in the number of African-Americans who have been educated there,” said Gloria Jackson Bacon, MD ’62, who was one of only two African-Americans in her class. “You need a critical mass of people who share your experiences.”

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[REUNION PHOTOS]

1 | Members of the Class of 1957 celebrated their 50th anniversary at the reunion.

2 | Members of the Class of 1947 at the welcome reception: Jeanne Kehoe Mercer, MD, Rosemary Noble, John Noble, MD, Joseph Kiely, MD, Vernon Guynn, MD, Richard Saavedra, MD, George Cruft, MD, Paul Frederick Grice, MD

3 | Mary Mattern, Class of 2011, is recognized as the first recipient of the Class of 1952's scholarship during the Dean's Luncheon.

4 | Alumni revisit the much-changed campus during the bus tour.

5 | Henrietta Sachs, MD '42, reviews her class graduation photo at the welcome reception.

6 | Class of 1977 members Harold Harrison, MD, and John Bryan Priest, MD, at the welcome reception

7 | Guests at the African-American alumni breakfast

8 | Alumni Association Vice President Arlene Norrsm and Dean Joseph Flaherty, MD, present John Anthony DeGiovanni, MD '72, with the College of Medicine Distinguished Alumnus Award.

SAVE THE DATE

REUNION 2008

UIC COLLEGE OF MEDICINE
2008 ALUMNI REUNION

September 25 and 26

Reunion class volunteers are needed for all reunion classes. Please e-mail reunion@uic.edu if you are interested in volunteering.

TO VIEW AND ORDER reunion photos online, please visit http://photo.lib.uic.edu and click on “College of Medicine 125th Anniversary Gala and Reunion.”
Extending his legacy

Walter Payton
November 20, 1987
Photo by Bob Chwedyk
The Walter Payton Liver Center
Making the Best Care Available, Available to Everybody

When legendary Chicago Bears running back Walter Payton died at age 45 on a snowy November day in 1999, Chicagoans were stunned not only by the loss of a beloved local hero, but also that liver disease could take the life of someone so young and physically gifted.

In the summer of 1998, Payton had begun feeling ill and losing weight. The following January, he was diagnosed with primary sclerosing cholangitis, a rare liver disease. He needed a liver transplant to survive, but that year 12,000 people were on the national waiting list for liver donors.

His illness drew public attention to liver disease, and fans around the country registered to be organ donors. “Maybe I’ve been able to reach them,” Payton said in an appearance on CNN’s “Larry King Live.” “I think that good will come out of this.”

It has. Walter Payton’s life ended far too soon, but his legacy, and the lives of liver patients like him, are kept going at the new Walter Payton Liver Center at the University of Illinois Medical Center at Chicago. A joint endeavor of the departments of medicine and surgery, the center unites world-renowned physicians, advanced technology and patient-friendly facilities to make state-of-the-art care for liver disease and other gastrointestinal conditions accessible to everyone.

The Walter Payton Liver Center treats such challenging diseases as liver cancer, viral hepatitis, cirrhosis and liver tumors within the lower abdominal region (the liver, kidney, pancreas and small bowel). The diagnosis and treatment of hepatitis B and C and transplant surgery are particular specialties of the center.

Sweetness

As a member of the Chicago Bears from 1975 to 1987—including the 1985 Super Bowl champion team—Payton was a nine-time Pro Bowl selection and two-time National Football League Player of the Year and Most Valuable Player. He retired with both the career and single-game rushing records and was elected to the Pro Football Hall of Fame in 1993.

For all of Walter Payton’s fame as a football player, though, what Connie Payton wants people to remember most about her husband is the warm, kind personality that earned him his nickname, “Sweetness,” and was reflected in his philanthropy. “Walter always had a passion for helping,” she says.

One of his earliest efforts was working with Chicago’s Department of Children and Family Services to host Christmas parties for children. “Walter was wonderful with children, he truly was,” Connie Payton remembers. “At the parties, he got to interact with them. He’d hold the babies. He would be so happy doing that. I really think he could have been happy being a teacher. He always wanted to make a difference and give back.”

Toward that end, the Walter and Connie Payton Foundation was established in 1998 to care for neglected, abused and underprivileged children. Its annual Holiday Giving Program continues to ensure that the neediest children in the state of Illinois receive gifts and clothes. In 2005, almost 20,000 kids participated in the program. The foundation also conducts an annual campaign to provide school supplies to needy children.

Because of Walter Payton’s desire to make a contribution off the field, the Payton family’s firsthand knowledge of the devastation that liver disease causes, and the medical center’s clinical capabilities, Connie Payton agreed to make the liver center the first medical institution ever named after her husband. She did so at the urging of Bruno Pasquinelli, a medical center patient and contributor and the driving force behind the liver center’s creation. Pasquinelli wanted to make an impact on patient care.
at the medical center, and he found a way to do it by invoking the beloved memory of Walter Payton. [See sidebar.]

“They really love what they do over there,” Connie says of the people in the center. “When you love what you do, it makes a difference. That’s how it is at our foundation—people doing what they love and making a difference. That’s our connection to the hospital.”

Teamwork

The Walter Payton Liver Center combines the renowned clinical capabilities of UIC’s liver disease and transplant programs. Both have grown from humble beginnings to nationally recognized leaders in care under the leadership of visionary physicians: The liver program was built by Thomas Layden, MD, Edmund F. Foley professor and chair of the department of medicine and former head of hepatology; the transplant program was developed by Enrico Benedetti, MD, Res ’93, head of surgery and former chief of transplantation surgery, who in April will be installed as the Warren H. Cole chair of surgery.

A clinical and research hepatologist, Layden established UIC’s liver program in 1982 and obtained funding from the National Institutes of Health and the U.S. Department of Veterans Administration. As he remembers it, the day the clinic opened, “No one showed up.” Undaunted, Layden built the program’s clinical and academic capacity over time, and today the liver clinic is one of the busiest clinics at UIC, receiving patient referrals from all over Illinois.

In addition to a reputation for excellent patient care, Layden and his team have distinguished themselves as researchers. Their breakthroughs include determining the life cycle of the hepatitis C virus and demonstrating the role of interferon inhibiting viral production. This work changed the way hepatitis C is treated and produced a cure rate of more than 50 percent. Eleven clinical trials currently are under way in hepatology, including studies of viral hepatitis, nonalcoholic fatty liver disease and liver cancer.

To take full advantage of this rich training ground, UIC offers one accredited hepatology fellowship each year, with formal education, research opportunities and procedural and clinical training available to highly qualified physicians.

“Tom took the ball and ran with it. His role was visionary,” says Michael Goldberg, MD ’75, Res ’77. An attending at UIC from 1980 to 1987, he now is head of gastroenterology at Evanston Northwestern Healthcare, a three-hospital network in north suburban Chicago. “Thanks to him, today the liver and transplantation programs have a great national reputation.”

Equally important, the program is well-known and trusted locally. Scott Cotler, MD, head of the section of hepatology, is building an outreach program at the liver center aimed at the neighborhoods surrounding UIC and communities in Rockford, Peoria and northwest Indiana. “It’s important that we provide care for everyone,” says Cotler, who oversees the outreach program. “Our practice ranges the socioeconomic spectrum.”

Providing care for everyone was a critical point in persuading Connie Payton and her family to lend Walter’s name to the liver center. “The fact that they’re on the cutting edge and still don’t turn away anyone is phenomenal,” she says. “That’s our connection with the hospital—helping people in the community.”

The liver clinic sees more than 6,000 outpatient cases per year, and in the 2006 fiscal year, patient visits increased by 30 percent. To meet the demand, the Bobbie and Marvin Fink Family Liver Clinic opened in January 2006 in UIC’s Outpatient Care Center. Named for a liver center patient and his wife in recognition of their generous financial support, the clinic can accommodate 15,000 patient visits each year, with eight exam rooms and three procedure rooms. All Payton Center patients go through their initial intake and receive their outpatient services at the Fink Clinic.

Researchers, physicians and nurses also have been added to the liver program over the years, as well as alliances with collaborators drawn from across the UIC campus. Today, the Walter Payton Liver Center draws on the expertise of 15 physician-researchers and 30 nurses, plus affiliated pharmacologists, psychologists and social workers. They address abdominal organ conditions, including end-stage gastrointestinal, renal, diabetic and liver disease; vascular
**Bruno Pasquinelli has a habit of turning unlikely ideas into big successes.** In the 1950s, when he was in his 20s, Pasquinelli and his brother, Tony, wanted to start a home building company. They had no money, but with the help of their parents, they found a way to launch what is now Pasquinelli and Portrait Homes. One of the largest privately owned home building companies in the nation, it has built more than 45,000 homes in 13 metropolitan areas.

Now Pasquinelli intends to have that kind of success with the Walter Payton Liver Center at the University of Illinois Medical Center at Chicago. His vision, energy and advocacy already have helped transform the liver disease program at the medical center by joining it with the Payton legacy, but Pasquinelli isn’t stopping there. “I want to promote the Walter Payton Liver Center and fill the hospital,” he says.

Pasquinelli has been treated for heart disease at UIC, and was so impressed by the care he received at the medical center that he joined the College of Medicine’s Medical Advancement Council and its Gastrointestinal and Liver Disease (GILD) Council, which raises funds for research and patient care focused on liver diseases and other diseases of the GI tract.

Through these associations, Pasquinelli met Enrico Benedetti, MD, head of surgery and former chief of transplantation surgery. “I speak your language,” Pasquinelli said, and began conversing in Italian. They became friends.

A medical center supporter since 2003, Pasquinelli had the idea to establish the Walter Payton Liver Center. He felt Payton was a perfect icon to be a beacon for the care at UIC. “He was a powerhouse,” Pasquinelli says. “Just like the liver and transplant programs at UIC.”

Pasquinelli turned to the Walter and Connie Payton Foundation to propose a union of Payton’s name and healthcare at UIC. Eventually, he was able to arrange a meeting with foundation officials, including former Chicago Bears running back Matt Suhey. The day of the meeting, Connie Payton called Suhey from a snowed-in O’Hare Airport, asking to be picked up. She said she would tag along to their appointment with Pasquinelli.

“I heard someone say coincidences are little acts of God,” Pasquinelli says now. “I tell everybody the Payton Center is, in a way, spiritual, because of the number of coincidences. I’d been trying to set up a meeting where Connie couldn’t say no to me, and in she walks with the other key people.”

Pasquinelli looked at Connie Payton and said, “I want to save lives, and you can help me.” She listened. She learned that the University of Illinois Medical Center at Chicago makes outstanding care available to everyone. She looked at Suhey and said, “I think it’s a good idea.”

The Payton Foundation agreed to partner with UIC to establish the Walter Payton Liver Center. To help realize his vision, Pasquinelli and the Pasquinelli Family Foundation have contributed more than $1 million in support of the liver center.

“I want to save lives,” Pasquinelli says by way of explaining the tenacity, drive and generosity he’s brought to the creation of the Walter Payton Liver Center. “I tell the doctors, ‘You save lives every day. I don’t have that opportunity.’ But I can do it. I can tell people about this facility and bring them where they wouldn’t normally come. I can save lives.”

**A Winning Tradition**

**Benedetti also sees Walter Payton** as a fitting emblem of the care the medical center provides. “The Walter Payton Liver Center is being established in the name of a man who died waiting for a transplant, so naturally a big emphasis of the center is transplant services,” he observes.

Like Layden, Benedetti built a fledgling program from modest beginnings into a nationally recognized leader. When he returned to UIC in 1994 as an assistant professor of transplantation (after completing a post-residency fellowship at the University of Minnesota), the program was performing about 45 kidney transplants and five liver transplants a year.

Now the transplant program receives referrals from patients across the country and performs up to 180 transplants a year, including 120 kidney, 30 to 50 liver and 10 pancreas procedures. Each patient receives care from a team that includes pre- and post-transplant nurses, a social worker, dietician, clinical psychologist and support staff. The program receives more than $5 million in grant funding and generates an average of more than 50 peer-reviewed journal articles annually.

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**AT THE CENTER**

Bruno Pasquinelli in front of one of the center’s many murals of Walter Payton
The program specializes in transplants from living organ donors—who provide one of their two kidneys or a portion of a liver, pancreas or intestine—which eliminate the long wait for cadaver organ donation that is often fatal, as it was for Walter Payton. UIC surgeons have performed 24 of 43 documented living donor intestine transplants, and UIC and the University of Minnesota are the only two places in the world where living donor pancreas transplants are performed.

Taking advantage of the liver’s ability to regenerate itself, in 1998 Benedetti performed the first adult-to-adult living organ donor liver transplant in the state of Illinois. “The number of cadaver liver donors is limited, and people are still dying waiting for an organ,” Benedetti observes. “If we utilize a live donor, we can do the transplant within days after referral.” The transplant program also is a leader in robotic surgery, which allows surgeons to perform even the most complex and delicate procedures through very small incisions with unmatched precision. The benefits of robotic surgery for patients may include significantly less pain, less blood loss, less scarring, shorter recovery time, faster return to normal daily activities, and, in many cases, better clinical outcomes.

Since performing the first robotic surgery in Illinois in 2000, surgeons at UIC have been using the technique for a range of treatments, including gall bladder removal; gastric bypass and laparoscopic (Lap-Band) surgery for treatment of obesity; esophageal repair; and kidney donation. UIC is also the first of three sites in the United States to provide federally mandated clinical training for surgeons who use the robotic system. Building on this foundation, Pier Cristoforo Giulianotti, MD, joined the UIC faculty last year as chief of minimally invasive, general and robotic surgery. An internationally renowned pioneer in the field, Giulianotti has developed robotic-assisted surgical techniques for the removal of cancerous tumors of the lung and pancreas—procedures that rarely are performed in the United States—and also performs robotic surgeries of the esophagus, colon, stomach and liver. In all, he has performed more than 750 robotic procedures (as well as more than 8,000 traditional surgeries and 2,100 minimally invasive surgeries) and has trained more than 60 physicians worldwide in robotic surgery.

“Robotic service is concentrated here,” Benedetti says. “We can prevent open surgery in 80 to 85 percent of our cases. This is special. No one else in the world can do what we do.”

These state-of-the-art techniques are reflected in the transplant program’s outcomes. Among living donor kidney transplant recipients with no special risk factors, the one-year patient survival rate was 99 percent with 96 percent graft survival (e.g., continued kidney function). The program also has achieved a 95 percent survival rate for the adult patients who received liver transplants in the past two years.

“These are amazing outcomes, especially considering that we have treated very sick patients here, a lot of combined liver-kidney procedures,” Benedetti says.

“One of the Best Decisions We’ve Ever Made”

In addition to drawing on the strengths of UIC’s medical, surgical and transplant services, the Walter Payton Liver Center brings together numerous disciplines to collaborate on care there. “Our patients have complicated problems,” Cotler observes. “We must rely on the expertise of our colleagues in areas like radiology, oncology, pharmacology, psychology and social work. An important aspect of the center is the disciplines working closely together to provide high-quality care.”

These interdisciplinary teams provide their state-of-the-art care in a setting that is comfortable, attractive and reassuring for patients. A $1.5 million renovation to the seventh floor of the medical center—the location of many of the Walter Payton Liver Center’s services—is under way and will make a big difference to patients, families and staff.

“We wanted to create an environment that would promote more of a family feel than an institutional feel,” says David Loffing, senior associate hospital director. The remodeling incorporated earth tones—especially greens and browns—wood paneling, wallpaper and wooden floors to create a calming, homelike environment. Conveniences such as dialysis capability in every room and flat-screen TVs and enhanced computer services are planned to further invigorate the unit.

Walter Payton’s presence as the theme of the facility’s interior also contributes to the center’s upbeat atmosphere. The large photographs of Payton from his football career on the walls, 34 beds in honor of his jersey number, and staff wearing uniforms in Bears’ orange and blue remind patients, visitors and staff of Payton’s fighting spirit.

“Now it’s vibrant here,” says transplant coordinator Pat Gaddis, MS, RN, who has been working with Layden since he started building the liver program. “If the staff is happy, they can make patients happy, too.”

Everyone involved with the Payton-UIC alliance seems happy. “I am,” Connie Payton says. “This is one of the best decisions we’ve ever made. I can’t imagine a stronger, more meaningful way to celebrate Walter’s life.”
In 1997, three strangers who had lost loved ones to liver or gastrointestinal disease came together to support programs at UIC. “An unhappy experience led us to create something good,” says Steve Sinclair, who lost his first wife, Elaine, to liver disease. He co-founded the Gastrointestinal and Liver Disease (GILD) Council with Steve Wendt and Carolyn Winter. “I heard at a bat mitzvah once, ‘Those that sow in sorrow, reap in joy.’ That’s true for us. We help a lot of people.”

For the past decade, the GILD Council has raised money for patient care, research and education to diagnose, prevent and treat liver, gastrointestinal and nutritional diseases. The centerpiece of the council’s work is its annual fundraiser. This year’s event, An Evening of Sweetness, celebrated both the new Walter Payton Liver Center and the council’s 10th anniversary.

Held on Oct. 27 at Chicago’s Fairmont Hotel, the gala event drew more than 750 guests, including Walter Payton’s mother, Alyne Payton; his sister, Pamela Payton-Curry; Illinois Secretary of State Jesse White; UIC Chancellor Sylvia Manning, PhD; UIC Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs R. Michael Tanner, PhD; and College of Medicine Dean Joseph Flaherty, MD. “ABC 7 News” anchor Cheryl Burton was the evening’s guest speaker. Kent Hammerstrom, who recently was inducted as the new president of the GILD, served as master of ceremonies.

Sinclair’s contributions to the council’s success were recognized at the gala when he was given the council’s distinguished service award this year. “It’s not just me,” he says in response to the award. “I shouldn’t be singled out for the work of many. The GILD is the product of a lot of hard-working people.”

Another effort to support the Walter Payton Liver Center is the Payton Project, a $10 million fundraising campaign. The Payton Project specifically seeks funding in support of the following goals:

- Recruiting and retaining the world’s best medical faculty
- Establishing an endowed chair for clinical research in liver disease in the department of medicine
- Establishing an endowed chair for division chief of liver and transplantation in the department of surgery
- Facilitating and supporting medical research
- Renovating, expanding and enhancing research laboratories
- Increasing education, prevention, early detection and awareness through ongoing outreach programs

“To continue to build we have to have developmental support,” says Thomas Layden, MD, Edmund F. Foley professor and chair of the department of medicine. “We hope people will recognize what we’ve done for medicine and in the community, and that they will support our work.”

The Walter Payton Liver Center reaches out to everyone. To support its efforts or to learn more about the Walter Payton Liver Center, please call (312) 996-4470 or e-mail wplc@uic.edu.

For appointments, call (866) 682-WPLC.
Sam Dudley, MD, is building the vital links to connect UIC’s cardiovascular research and clinical teams.

Nobel laureate in literature, Hermann Hesse’s *The Glass Bead Game* (*Magister Ludi*) transformed how Dudley thought about translating the relationship between medical research and care.

In the game of the book’s title, players earn points based on their skill at translating ideas from one discipline to another—for example, applying the concept of a painting to architecture, then gardening.

“After reading it, I began to view science not in terms of clinical and basic, but as all one thing,” Dudley explains. “Good science is done the same way; it’s just using different tools and having different limitations. When I began to realize that, it was liberating.”

That understanding has guided his work ever since. As the new head of the section of cardiology and co-director of the Center for Cardiovascular Research at UIC, Dudley brings with him a strong foundation in translational research—a history of building bridges between the laboratory bench and the patient bedside. He intends to develop similar linkages at UIC.

“UIC has one of the top cardiac basic science programs in the country. It’s really outstanding in its depth and quality,” Dudley says. “We have an opportunity to marry this very strong basic science program with what I expect will become an equally strong clinical program. I want to make the UIC cardiovascular research center the premier translational cardiac center in the country.”
Current investigations in the UIC Center for Cardiovascular Research are focused on the role in heart failure played by the cellular elements that house the heart’s molecular motors. Another main focus is determining what factors signal maladaptive growth of heart cells in response to inherited mutations of key regulatory proteins and in response to stresses such as high blood pressure.

Other projects focus on the use of stem cells in regenerating damaged heart muscle following a heart attack. Studies with nanotechnology approaches to drug delivery also are under way, as well as projects dealing with abnormalities in the conductance of electrical signals from cell to cell in the heart.

“Dr. Dudley will be able to transform some of the outstanding basic science programs at UIC into clinical programs that will improve the care of patients with heart disease, specifically patients with cardiac arrhythmia,” says Thomas Layden, MD, Edmund F. Foley professor and chair of the department of medicine. “He’s one of the brightest stars in the country in cardiology, and he understands the balance between clinical care and bench research as few others do.”

Dudley received his MD and PhD in physiology from Virginia Commonwealth University. Between 1989 and 1997 he completed an internal medicine residency and postdoctoral and cardiology fellowships at the University of Chicago. Following his residency, Dudley served on the faculty of medicine and physiology at Emory University. For seven years, he also was chief of cardiology at the Atlanta VA Medical Center, where he oversaw both the program’s basic science and clinical functions. He effectively merged the two by hiring clinician-scientists and by promoting translational research, increasing productivity 200 percent as measured in grant dollars, patient encounters and procedural volume.

He’s found that creating teams is the key to linking clinical and laboratory research. “Most people want to do it, they just don’t know how,” Dudley explains. “It’s essentially two groups of people who speak different languages. They’ve got different focuses, they’ve spent their lives doing different things.” At UIC, he plans to initiate processes and incentives that will encourage researchers and clinicians to undertake new collaborations. He also will develop conferences and centers of excellence to encourage partnerships.

Perhaps most importantly, “I can show them how, so they can see me do it, and how much fun it is.”

Dudley sees a model for this sort of teamwork already in place at UIC in the Center for Cardiovascular Research, an extended network of scientists at UIC who are focusing on heart failure and other disorders of the heart’s ability to contract or relax. “The point of the center is to bring people with various specialties from across the campus together and move cardiovascular research forward to solve the many pressing problems that remain in controlling heart disease, which is still the largest killer in the Western world,” he says.

Dudley’s own research collaborations have three major themes: examining the role of the renin-angiotensin system and oxidative stress in arrhythmic risk; optimizing approaches for cardiac regenerative therapy; and discovering new therapies for diastolic heart failure (failure of the heart to relax).

With the burgeoning development of stem cell therapy for heart disease, one concern for scientists is that the new cells delivered to the heart won’t make the correct electrical connections, resulting in arrhythmia. Many researchers focus on the heart’s mechanics or new blood vessels that are built from stem cells, treading lightly around the electrical aspect. This electrical aspect, on the other hand, is Dudley’s specialty.

He has received extensive funding for his research, including a grant from the National Institutes of Health for studies of stem cell therapy and arrhythmias, and support from the pharmaceutical company Pfizer Corporation for a clinical trial testing the ability of the cholesterol-lowering drugatorvastatin to prevent atrial fibrillation.

In the last three years, his research group at Emory received or filed seven pending patents for therapies with potential applications to humans. His group most recently patented a potential therapy for diastolic heart failure, which affects 50 percent of all heart failure patients—2.5 million in the U.S.—and has the same mortality as traditional heart failure. “We have identified one mechanism responsible for why the heart fails to relax, which leads to heart failure, and a potential therapy that we should be trying with humans in the next year,” he says.

Dudley’s research complements the work of an array of scientists at UIC who are focused on heart failure and other disorders of the heart’s ability to contract and relax. “Most of the current investigators are focused on the biological machine responsible for pressure and ejection,” observes R. John Solaro, PhD, head of physiology and biophysics and co-director of the Center for Cardiovascular Research. “Dr. Dudley adds new perspectives and expertise regarding the electrical signals that trigger the machine to switch on. His work meshes extremely well with and extends the capabilities of center researchers to perform sophisticated investigation of the causes of electrical abnormalities, including the common problem of atrial arrhythmias.”

Brenda Russell, PhD, executive associate vice chancellor for research and professor of physiology and biophysics, also is excited about the collaborative possibilities Dudley brings to the center. “The heart is a machine,” she says. “You turn on the electricity and the pump functions. In the center, we’ve been working on the chemical and molecular pieces, but we haven’t had the electrical piece. Now we’ve got it all.”
This outlook adds to the difficulty facing pregnant women and mothers of newborns who experience problems ranging from “baby blues” to anxiety disorders to outright psychoses, whose guilt over their feelings sometimes prevents them from seeking help.

“Depression of any kind as a response to an impending or recent birth has long been considered politically incorrect,” says Laura Miller, MD, professor of psychiatry at UIC and founder and director of UIC’s Women’s Mental Health Program. “If women don’t know that they need treatment or that effective treatments are available, they will be more prone to suffer in silence, sometimes with damaging or even deadly consequences.”

Miller’s pioneering work in the field of pregnancy-related depression over the past 19 years has been a major force in increasing understanding and treatment of this often-devastating mental illness, which affects up to 12 percent of pregnant women and up to 21 percent of new mothers (see sidebar). She has been instrumental in providing treatment for women, training healthcare professionals and helping shape public policy regarding these issues in Illinois.

Under Miller’s direction, the UIC Women’s Mental Health Program has won the American Psychiatric Association’s Gold Achievement Award for innovative mental health services and the American College of Psychiatrists’ Award for Creativity in Psychiatric Education. Established in 1988, the program provides inpatient and outpatient treatment for the unique needs of women with psychiatric disorders and life problems, addressing such issues as eating disorders; parenting problems; and emotional reactions to infertility, menopause, breast cancer, hysterectomy, hormone therapy, and sexual assault and abuse.

Psychiatric problems during pregnancy and postpartum are a central part of the program’s work. The effects of pregnancy-related mental illness can be staggering: Studies show that maternal depression during...
pregnancy increases the risk of preterm labor, low birth weight, infant irritability and subsequent abnormal stress responses in the child. Untreated postpartum depression increases the risk of emotional, cognitive and behavioral problems in children as well the risk of chronic depression in mothers.

Highly publicized tragedies of women who have committed suicide or harmed their children while in the throes of mental illness have helped call attention to antenatal (pregnancy-linked) and postpartum depressions. It was such an event that first sparked Miller’s interest in this illness.

After graduating from Duke University with a BS in psychology and then from Harvard Medical School, Miller came to UIC as the co-director of inpatient services for the UIC department of psychiatry. She was conducting research about psychotic disorders when she discovered that little was known about how to treat mentally ill pregnant women. “There were also almost no services available for these women after they gave birth and began parenting their babies,” she says. “There was no safety net at all.”

Miller began working on creating inpatient services for severely ill women at UIC, but funding was elusive. Then in 1988, a tragedy occurred: Because a Chicago-area psychiatric facility lacked an obstetrics unit, an unattended woman with schizophrenia gave birth in a bathroom. The baby died before anyone could consult with clinicians with expertise in treating postpartum depression. “Laura Miller’s dedication to this topic is bottomless,” says Joan Mudd, executive director of the Jennifer Mudd Houghtaling Foundation. Named after Mudd’s daughter, who suffered from severe postpartum depression and took her life in 2001, the foundation is dedicated to educating both the public and healthcare providers about postpartum depression. Miller has spoken at the foundation’s annual education conference three times. “Her command of the subject, the treatments available and the training needed is incredible. From early screening to rapid response calls to women in great psychiatric distress, she has been in the foreground of all of it.”

Currently, Miller is focusing on expanding the safety net for pregnant women with mental illness, who rarely received little or no training in how to deal with postpartum depression. “This kind of depression scares many of them,” she says, “because they don’t know what to do.” Since 2004, Miller and her team have conducted an expanding series of workshops and consultations for doctors, nurses, social workers and other healthcare providers statewide, teaching them how to screen for depression in pregnant women and recent mothers as well as how to prescribe treatments during pregnancy and breast-feeding. Named the UIC Perinatal Mental Health Project, this initiative has trained more than 3,500 healthcare providers and social service workers in Illinois and has responded to consulting requests from 30 other states in the past three years.

With Miller’s guidance, the project team also has created an antidepressant medication guide that lists the known risks of specific antidepressant medications during pregnancy and breast-feeding. The guide is posted online and updated periodically; there is also a toll-free telephone line (1 (800) 573-6121) and a Web site (www.psych.uic.edu/research/perinatalmentalhealth/) where healthcare providers can consult with clinicians with expertise in treating postpartum depression.

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“The biggest problem we face now is women’s perinatal mental health,” she says. The UIC Women’s Mental Health Program has designed a stepped-care perinatal depression management program to integrate screening, assessment and treatment of depression into prenatal care. Models of the program currently are being piloted in two clinics in Chicago.

Miller also is interested in integrating health services for mothers with health services for babies. “Historically, it has been two separate services: Either babies have a problem or mothers have a problem. But the reality is the two are linked. You need to have a healthy mother to have a healthy child.”

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A 44-year-old woman lies unconscious on an operating table, head tilted toward her right shoulder, every inch of her body covered by blue fabric except for a triangular opening into her brain that shines brilliant red. The operating room in the University of Illinois Medical Center at Chicago is dark, cold, quiet and relaxed as a team of doctors enters the fifth hour of the woman's surgery to clip multiple aneurysms in the woman's brain.

Everything changes with the arrival of Fady Charbel, MD, Res ’93, head of the neurosurgery department at UIC. There’s a rush of light and warm air from the outside corridor when he opens the door, and an infusion of noise as he continues a conversation with another doctor following behind him.

As he scrubs in and is brought up to speed about the operation, he turns toward another person in the room: first-year resident Obinna Emechebe-Kennedy, MD ’07, PharmD ’01, whom Charbel recruited to the UIC College of Medicine after they met when Emechebe-Kennedy was a pharmacy student at UIC. He is the first UIC College of Medicine graduate that Charbel has taken on as a resident in his six years as department head.

“I’ve always wanted our students to go somewhere else to broaden their experience,” says Charbel, a faculty member since 1991, during a post-surgery conversation. “Eventually, I began to think that when the right mentoring relationship is in place, it’s good for one of our students to stay.”

This change of view is especially noteworthy given that the program only accepts one new resident each academic year. The appointment is evidence of Charbel’s commitment to adaptation and innovation—the very traits that drew Emechebe-Kennedy to him. Now, as Emechebe-Kennedy begins to train under his mentor, he must learn quickly, Charbel-style.
In the operating room, Emechebe-Kennedy stands silently a couple of feet behind the surgeons, his arms clasped behind his back. He’s about six months into his first year of residency, and has completed rotations in trauma surgery, general surgery, surgical oncology, and otorhinolaryngology (ear, nose and throat). Neurosurgery is his ultimate destination, but it’s still new to him. He observes quietly until Charbel starts giving him orders: Change the electrode coagulator to 25. Check to see if there’s an MRI on file. Take a look through the microscope and describe what you see.

Emechebe-Kennedy peers into the microscope and asks, “Is that the terminus?” “No,” Charbel responds, “it’s the carotid artery.”

“I always ask residents questions during surgery, both to see how they answer and to include them in the thought process,” Charbel explains. “The interaction changes over time. It begins as a mentorship and eventually becomes an apprenticeship. As residents progress, they can assimilate more.”

Obinna Emechebe-Kennedy always has been drawn to healthcare, but his reasons for pursuing a career in medicine have grown more intimate and more painful with time. He was born inNsukka, Nigeria, and during his childhood the poverty and lack of medical care in that country distressed him. When he was 9, he came to the southwest Chicago suburb of Orland Park to live with his sister, who is 20 years older than him.

Two years later their father died of a stroke in Nigeria. “If it had been caught in time, or if the doctors there had proper diagnostic tools, he could still be alive,” Emechebe-Kennedy says during a rare break from his rotations. When he enrolled at UIC as an undergraduate, he chose pharmacy as his major—it is his sister’s profession, and he had seen the difference she makes to people in need of medicine.

Emechebe-Kennedy spent his last year of pharmacy school completing a set of clinical rotations, one of which was in the neurosurgery unit at the hospital. He did well there, and, as a reward, he was offered a chance to watch surgery in the operating room. The procedure involved bypassing blocked arteries in a stroke patient’s brain. “It was an awakening for me, one of those experiences where you find your place,” he remembers.

He spoke to his pharmacy-rotation adviser about medical school—and he spoke to Charbel, whom he’d met on his neurosurgery rotation. Both of them encouraged him to apply to UIC, and within a week—while still wrapping up his doctorate in pharmacy, and with a job waiting for him at the pharmaceutical company Abbott Laboratories—he started studying for the MCAT.

After graduating from the College of Pharmacy in spring 2001, he enrolled in the College of Medicine the following August and began asking Charbel for advice at every step: what to research, when to take exams, where to focus his efforts. During his third year, he turned to Charbel when tragedy again struck his family. His mother had died of a stroke in Nigeria. Once again, says Emechebe-Kennedy, “It was just a matter of not being able to get to the hospital in time.”

With Charbel’s support, Emechebe-Kennedy took a year off from medical school to research neural stem cell behavior as a research fellow at the National Institutes for Health in Bethesda, Md. He used the time to clear his head, to make sure he was on the right path. He came back more focused. He needs to be, as one of Charbel’s residents.

Neurosurgery residency is a seven-year program in which doctors spend up to 30 consecutive hours on call, gradually increasing their responsibilities to the point where they can perform complicated, delicate surgeries. In addition to drilling residents in medical school subjects such as anatomy until they are second nature, the program also trains them to be extraordinarily calm and confident while conducting procedures with life-and-death stakes.

Charbel exudes that quiet assurance. He sits perfectly still for hours in surgery, a trait that belies his philosophy of medicine. He tells his residents to learn not just by watching him, but to think about how they might improve upon his work.

He takes his own advice: He developed the Charbel Flow Probe, which measures blood flow within blood vessels and is in use worldwide. In surgery today, he’s testing a new laser measurement tool that gauges blood flow without touching the vessels. As he clips one aneurysm after another—he finds seven—he continues to ask for Emechebe-Kennedy’s impressions of the operation.

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Charbel Flow Probe

One of Fady Charbel’s inventions, the probe is used by neurosurgeons at major academic institutions in the U.S. and around the world.

“I want to make sure they cover all the basics, everything that’s expected of them, and also push them to do a little more than they think they can do,” he says of his residents. No wonder Charbel gets along with Emechebe-Kennedy, who says he approaches medicine the same way.

“I came here because Charbel is an innovator, and I want to find out how to push boundaries,” he says. “There’s no way I can perform this operation right now. But I can put myself in the surgeons’ position and think about what I will do if a situation like this ever comes up again.”

It will be years before Emechebe-Kennedy finally sits in the head surgeon’s chair leading an operation like this one. Perhaps he will think back to the operation he’s watching today, maybe the methods will have evolved thanks to one of Charbel’s technological innovations. Regardless, the patient that day will rely on Emechebe-Kennedy’s intelligence, skill, experience and drive—qualities for which she can be grateful to both her doctor and his mentor.
But in 1999, Bellur Prabhakar, PhD, made a significant discovery in his laboratory at UIC. After 18 years of studying the proteins and cell behaviors that trigger autoimmune activity, Prabhakar, head of UIC’s department of microbiology and immunology, succeeded in tracing autoimmune function back to its root—the dendritic cells that initiate autoimmune response. By altering the properties of those dendritic cells, Prabhakar and his colleagues reversed the spread of autoimmune disease in laboratory mice. Though the technology still is about a year away from clinical testing on humans, it has the potential to be an enormously important medical breakthrough.

According to the National Institutes of Health, 23.5 million Americans suffer from autoimmune diseases such as multiple sclerosis and lupus. Symptoms range from chronic fatigue to the muscular dysfunction caused by MS, and the diseases can be fatal. Autoimmune diseases, collectively, are one of the nation’s top 10 causes of death among children and women younger than 65. Common treatments, such as corticosteroids and immunosuppressant drugs, decrease immune system function and leave the body open to attack from external viruses.

At the core of Prabhakar’s work is a strategy for altering only the parts of the immune system that are functioning incorrectly. Because the destructive work of autoimmune diseases is done by T cells or antibodies, he focuses on the dendritic cells that trigger autoimmune behavior by presenting proteins called antigens to the T cells. A T-cell response is required for antibody production as well, so by altering the interaction between the dendritic cell and the T cell,
Prabhakar can short-circuit most autoimmune activity.

“People have always tried to treat the symptoms and developed all sorts of technologies to prevent immune responses by turning off T cells once they’ve been turned on,” Prabhakar says. “What we’ve done is fundamentally different. Our technology attacks the very first step in the autoimmune process, which is how the antigen presentation is perceived by the immune system. You can’t go earlier than this in a treatment protocol.”

His team has developed two related treatments. The first consists of introducing a protein called granulocyte-macrophage colony-stimulating factor, which the body produces and that also is used in cancer treatments. When dendritic cells encounter GM-CSF, the dendritic cells are activated but do not fully mature. Only a mature dendritic cell is capable of inducing an autoimmune response in T cells, so there’s no attack. Better yet, GM-CSF induces the T cells to become “regulatory T cells” and to shut down any pathogenic cells present.

“It’s a yin-yang effect,” Prabhakar says. “GM-CSF restores the balance that was skewed by the autoimmune disease.”

The second treatment focuses on T cells that already have been activated. When dendritic cells approach T cells, they present two types of antigens to allow for a stronger bond with the T cell. Prabhakar and his team found that they can introduce a bispecific antibody (a synthetic antibody that recognizes more than one protein on a cell surface) that can bind to dendritic or target cells with one of its arms and to a pathogenic T cell with the second arm and shut it down.

Prabhakar has administered GM-CSF to laboratory mice possessing three autoimmune diseases: Hashimoto’s thyroiditis, which often leads to hypothyroidism, where the body doesn’t produce enough thyroid hormone; myasthenia gravis, which weakens muscles; and type 1 diabetes. In mice that were close to dying from HT or MG, the treatment reversed the course of the disease.

When mice showed symptoms of type 1 diabetes, the treatment suppressed the disease indefinitely.

Prabhakar says that one of the keys to developing the new treatment was assembling a team of multidisciplinary researchers at UIC. The team includes Mark Holterman, MD, PhD, associate professor of surgery and chief of the division of pediatric surgery; Matthew Meriggioli, MD, director of neuromuscular disease; and Chenthamaraksha Vasu, PhD, assistant professor of surgery. The doctors’ clinical focus helped Prabhakar move toward clinical applications.

Prabhakar often would be at work in his lab late in the afternoon when Holterman would arrive.

“We’d just be shooting the breeze,” Prabhakar remembers. “If he came from a transplant surgery, he’d say, ‘It’d be great if we could use this in transplant.’ I’d say, ‘That’s an interesting idea, how could we make it work?’ That’s how we got started. It’s a great example of how academic intellectual environments can create new knowledge.”

Meriggioli, who specializes in myasthenia gravis and was frustrated by the shortcomings of the available treatments, relished the opportunity to search for new solutions.

“I think our work carries a very good potential to lead to better treatment for myasthenia patients,” says Meriggioli, who did little research on this topic before coming to UIC in 2004. “I couldn’t ask for a better science mentor than Dr. Prabhakar, and I’m fortunate that he’s so interested in forging these kinds of collaborations.”

Prabhakar, Holterman, Vasu and Meriggioli are now business partners as well. The research team, along with UIC and the technology investment firm IllinoisVentures, already has founded a company to begin developing the two treatments for commercial application. The company is called Tolerogenics, after the “tolerogenic” state of the dendritic cells once the treatment is administered.

So far, most of the company’s work has focused on studying the competitive landscape, preparing for the regulatory approval process, and making sure that the intellectual property involved in the treatments is unique. Because GM-CSF is already an approved cancer treatment, Prabhakar speculates the regulatory process could be smoother than usual for a new treatment.

With those steps nearly complete, the firm is calculating the costs of development and potential return on investment; it will use those figures to attract seed-level investors to fund clinical testing. Once the treatment is closer to approval, Tolerogenics plans to sell its technology to a larger biotech firm.

First, though, there’s the matter of determining dosages for humans and then testing the treatment on patients. Even after clinical testing is begun, the treatments will be at least another five years from going to market, according to Katherine Hyer, director of life sciences at IllinoisVentures.

“It’s hard to explain the product development industry to someone creative, because it’s boring,” she says. “You’re proving the same thing over and over again, doing the same experiments, making something more durable.”

So Prabhakar will try to be patient with his breakthrough. But it’s difficult not to think about the potential impact of the treatment.

“If we have a successful product, that means I’m curing autoimmune diseases,” he says. “What more satisfaction can I have?”

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At left: Bellur Prabhakar, PhD, in the immunology research laboratory.
Inset: close-up of functional dendritic cell.
Saving the lives of babies isn’t something one gives up easily.

After more than 35 years devoted to caring for newborns in Chicago and around the world, Dharmapuri Vidyasagar, MD, retired in August as director of neonatology and professor of pediatrics at UIC. Even so, he will continue his international work, helping improve care for newborn infants across the globe.

Vidyasagar, who still maintains an office at UIC, says his work in Chicago is not over yet either. “What we do here will benefit other countries,” he declares. “Now that we have a global village, our experience will percolate into the areas of the world where it is very much needed.”

His international focus is rooted in his universal sense of humanism. When a financial supporter once asked Vidyasagar why he was working to improve care in countries where he had no ethnic affiliation, he answered simply, “All babies cry the same way.”

Vidyasagar’s enduring passion for his global efforts also arises from the fact that half a million mothers and 4 million babies die each year from complications during childbirth. “More than 50 percent of these deaths are preventable with access to hospital delivery and transport to the hospital,” Vidyasagar notes.

To help prevent as many of these deaths as possible, Vidyasagar has many exciting and challenging projects planned for his “retirement.” His foremost goal is to establish a Center for the Study of Southeastern Asian Health at UIC. “I want to bring public health, medical and nursing people together in a multidisciplinary approach to child health,” he says.

He is developing a Web site focused on neonatal and maternal care that will incorporate a virtual (computer-simulated) baby to teach mothers around the world to recognize when a child is sick and to perform some of the needed treatments themselves. Another Web site he is developing will assist civil engineers with water, sanitation, energy and medical
issues that affect rural health.

Vidyasagar also is continuing his lifelong commitment to improving the care of newborns in his native country. He is working with the National Rural Health Mission of India to implement training that will upgrade neonatal care in rural villages, and this January he spoke about maternal and newborn care at the 95th Indian Science Congress.

Born in Hyderabad, India, Vidyasagar received his medical degree from Osmania Medical College in Hyderabad in 1961 and an MS in physiology from the University of Manitoba in 1971. He trained in pediatrics at the University of Pennsylvania and completed fellowships in neonatology at Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia and Children’s Hospital in Winnipeg.

He was the associate director of nurseries at Cook County Hospital from 1971 until 1974, when he became director of neonatology at UIC. In these positions, he’s overseen the admission of more than 20,000 babies into the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit and the discharge of more than 100,000 babies in all. He also trained 60 neonatology fellows at UIC. An active researcher with more than 200 publications to his credit, his contributions to the treatment of infant respiratory distress syndrome and meconium aspiration syndrome in premature infants have saved untold lives.

Vidyasagar’s international work in neonatology also has saved the lives of countless babies and their mothers and raised him to iconic status in countries such as India, China, Poland, Lithuania and Uzbekistan.

His interest in assisting developing countries began in 1971, when he was invited to Sion Hospital in India to observe its neonatal unit. At that time the country’s infant mortality rate was 90 deaths per 1,000 births. Vidyasagar’s work contributed to the reduction of infant mortality in India to 40 per 1,000 births today. (By comparison, the rate in Chicago is seven per thousand births, thanks in part to his help.)

“Newborn care in India was an afterthought,” he remembers. “My approach was to train the trainers. I invited more than 70 professors over a six-year period to come to UIC. They stayed from four weeks to six months, went back and then established programs in the provinces and medical schools.

“I told them how even with the limited facilities and resources in India they could improve,” he adds. “They needed to concentrate on keeping the babies warm, improving sanitation and administering oxygen to them.”

In 1983, Vidyasagar expanded his reach further by making his first trip to Shenyang, China. Wei Ke-Lun, MD, was one of Vidyasagar’s first students when he arrived in 1983. “He trained many neonatologists, as well as nursing staffs, and many of his trainees have become pioneers in the field,” says Ke-Lun, who is now president of the Chinese Neonatal Society. “Dr. Vidyasagar helped to establish the NICUs in Beijing, Shenyang and a number of other cities in China.” Eastern Europe was the next region to benefit from Vidyasagar’s guidance. A neonatologist at a Polish university read about Vidyasagar and requested his help. Since 1989, nearly 50 Polish doctors have traveled to UIC for training. They continue to come today, and Vidyasagar continues to advise them on research.

Impressed with Vidyasagar’s work in Poland, Frances Slutas, a Chicago nurse and Lithuanian-American, arranged for him to visit Lithuania in 1990. He arrived three months after the liberation from Russia. “He took high-risk mothers and infants to the highest level of care,” says Slutas, who worked with Vidyasagar in Lithuania. “There have been drastic changes for the better because of Dr. Vidyasagar. The mortality rates are way down.”

Vidyasagar has received numerous honors for his work around the globe, including being made an honorary professor at China Medical College in Shenyang; receiving an honorary doctorate from Poznan University of Medical Sciences in Poland; membership in the Knights of Lithuania; and the Jonas Salk Award from the March of Dimes.

While his impact has been global, Vidyasagar continues to employ many of the same methods for educating neonatologists that he used to train physicians at UIC. “We enacted our model from Illinois to the letter in Poland and Lithuania,” he explains. “The solutions for developing countries can be found here at UIC.”

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On the occasion of the 25th anniversary celebration of Dharmapuri Vidyasagar’s tenure at UIC in 1999, the department of pediatrics initiated the Dharmapuri Vidyasagar Endowment Fund. Now, on the occasion of Vidyasagar’s retirement, the goal of the fund has been increased to raising the $500,000 needed to establish a professorship, followed by the $2 million required to endow a chair. The money will be used to support education and research projects performed and/or sponsored by the division of neonatology both in the U.S. and abroad.

For more information about the Dharmapuri Vidyasagar Endowment Fund, please contact Debra Ferguson at (312) 996-1635 or debraf@uic.edu.
Dear Alumni and Friends

Each of us wants our lives to have an impact. In ways both big and small, we all try to make a difference in our families, at our work and through our community involvements.

The cover story of this issue of *UIC Medicine* demonstrates the impact a motivated supporter can have. Bruno Pasquinelli, a former patient at the University of Illinois Medical Center at Chicago, had the idea to raise awareness of the outstanding liver, gastrointestinal and transplant programs at UIC by associating them with Walter Payton’s name. Thanks in large part to his vision and unflagging efforts, the Walter Payton Liver Center at UIC is now a reality.

On the following pages, you can read about the impact that other supporters are making with their gifts and the motivations of these donors. I also am pleased to present our first Honor Roll of donors, which you can find at the conclusion of the magazine.

We do not use the phrase Honor Roll lightly: Individual, business and foundation donors are essential to UIC’s medical enterprise. They ensure that UIC continues to provide excellent medical education and training, bring about new treatment breakthroughs through research, and make top-quality healthcare available to all. The generous donors who provide this critical support truly are deserving of honors.

Such giving is more important than ever now that Brilliant Futures, the campaign for the University of Illinois, is under way. Funds from the campaign will support faculty positions, student scholarships and fellowships; enhance our patient care and outreach; improve facilities; and strengthen our collaborations with public and private partners as part of our Great Cities Commitment to addressing urban issues.

The College of Medicine has raised more than $137 million during the Brilliant Futures campaign, a very promising start demonstrating that many of our close friends endorse our vision for the future. Our challenge now is to continue the momentum. I hope I can count on our regular donors to continue their ongoing support, and those of you who have not yet made a gift to UIC to consider doing so.

While we are grateful to all our donors, I want to express my particular thanks to the Medical Advancement Council, Medical Alumni Council, GILD Council, Illinois Eye Fund Board, Face the Future Foundation and Silver Lining Foundation. These groups provide a strong foundation for our development efforts, both through their contributions and through fostering a sense of community and shared mission among supporters of UIC’s medical enterprise.

Both individually and collectively, the impact each of our donors has on scholarships, research, teaching and care is profound. Our current students already are benefiting from the enhancements to our faculty and buildings that past gifts have made possible. I speak for everyone at the College of Medicine and the medical center when I say we are heartened by such support and deeply grateful for it. I look forward to working with you in the future to advance UIC’s efforts and the impact we can make together.

Sincerely,

Chris Toft

Chief Development Officer for Medicine
Associate Dean for Advancement
Vice President, University of Illinois Foundation
(312) 996-1313 or ctoft@uic.edu
The old adage says if you teach someone to fish, they’ll never go hungry. That’s the philosophy that Nicholas A. Nayak, MD, and his wife, Anjuli Seth Nayak, MD, Res ’81, bring to their efforts to prepare medical students to translate outstanding science into excellent patient care.

The Nayaks have committed more than $500,000 to create the Nayak Family Foundation Endowed Research Lecture Series in Evidence-Based and Clinical Translational Medicine at the UIC College of Medicine. The series will bring nationally and internationally renowned speakers to campus several times each year to address students regarding current issues and trends in evidence-based and clinical translational medicine and research.

Longtime donors to the University of Illinois College of Medicine in Peoria, where Anjuli is an assistant professor in the department of pediatrics, the Nayaks maintain an allergy, asthma and immunology practice in Normal. Anjuli is an allergist and immunologist while Nicholas specializes in family medicine, internal medicine and occupational medicine. They have three sons, two of whom are current UIC medical students.

The Nayaks also conduct research in allergy, immunology, urticaria, hypertension, diabetes and gastritis through a private research institute they established. They hope their lecture series will inspire College of Medicine students to make research part of their practice, whatever form it takes.

“It’s important for new physicians to realize that medical research is not limited to academic clinicians and basic science researchers,” Anjuli says. “The lecture series will help educate medical students about areas of medical research such as grant writing, experimental design and networking. I hope it will encourage students to pursue evidence-based and clinical translational research while practicing medicine here in Illinois.”

“I want to establish a legacy my children can continue,” Nicholas adds. “I want to help improve medical students’ understanding of the research process so they in turn can help improve quality of care.”

“It’s clear that physicians need to fully understand the implications of new literature on their practice and their treatment of patients,” says Jorge Girotti, PhD, associate dean and director of special curricular programs, who mentors the Nayaks’ sons David and Zachary in their medical studies at UIC. “This bench-to-bedside literature is bound to grow, making it all the more necessary that these skills be introduced and developed in medical school.

“Having funds to support student development in these areas will place us at the forefront of educational innovation. On behalf of the university, I thank the Nayaks for their generous and farsighted gift.”

Like their own lives, the Nayak’s philanthropy has both an Illinois focus and an international breadth. Both natives of India, they came to the U.S. to pursue better lives for themselves and their families back in their home country. They met through mutual friends 30 years ago at a pediatrics conference in Chicago while Anjuli was a first-year intern at Jersey City (N.J.) Medical Center and Nicholas was practicing emergency medicine at hospitals in Galesburg and Peoria.

Nicholas had chosen to practice in a small community because it offered peace and quiet, in contrast to his hometown, Mumbai, India, with its 28 million people. He came to the U.S. with the charitable ideals he absorbed when he worked with Mother Teresa while he attended medical school in Mumbai in the 1970s. “She served those who were poor and lived like them,” he remembers. “I came from a poor family, too, so God has been gracious to me, and I have to give to others.”

Both Evangelical Christians, the Nayaks’ religious beliefs motivate their charity, which extends to international mission work. They helped establish a hospital in India, which treats 10,000 patients each month, and a school in Kenya. When the poverty-stricken school did not have drinking water, they helped fund an irrigation system for its 800 students.

“We live in a country where we can’t even fathom these things can happen,” Nicholas says. “We came here poor, and what we made of ourselves is the blessing of God, and we have to give back. There’s a time in life when you start collecting and a time in life when you start giving.”
In addition to its community medicine focus, Carbon credits the College of Medicine for instilling an emphasis on lifelong learning. “When I began my studies there, the school had just instituted a pass-fail grading system,” he recalls. “The point was to get students to concentrate on learning rather than focusing on grades for grades’ sake. The faculty emphasized continuous learning, which is crucial to keeping up with the ongoing advances in medicine.”

While a student in the College of Medicine, Carbon also met Dorothy, whom he married during his final year of medical school. They are the proud parents of four grown children and 11 grandchildren. Carbon credits these relationships with sustaining him throughout his life. “The reason for my being is to take care of my family,” he says.

After an internship at Cook County Hospital, two years in the Army, and an internal medicine residency and nephrology fellowship at the University of Miami, Carbon returned to Illinois in 1971 to practice as an internist and nephrologist in a western suburban clinic.

He also established a nephrology practice with help from Robert Muehrcke, MD, a clinical professor of medicine at UIC. Muehrcke had established the first free-standing dialysis center in Illinois in the late 1960s, when the treatment was still in its experimental stages. In 1976, he established another suburban dialysis unit and appointed Carbon as its medical director.

“Dr. Muehrcke was a pioneer in bringing dialysis to community practice,” Carbon remembers. “He was a visionary who foresaw the future of nephrology.”

In 1978 Carbon merged his practice with Muehrcke’s, becoming a partner in both his mentor’s practice, Nephrology Associates, and his dialysis business, West Suburban Kidney Center. Nephrology Associates—which comprised both a clinical practice and dialysis service available at community hospitals—grew rapidly. West Suburban Kidney Center similarly boomed, growing to include 70 kidney centers in 12 states caring for 7,000 patients by the time it was sold in 2000.

Carbon practiced nephrology full time until the fall of 1997 while also serving in his position as chief operating officer of Nephrology Associates, from which he retired at the end of 2007. At the time, the practice included nearly 30 nephrologists working in 10 regional clinics serving the Chicago area, northern Indiana and Rockford.

Looking back on his career, Carbon takes his greatest satisfaction in extending care to communities where it was needed, much as he hopes the fellows supported by his gift will do in the future. “It’s very fulfilling to have been part of the early stages of bringing kidney dialysis treatments to the community. It brought a treatment to people who otherwise would have died.”
Christopher Family Foundation Makes
Second $1 Million Gift to Chicago Project
by Terri Yablonsky Stat

It takes a very special donor combined with a very promising endeavor to occasion a million-dollar charitable gift. It takes an exceptional donor and an exceptional endeavor to bring about a second one. The Christopher Family Foundation and the Chicago Project are such a donor and endeavor.

After making a $1 million lead gift to the Chicago Project in December of 2006 (UIC Medicine, Summer 2007), the Christopher Family Foundation made a second gift in the same amount to the project last fall. The Chicago Project is an international consortium of physician-scientists who are working together to devise a new cellular treatment for diabetes.

Led by José Oberholzer, MD, director of cell and pancreas transplantation in the department of surgery at UIC, the project’s researchers are trying to devise an artificial way to produce an unlimited supply of islet cells from donor pancreases and to shield these cells in order to prevent rejection by the body’s autoimmune system. The project already has achieved very promising results, successfully transplanting 10 type I diabetes patients with islet cells that have enabled them all to live without the insulin injections commonly used to manage their illness.

This breakthrough motivated the Christopher Family Foundation to make its second gift. “Because diabetes’ reach is widespread and worldwide, we recognize it will take nothing less than an international effort such as the Chicago Project to find a cure,” says foundation board member Kelley Christopher Schueler. “The Christopher Family Foundation is impressed by the significant results of the project thus far. We are pleased to further our support, and we encourage others to assist this critical mission.”

Schueler is the daughter of Doris Christopher, a graduate of the home economics program at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and founder and chairman of The Pampered Chef, a company that sells professional-quality kitchen equipment directly to consumers. The Christopher family has been a major supporter of the University of Illinois.

“We are profoundly grateful to the Christopher Family Foundation for their exceptional and repeated contributions in support of the Chicago Project,” Oberholzer says. “It is an endorsement of our work, and an incalculable help to our efforts to advance treatment and care for the rapidly growing number of people with diabetes worldwide.”

Lambrechts Honor Son’s Memory by Helping Students
by Terri Yablonsky Stat

Helping students achieve their potential has great personal significance for Raymond and Fran Lambrecht. It’s a way for them to honor the aspirations of their late son, Mark, a laboratory researcher in the UIC department of physiology and biophysics, who died in a 1989 accident, just two weeks after his 23rd birthday.

The Lambrechts recently made a $25,000 gift to establish the Mark Lambrecht Medical Scholars Fund, which will provide financial support each year to an outstanding pre-doctoral student in physiology and biophysics. The gift also will help defray the travel expenses of students in the department so they can further their education by attending conferences.

“We’ve created this fund because we see how other young people can make a wonderful life for themselves in the medical field,” Fran Lambrecht says. “This would have been Mark’s life, so it’s a joy to see it achieved in others.”

The Lambrechts also have established and made numerous contributions to the Mark Lambrecht Memorial Fund, which benefits various areas of the department, including equipping a computer room named after Mark.

A native of the northern Chicago suburb Highland Park, where his parents still reside, Mark Lambrecht graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Rochester in 1988. He then came to work at UIC, where he planned to attend graduate school. He assisted in studies of the neurobiology, biochemistry and biophysics of behavior. In his memory, the department of physiology and biophysics instituted the annual Mark Lambrecht Award for Scholarship and Commitment for pre-doctoral candidates.

“Ray and Frances Lambrecht have been longtime supporters of graduate education in the department of physiology and biophysics,” says R. John Solaro, PhD, distinguished university professor and head, department of physiology and biophysics. “They have helped many students go on to substantial scientific and teaching careers. It is a touching and apt tribute to their son, and the department is grateful to be the beneficiary of their gifts.”
Alumni Scholarship Gifts Assist New Generation of Medical Students

By Felicia Schneiderhan

For students at the UIC College of Medicine, scholarships are critical to relieving the burden of rising costs and exorbitant student loan debt. Members of the Class of 2007 assumed an average of $166,000 in student loan debt while receiving an average of $14,500 in scholarships.

Scholarships made possible by alumni gifts are especially meaningful. “The alumni remember the challenges they faced in medical school, including financial constraints. They are thankful that someone helped them, and they want to help someone else,” says Kathleen Kashima, PhD, senior associate dean of students. “The alumni who give gifts are role models for students, inspiring them to give back when they become alumni themselves.”

The stories of H. Dean Jones, MD ’55, and Herbert and Ruth Lerner, both MD ’51, illustrate the far-reaching impact that an education at the UIC College of Medicine can have, and how alumni can have an additional impact by making a contribution to the college in return.

If you’d like to know more about supporting medical student scholarships, please contact Janet Varnes at (312) 355-1171 or jvarnes@uic.edu.

In a Changing Practice,
the Constant Is Joy

H. Dean Jones became an obstetrician in the late 1950s, lured by the simple joys of delivering babies. By the time he retired in 2000, the specialty was no longer so simple, but the joy was still the same.

“By and large, it was a happy specialty. Mothers were always glad to bring the baby by for me to see on their follow-up appointments,” Jones remembers.

He had planned on being a general practitioner but changed course while serving in the U.S. Army after graduating from the UIC College of Medicine. Stationed at Fort Leonard Wood Army Base in Missouri, he was assigned to work in obstetrics, serving the families of servicemen stationed at the base.

After finishing his Army service and completing a residency in obstetrics in St. Louis, Jones joined a group obstetrics practice in Rockford that a classmate, Charles Inskeep, MD ’55, recommended. He practiced in the same office from 1961 to his retirement in 2000 at age 70. Jones and his wife now live in Celebration, Fla.

He recalls that obstetrics was a “sleepy” specialty when he started in the late 1950s, but things soon changed.

“The FDA approved the first birth control pill in 1960. Additionally, RhoGam, electronic fetal monitoring, ultrasound and laparoscope were all introduced. Now there are subspecialties, such as perinatology, infertility endocrinology and oncology.”

The other big changes Jones sees have been financial, including the establishment of Medicare, the cost of malpractice and HMO reimbursement.

“When I started to practice, I had no debt. Today, graduates come out with unbelievable debts,” he observes. Seeing these debts was one of the motivating factors that prompted Jones to make his recent gift of $100,000 for student scholarships to the College of Medicine. “I wanted to contribute in some small way to help students avoid debt.”

Jones, who has made other gifts to the College of Medicine over the years, also was inspired by the recent opportunity for those over 70.5 years of age to make a tax-free donation of up to $100,000 out of an individual retirement account.

“I received an excellent education at the College of Medicine at an affordable cost. I realized after many years that the tuition we paid covered only a small percentage of what it cost the state of Illinois to educate a medical student. This was the opportunity to thank the University of Illinois for a wonderful life.”

Adeniran Owolabi, M4, is a recipient of the H. Dean Jones, MD, scholarship. “It enabled me to concentrate more on clinical clerkship work without having to worry about finances,” he says. “Dr. Jones’ generosity made a profound impact on my life, and I am truly grateful to be the recipient of his scholarship.”
Witnesses to History, Caregivers to Community

Herbert Lerner vividly remembers the first time he saw his medical school classmate Ruth Geyer. “I was having lunch in the student union. She came in after just finishing an experiment in physiology. She was wearing this really dirty lab coat,” he laughs, “but she was so beautiful and bright and sweet.”

At first, Ruth needed a little persuading to return the attention. “I didn’t want to get married. I wanted to work,” she admits. “But he wouldn’t leave me alone.” They married in December 1950, six months before graduating medical school together.

Still together nearly six decades later, Herbert and Ruth Lerner recently thanked the school where they met and received their medical training by making an estate gift of $100,000 to the UIC College of Medicine in support of student scholarships. It is the latest of many contributions to society made by these two remarkable people, whose lives were intertwined with World War II and the civil rights movement, and who cared for thousands of patients on Chicago’s South Side for more than half a century.

Herbert had enrolled in the College of Medicine on the GI Bill (which paid all of his medical tuition), having served as a radio operator in the U.S. Air Force on a troop transporter plane during World War II. Having a great interest in biological sciences, his decision to become a doctor was solidified by the financial support the GI Bill provided.

Ruth had come to UIC to fulfill her lifelong ambition to become a pediatrician. She had made it her goal as a 9-year-old in her native Czechoslovakia after she contracted diphtheria. The treatment at that time was 50 injections in 50 days and was very painful. “I decided to be a pediatrician because I wanted to get back at the doctors,” she jokes.

She survived World War II in Nazi-occupied Czechoslovakia, more than once saving the life of her twin sister during bombing attacks. After coming to the U.S. with her family in 1946 without knowing English, Ruth completed her medical school prerequisites and moved on to the College of Medicine. During that time, she wore out four English dictionaries. “I wanted this badly,” she says. “If you want something, you do it.”

Herbert and Ruth learned to work together during their internships at Cook County Hospital. “There would be nine or 10 beds lined up in the hallway,” Herbert recalls. “Each intern had to take the history and perform the physical and lab work themselves. There were no medical technicians.” To streamline the process, the young newlyweds divided the tasks, complementing each other as they cared for each patient together.

In 1954, the Lerners opened a pediatric practice in the Hyde Park neighborhood on Chicago’s South Side, where they worked side by side for 40 years, treating thousands of patients. Herbert made house calls at night, while Ruth made house calls during the day and tried to leave the office in time to be with their three children after school.

She also was active in the civil rights movement, participating in the pivotal march from Selma to Montgomery, Ala., with Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and in other demonstrations. Over the years, the Lerners hosted many prominent guests in their South Side home, including Dr. King, Bob Dylan and future Chicago Mayor Harold Washington.

Ruth retired in the mid-1990s due to vision loss caused by macular degeneration; Herbert retired in 2006, after 52 years of practice. Around that time, Herbert and Ruth decided to make their gift to the College of Medicine. “Ruthie had gotten all these scholarships to get through school,” Herbert explains, “and I had the GI Bill. We both had tremendous opportunities, and we felt we should give something back. We hope our gift will help a student who needs some additional aid for tuition.”

After 57 years of marriage—balancing family, work and commitment to their community—the Lerners exude a love of their partnership, its many facets and the fruits of their labor. “We bonded more than if we had had separate jobs,” Herbert says. “We certainly were together a lot,” Ruth adds, “and that was really fun.”
Pioneering Alumnus Helps Neurology Scale New Heights

by Lee Scheier

In August of 1992, at the age of 62, Willis Dickens, MD ’57, began the 19,335-foot climb to the summit of Mount Kilimanjaro in Tanzania.

Remarkably, it was Dickens’ first climb. The energetic physician took up mountain climbing as a steadier-paced replacement for skiing, which he had to quit temporarily after injuring his neck in an auto accident. He spent six months preparing for his expedition with a combination of weight lifting and aerobic workouts.

Dickens then made the ascent with his son, Thomas, and a porter they hired to carry their gear. Despite temporary vision losses brought on by oxygen deprivation above 16,000 feet, he completed the three-and-a-half-day climb weary but exhilarated.

When he reached Kilimanjaro’s peak in the early morning hours, the moon was full, and there was a glorious glow over the mountain. “Seeing the light and mist over the valley and knowing I had accomplished such a difficult challenge made me feel very good,” he says.

Dickens has scaled many peaks in both his professional and personal life, and he feels that his education at the UIC College of Medicine made all of his achievements possible. In thanks, he has made a gift of $200,000 in the form of an unrestricted endowment to the UIC department of neurology and rehabilitation.

“I feel tremendous gratitude in my heart to the University of Illinois for what it gave me,” says Dickens, who lives in Fort Lauderdale, was born and raised in a middle-class family in the small rural town of Freeport, and received a Bachelor of Pharmacy degree from Purdue University prior to attending UIC. “The medical training at the College of Medicine was excellent, and the price was affordable. Otherwise I could never have attended medical school.”

The Dickens endowment will be used to support teaching and other scholarly activities such as lectures and conferences; provide seed money for early-stage research; and acquire administrative support equipment for the department.

“I am delighted that Dr. Willis Dickens is providing this generous endowment to the department,” says Philip B. Gorelick, MD, John S. Garvin professor and head of neurology and rehabilitation. “His early clinical work and clinical research were on the cutting edge of neurology medicine. We are honored to receive this endorsement from such a distinguished alumnus and leader in the field.”

After graduating from UIC, Dickens went on to a neurology residency at the Mayo Clinic, which he completed in 1962. Dickens, who hated cold weather, then was lured to Florida by its climate. In 1962 he established a neurology practice in Fort Lauderdale, becoming the first neurologist in Broward County. At the time, it was common for internists to treat neurological problems. Word of Dickens’ expertise spread quickly, and within a year his practice was thriving.

Dickens continued to be a pioneer, implementing emerging new treatments for neurological illnesses. In 1968, he sought permission from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration to use the drug L-dopa to treat patients suffering from Parkinson’s disease, becoming only the sixth physician in the country and the first in Florida approved to use the drug. He then initiated the use of vitamin B6 to curtail the drug’s severe side effects—which included nausea, vomiting and physical gyrations—and is credited with discovering that vitamin B6 antagonizes L-dopa.

In 1974, Dickens was instrumental in obtaining the first CAT scanner in the state of Florida. “It was something of a miracle to be able to see a picture of the brain,” he says. “I knew it would greatly improve our diagnostic capabilities.” In 1984, he again was at the forefront of advanced care when he established the first supraconducting MRI scanner in the state.

Full of energy and creativity at the age of 77, Dickens still practices neurology four days a week and continues to implement new treatments. He currently is developing a research protocol to demonstrate the effectiveness of hyperbaric oxygen chambers as a treatment for drowning victims and is developing a nasal spray to enhance the delivery of Lidocaine, an effective drug for relieving migraine headache pain that now is administered as nose drops.

Dickens remains physically active as well. Although he stopped mountain climbing at 67, he has resumed skiing and also is an award-winning ballroom dancer, having mastered the Mambo, Cha-Cha and the East Coast Swing. He says the benefits of dancing are mental as well as physical. “I’ve never known of a ballroom dance teacher who has Alzheimer’s disease,” he observes.

“I wake up every morning and don’t know why I feel so good and have so much energy,” Dickens adds. “I’m just thankful that I do.”

For more information about giving to the department of neurology and rehabilitation, please contact Patricia Wager at (312) 413-9763 or pwager@uic.edu.
Sisters’ Devotion to Education Links Past, Future
by Heather Hoffman

Although they were born four decades apart, Raphael Juss and Dmitry Shuster share common experiences as children of refugees who have overcome the challenges of growing up as immigrants. Now a happier connection has brought them together over plates of pasta at an Italian restaurant near UIC. Juss is the executor of the estate of Anita Haas and Lillian Bespalow, sisters who made a $187,000 bequest to the College of Medicine to endow a scholarship; Shuster is the scholarship’s first recipient.

Juss was born on the same day that Germany signed an unconditional surrender, ending World War II in Europe, which had claimed the lives of many of Juss’ relatives and forced his parents out of Austria. After living in Israel until Juss was 8, his family emigrated to Chicago, where his path would intersect with another family whose lives also were changed fundamentally by the war.

Born in Milwaukee to Russian immigrants, Anita and Lillian Bespalow later moved to Chicago, where they both were assistant principals at Chicago public schools. There, Anita met and married Paul Haas, a doctor who had fled the Nazi occupation of Vienna.

Haas’ brother Fred was married to Juss’ maternal aunt Paula, who also had fled Vienna for Chicago. The couple helped Juss’ family obtain the visa that allowed them to come to the U.S. The Haas family also helped look after Juss upon his arrival in Chicago. “Paul Haas picked me up for lunch at school every day and took me to his father’s house,” he recalls. “His dad made lunch for me every school day for the first year I lived in this country.”

Through Dr. Haas, Juss came to know and befriend Anita Haas and Lillian Bespalow. “Anita and Lillian were as close as sisters can be,” Juss says with a smile. “Their schools were so close they walked to work together in the mornings.”

Juss himself grew so close to the sisters that he refers to them as his aunts. He helped care for them after Paul Haas passed away on a mountaintop in Afghanistan during one of the many trips he took with Anita and Lillian during their summers off from school. Fittingly, the close-knit sisters died within a day of each other, in 1999.

Juss, who followed in their footsteps at Chicago Public Schools, where he served for 35 years as a psychologist, was chosen to carry out the sisters’ estate plans. The sisters’ gift established the Paul Haas, MD, and Etta and Benjamin Bespalow Memorial Scholarship, named in honor of Anita’s husband and the two sisters’ parents.

“They both valued education greatly, which is why they wanted to support student scholarship, and they chose a scholarship in medicine, because Paul Haas was a doctor,” he explains.

Philanthropy
Brilliant Futures

One deserving medical student receives $10,000 each year from the scholarship. When it was awarded for the first time in 2006, Juss found not only a deserving recipient but also a kindred spirit.

The son of a hospital nurse and an art restorer, Dmitry Shuster was born in 1983 in Belarus, a former republic of the USSR. Anti-Semitic tensions and prejudice were growing in Belarus, and in 1989, Shuster’s family fled their country for Chicago, much like the Juss and Haas families had.

Settling in Chicago had its challenges for Shuster, who is currently an M2. “I started school when I was six,” he recalls. “I could not speak a word of English. The first words I learned were ‘good’ and ‘bad.’ When we would participate in class, the teacher would say ‘very good,’ and I would go home and complain to my mother that ‘Vera’ got all the teacher’s praise,” he laughs.

It’s a familiar story for Juss. He, like Shuster, faced a lonely first year in Chicago, as none of his classmates or teachers could communicate with him in Hebrew. Both were quick to learn English; today, no accent betrays their roots.

“My parents work hard and have supported me my whole life,” Shuster continues. “I don’t want to burden them with further expenses. That is why I was so excited to receive this scholarship.”

As he speaks, Juss sees that his aunts’ wishes have been realized. “Anita and Lillian wanted their gift to make an impact on someone. They wanted to support a person who understood the value of education. With Dmitry, we have found that.”
In recognition of his achievements, Remington was chosen as the recipient of the 2006 Distinguished Alumnus Award from the UIC College of Medicine, one of numerous honors that have been bestowed on him. He also has received the Bristol Award of the Infectious Diseases Society of America, a doctor honoris causa degree from France, the Alexander von Humboldt-Stiftung Scientific Award from Germany, the Osler Gold Medal from and honorary membership in the Royal College of Physicians in London, the Distinguished Career Achievement Award from the International Immunocompromised Host Society and multiple awards from Stanford.

Remington is recognized internationally for his work with Toxoplasma gondii, a microscopic parasite that can cause eye disease, severe disease in newborns and children, and potentially fatal illnesses in individuals with suppressed immune systems. However, infectious disease wasn't his first passion.

As a teen growing up in Chicago he was inspired initially to be a neurosurgeon when he saw a child wearing leg braces on the steps of a Chicago public library. Remington's father explained that the child had polio and might never walk again without those braces. "That's when I decided to go to medical school and work on regeneration of the central nervous system," he recalls.

Instead, at the UIC College of Medicine his natural proclivity for research and understanding of disease caught the eye of Harry Dowling, MD, at the time the chief of medicine. Invited to assist on immune-related research, Remington worked side-by-side with Dowling throughout medical school and with his colleagues George Jackson, MD, and Mark H. Lepper, MD. “They were a nationally recognized triumvirate
of infectious disease experts at UIC,” Remington remembers.

In 1957, while completing his internship, Remington became one of just 12 young physicians invited to join the first group of research associates at the National Institutes for Health in Bethesda, Md. Taking classes in the morning and conducting research in the afternoon, Remington began to unravel the mystery of toxoplasmosis, the infection caused by T. gondii.

“What made infectious diseases so exciting to me was the tremendous challenge of new diseases to consider, new therapeutic modalities to work with, and new classifications of very sick patients, especially immunocompromised patients, such as those with cancer, organ transplants and, eventually, AIDS,” Remington explains.

Several years later Remington’s fortuitous career path gained clarity when he discovered that Dowling had nominated him for the NIH research program. His mentor had further plans for him as well. “Dr. Dowling visited me during my second year at the NIH, and he suggested I work with Dr. Maxwell Finland at Harvard, who was known as the ‘father of infectious disease.’”

Dowling had been Finland’s first postdoctoral fellow, and George Jackson, who was head of infectious disease at UIC, also had trained with Finland. “It was like a family tree,” says Remington. “People at the College of Medicine, including Dowling, Jackson and Lepper, opened a path that got me to the NIH and Harvard. I am very thankful for the opportunities they provided to me.”

After studying with Finland at Harvard, in 1962 Remington joined the faculty of Stanford University School of Medicine, where he is now a professor emeritus in the department of medicine, division of infectious diseases and geographic medicine. He also is Marcus A. Krupp research chair and chairman emeritus of the department of immunology and infectious diseases at the Research Institute of the Palo Alto Medical Foundation.

Remington established the Toxoplasma Serology Laboratory at PAMF, where he developed many landmark tests based on his work with T. gondii. To this day, this lab serves as a reference laboratory for medical centers and laboratories throughout the U.S., including the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Food and Drug Administration.

The methods Remington and his associates developed are included in a panel of serologic tests to determine if a pregnant woman is at risk of passing on toxoplasmosis to her fetus and causing serious birth defects. The tests and consultation with Remington’s group of physicians has been shown to decrease unnecessary abortions by 50 percent.

“Our lab is the only place in the U.S. that makes this panel of tests available,” Remington observes.

“There should be some mechanism whereby doctors and patients are informed how to prevent this disease,” he adds. “All pregnant women should be instructed to make sure the meat they eat is well-cooked. Also, if an expectant mother works in a garden or plays with children in a sandbox, she needs to wear gloves and wash her hands afterwards. The message doesn’t get out there.”

In the early 1970s Remington and his colleagues developed what is known now as the TORCH battery of tests, so named for its use in detecting antibodies related to toxoplasmosis, rubella, cytomegalovirus, herpes and syphilis. TORCH is used worldwide to diagnose these infections in newborns and adults.

When AIDS surfaced in the early 1980s, Toxoplasma was identified as a cause of life-threatening encephalitis in HIV-infected patients. His lab tested nearly all the drugs used to treat toxoplasmosis in AIDS patients.

The extent of Remington’s research is evident in the books and more than 600 journal articles he’s authored or co-authored. Remington merged this research with his clinical work. For more than 30 years, he treated patients with infectious diseases in the hospital as a consultant in infectious diseases at Stanford Medical Center and the Palo Alto Medical Clinic.

“Nowadays it’s difficult to combine basic science and clinical medicine and to be an expert in both,” he observes.

“The burgeoning amount of information and the difficulty of getting funded are deterring many young people who desire a future in academic medicine.”

Of all his accomplishments, Remington feels his greatest achievement is the training he personally provided to more than 65 postdoctoral fellows, many of whom have gone on to become leaders in academic medicine. “I greatly enjoy mentoring,” Remington says. “These fellows carry on what I have tried to teach about diagnosis, treatment and prevention of infection.

“Those of us performing both basic science research and clinical care and teaching were under a lot of pressure, because doing it takes tremendous time away from the family. You’re either in the laboratory or on the wards of the hospital. Success is a double-edged sword. You sacrifice a great deal and wonder later whether you had the right balance.”

After decades of putting diseases, fellows and himself to the test, Remington now enjoys the leisure he long sacrificed. Today, he’s working on his golf game and “trying to break 150,” he chuckles. Still, scientific inquiry maintains its allure for him, and he intends to continue to write and contribute to clinical research as a consultant.

“I’m still motivated by the excitement and challenge of trying to provide greater benefit to patients through our studies of the organisms that infect them, the treatment modalities that could be used, and the epidemiology of the infection itself.”
1947
Jeanne Kehoe Mercer-Poulos, MD, worked as a pediatric specialist in private practice in the Oak Park and Oak Brook area for 41 years. She also worked at St. Luke’s-Presbyterian as an auditor for three years, followed by two years with HealthCare Compare (Aetna) in utilization. Mercer-Poulos now lives in Lowell, Ind., with John Black. She has four children and 13 grandchildren, loves to play golf and spends six months in Venice, Fla. She can be reached at dejannejm@att.net.

1958
Marshall L. Blankenship, MD, BS ’66, of Chicago, received the 2007 Certificate of Appreciation award from the International League of Dermatological Societies. He was also awarded honorary membership by the American Academy of Dermatology’s Board of Directors.

Daniel Ofer, MD, Res ’58, recently published Dialysis Without Fear (Oxford University Press, 2007), detailing his seven-plus years of first-hand experience of life on dialysis. He provides a true-to-life account of what being on dialysis is like and what one can do to maintain as normal a life as possible during treatment. The book is co-authored by his wife, Marjorie Offer, and daughter, Susan Szafir Offer.

1960
Peter Baker, MD, divides his time between Chicago’s South Loop and his country home in Wisconsin where he gardens and grows trees. In the summer of 2006 he pedaled his recumbent tricycle, solo, all the way around Lake Michigan, 1,100 miles. In 2007 he cycled three weeks with his son in England.

1963
Alain Menguy, MD, Res ’63, practiced for 44 years at the Carle Clinic in Champaign. Now retired, he and his wife, Ann, spend the winters in Naples, Fla. They reside in Missouri.

1964
Douglas R. Bey Jr., MD, of Normal, has co-authored a book, Loving the Adult Child of an Alcoholic, with his wife, Deborah. Bey also is the author of Wizard 6: A Combat Psychiatrist in Vietnam.

1965
Robert Toohill, MD, Res ’65, is a professor of otolaryngology and communication sciences at the Medical College of Wisconsin in Milwaukee. His research focus has been on the airways and is presently on extraesophageal reflux disease. He and his wife, Kay, have five children and eight grandchildren. Toohill can be reached at mtorke@mccw.edu.

1968
David E. Conner, MD, of Peoria, retired in January 2007 from orthopaedic surgery practice. He is the owner of Conner Nursery (established in 1996) as well as Kickapoo Creek Winery, established in 2006. As the winery’s co-winemaker, he is involved in vineyard design, deciding upon grape varieties, and the processes that turn the fruit into quality wine.

1970
Michael R. Bristow, MD, PhD ’71, BS ’66, of Englewood, Colo., is co-director of the Cardiovascular Institute at the University of Colorado Denver and Health Science Center’s School of Medicine. He is a member of the cardiovascular research team that was awarded a $6 million grant by the Fondation Leducq’s Transatlantic Networks of Excellence Program. The team will focus on therapeutic treatments to prevent heart failure.

1971
Dean Joseph A. Flaherty, MD, Res ’75, BS ’68, (right), was honored in December for 35 years of service to the College of Medicine. Arnim Donets, MBA ’91, the college’s associate dean for fiscal affairs and chief financial officer, presented Flaherty with the award. Donets himself was honored for 15 years of service to the college.

Dale W. Sunderland, MD, of Decatur, retired from his psychiatry practice in May 2004.

1973
Ernest L. Sutton, MD, MS ’74, retired from the Department of Veterans Affairs after more than 40 years of federal service to become full-time faculty with the gastroenterology division at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center.

1974
Howard O. Grundy, MD, BS ’70, of Burr Ridge, practices maternal fetal medicine in Orland Park and is also on the teaching faculty of Mt. Sinai Hospital in Chicago. Grundy and his wife, Sandy, enjoy vacationing in Hawaii where Sandy has won two first-place finish titles in her age division in the Ironman National Championship Triathlon competition.

1976
David H. Cooke, MD, Res ’81, BS ’72, of Long Grove, was appointed vice president of quality and safety at Central DuPage Hospital in June 2007. Along with overseeing all quality programs, he serves as a resource for similar initiatives at CDH’s sister organizations. Before joining CDH as medical director of cardiovascular services in 2002, Cooke served as associate director of cardiology at Lutheran General Hospital. He is president of the American Heart Association’s Greater Midwest Affiliate, a fellow of the American College of Cardiology and a member of the American College of Physician Executives.

James T. Frakes, MD, MS ’72, BS ’68, of Rockford, is clinical professor of medicine at the UIC College of Medicine at Rockford and practitioner with Rockford Gastroenterology Association Ltd., in Rockford. Last May, the American Society for Gastrointestinal Endoscopy and the ASGE Foundation presented Frakes with the Distinguished Service Award, one of the society’s highest honors. He has served as ASGE president, treasurer, councilor, chairman of nine committees and member of 24 committees.
1977
William H. Bentson, MD, completed his residency in pediatrics at Cook County Hospital in 1970 and went to Ripley, Ohio, as the first pediatrician in the county to assist in efforts to lower the infant mortality and teen pregnancy rates. After 20 years, Bentson moved to Washington, D.C., to work in administrative positions. He has since retired and can be reached at whben@aol.com.

1978
Michael Parker, MD, volunteers his skills as a plastic and reconstructive surgeon with Operation Rainbow, a nonprofit organization that provides free plastic and orthopedic surgery for children who do not have access to care in the United States and in medically underserved countries around the world. The organization also provides continuing education to international healthcare providers to encourage medical self-sufficiency. He has a practice in northeast Ohio and is a clinical professor of plastic surgery at Northeastern Ohio University's College of Medicine.

Paul A. Sieving, MD, PhD '81, Res '82, of Bethesda, Md., is director of the National Eye Institute, where he leads the Roadmap Nanomedicine Initiative, which explores applications of nanotechnology to medical therapeutics. Before joining NEH in 2001, he served as Paul R. Lichter professor of ophthalmic genetics at the University of Michigan Medical School. At UM, he founded the Center for Retinal and Macular Degeneration in the department of ophthalmology and visual sciences.

1979
David J. Pintel, PhD, MS '78, has been elected to fellowship in the American Academy of Microbiology.

1980
Nona Edwards-Thomas, MD, is a clinical instructor at Regional Medical Center at Memphis, part of the University of Tennessee Medical School since 2001. Her specialty is ob-gyn, especially high-risk pregnancies. She is a fellow in the American College of OB/GYN and a professional fellow at the Weatherhead School of Business at Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, Ohio. She received training in sex therapy at the Fogel Foundation in Washington, D.C. Her husband, Sylvester (Skip) Thomas, is a millwright. Her oldest son, Martin Edwards, is a senior at the University of Memphis majoring in hotel and restaurant hospitality; her middle son, Ernest Edwards, is a first-year law student at American University in Washington, D.C.; and her youngest son, Lee Edwards, is a sophomore at the University of Tennessee at Knoxville majoring in journalism.

Marlene Lambiaso, MD, of Orlando, Fla., earned a Master of Public Health degree from the Medical College of Wisconsin in Milwaukee on May 18. She maintains a practice in Orlando, Fla.

1981
Lance Becker, MD, was featured in an article in the May 7, 2007, issue of Neuweek. Becker, the director of the University of Pennsylvania Center for Resuscitation Science, discussed recent research in cell death and resuscitation.

Andrew A. Perez, MD, is married to Patricia. He did his residency at Illinois Masonic and worked at Michael Reese from 1984-1995 as clinical director; then was employed by Little Company of Mary Hospital in Evergreen Park, where he became the medical director of PHO. He now serves as medical director of two nursing homes and has been in private practice since 1935 in internal medicine.

David M. Rothenberg, MD, recently was named the Max S. Sadove professor of anesthesiology in recognition of his professional accomplishments and 20 years of service to Rush University Medical Center. He completed residencies in internal medicine and anesthesiology at Michael Reese Hospital and Medical Center, and a critical care fellowship at Rush. He is a diplomate of the American Board of Internal Medicine, Anesthesiology and Critical Care Medicine and currently is associate dean of academic affiliations for the university, co-medical director of the surgical intensive care unit, director of resident education in the department of anesthesiology and co-director of Rush’s simulation laboratory.

Rothenberg is past president of the Illinois Society of Anesthesiologists and former chair of the Society of Critical Care Medicine’s Ethics Committee. He resides in Highland Park with his wife, Sherry, and daughters, Allie, Jessie and Kelley.

1982
Mark A. Belile, MD, Res '83, of Wauwatosa, Wis., is professor of medicine and chief of the division of infectious diseases at the Medical College of Wisconsin. He also serves as chief of the division of infectious diseases at the VA Medical Center—Milwaukee and practices internal medicine at Froedtert Hospital. Beilke previously was associate professor of medicine at Tulane University Health Sciences Center and associate clinical professor, department of microbiology, at Louisiana State University in New Orleans. The author of more than 100 articles and abstracts, Beilke conducts research on HIV and the human T-lymphotropic virus.

1983
Thomas A. Deutsch, MD, Res '83, former chief resident of Rush Medical College, has served as its dean since 2002. He is married to Judith. They have three daughters, Rebecca, 20, and 16-year-old twins, Hannah and Valerie. Deutsch enjoys watching sports activities with his family and can be reached at thomas_deutsch@rush.edu.

Raymond J. Konior, MD, Res '84, BA '79, of Palos Park, is an Oakbrook Terrace-based hair transplant surgeon. He has performed hair restoration surgery for more than 15 years and was the only hair restoration surgeon included in Chicago magazine’s 1997 “Top Doctors” issue.

Matthew Songer, MD, received his MBA from Kellogg School of Management in December 2006. He pursued this degree to help him manage Pioneer Surgical Technology, a growing business of over 200 employees that makes spinal implants.

1984
William J. Berg, MD, of Nora, Ind., is director of medical oversight and medical director of the Coronary Care Unit at St. Francis Heart Center. He also maintains a private practice with Indiana Heart Physicians.

Patricia M. Garcia, MD, MPH '84, Res '86, is an associate professor of maternal-fetal medicine at Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine. Garcia’s main clinical and academic focus is HIV infection in pregnancy (she directs the Women’s and Perinatal HIV Program at Northwestern Memorial Hospital) along with medical education (she serves as the clerkship director for the department of ob-gyn and the course director for Problem-Based Learning at NUFSOM). She credits her experiences at UIC as a James Scholar, MPH student and resident for providing her with a passion for HIV, reproductive health and education. Garcia lives in Evanston with her partner, Julie Barton, and their children, Max and Olivia.

Kenneth Mack, MD, PhD '83, is working as a Mayo Clinic neurologist. He was quoted in a national news story about Joanna Giese, the only person to survive rabies without the vaccination. Giese, now a college student, was infected after being bitten by a bat; Mack was one of her doctors.

1985
Michael R. Bishop, MD, was recently appointed and the rank of senior investigator in the National Institutes of Health in Bethesda, Md. Bishop is the clinical head of the Experimental Transplantation and Immunology Branch at the NCI. His research focuses on methods to enhance graft-versus-tumor responses with specific interests in lymphoma and breast cancer.

C.R. Thomas Jr., MD, is professor and chair of the department of radiation medicine at the Oregon Health & Science University in Portland, Ore.

1987
Greg O. Meyer, MD, completed his residency in internal medicine at St. Joseph’s Medical Center in Phoenix, Ariz. Currently board-certified in internal medicine and urgent care, he is participating in a 900-hour course at the American College of Homeopathy in Phoenix. This marks Meyer’s third year in classical homeopathy training.

1988
Lee Francis, MD, MPH ’00, recently was appointed president and CEO of Erie Family Health Center, after serving as vice president of medical services for 16 years and interim president and CEO since November 2006. Erie Family Health Center provides comprehensive primary care services at eight health center sites in the Chicago community to over 30,000 low-income patients per year, regardless of ability to pay.

1990
Sylvia Garcia Beach, MD, of Tinley Park, is a family practitioner at Advocate South Suburban Hospital in Hazel Crest. She completed her residency at Rush-Presbyterian-St. Luke’s Medical Center in Chicago.

David Farkas, MD, FACEP, is an emergency physician and one of the founding partners of Midwest Emergency Associates. He lives in Lake Forest with his wife, Mary, and their four children. He is the medical director of the ER at Aurora Medical Center in Kenosha, Wis.; and president-elect of the medical staff. He just completed a Master of Health Care Management for physician executives at the Harvard School of Public Health. He can be reached at DFarkas@MEAg11.com.
Marc A. Puleo, MD, Res ’94, recently met with Dean Joseph A. Flaherty, MD, in the Miami area. Puleo is a member of the UIC Medical Advancement Council and provided the leadership to create the Dr. James Feld Endowed Professorship in Anesthesiology. Puleo also pleased to receive a special shirt highlighting the creation of the Walter Payton Liver Center at the UIC medical center.

Mark S. Thoelke, MD, recently was promoted to associate professor of medicine at Washington University School of Medicine. He is still clinical director of the division of hospital medicine and co-wrote the first chapter of “General Care of the Patient” in the most recent edition of the Washington Manual of Medical Therapeutics.

1992
William Schuh, MD, PhD ’92, MBA ’93, is involved actively in the training of residents and students on a daily basis. He served as chief resident in the Internal Medicine Residency program and was a foundation developer of the hospitalist program at Carle Foundation Hospital. Recently, he assisted in developing complete online and integrated patient records. Schuh returned to the UIUC campus as the keynote speaker during the upcoming CME program. He also was selected as the recipient of the 2007 Contributions to the College of Medicine Alumnus Award.

1993

Jamie L. Feldman, MD, PhD ’93, returned to campus to speak during the homecoming CME program on “Ethics, Policy and Politics in Healthcare.”

Miriam T. Steingart, MD, Res ’93, is married to Miles Patrick Light, MD, and practicing in Saginaw, Mich., at Andersons Eye Associates. They have two sons, Jacob, 14, and Logan, 11. When she is not working, she enjoys gardening and playing tennis with her family. She may be reached at mlight@mcdonald-pediatrics.com.

Kerstin Stenson, MD, Res ’93, is married to Jerry Latherow. They have 6-year-old twins, Brandon and Alessandra. Stenson is an associate professor of surgery, focusing on head and neck cancers at the University of Chicago. She can be reached at kstenson@surgeon.uic.edu.

1994
Robert W. Frost, MD, of Altamont, is a family practitioner and obstetrician at Altamont Clinic and a medical staff member at St. Anthony’s Memorial Hospital. After completing his residency at Halifax Medical Center in Daytona Beach, Fla., he completed a fellowship in obstetrics and gynecology at Pinnacle Health Systems in Harrisburg, Pa.

Kathleen M. Mullane, DO, PharmacD, Res (Pharm) ’83, a ’94 infectious disease fellow, is married to Michael Mullane, MD, Res ’88. They have a son, Russ, who is 11. Kathleen Mullane is an associate professor of medicine in the section of infectious disease at the University of Chicago. Prior, she worked at Loyola for six years. She can be reached at kmullane@medicine.bsd.uic.edu.

1995
Monica Kogan, MD, BS ’91, of Wilmette, practices pediatric orthopedics at Midwest Orthopedics at Rush in Chicago. For five years, she treated pediatric patients for orthopedic problems at Children’s Hospital & Research Center Oakland. Kogan completed her orthopedic surgical residency at Northwestern Memorial Hospital.

1996
Delmas Bolin, MD, PhD ’94, currently is serving in his fourth year as the Virginia Tech men’s basketball team physician. He is in private practice in family and sports medicine. He is also a professor of osteopathic medicine where he conducts research and teaches. He currently is teaching six different courses including Biochemistry, Histogenetics and Molecular Basis of Disease. Some of his recent research projects have included presentation of pain after open heart surgery and a published article on the high school wrestling weight certification process.

William D. King, MD, JD ’95, returned to the UIUC campus to speak during the homecoming CME program on “Ethics, Policy and Politics in Healthcare.”

Scott Mendelson, MD, PhD, had a book, Metabolic Syndrome and Psychiatric Illness: Interaction, Pathophysiology, Assessment and Treatment, accepted for publication in November 2007 by the scientific/medical publisher Elsevier.

1997
Vinay Malhotra, MD, Res ’97, specializes in contrast and stress echocardiography, pulmonary hypertension, CT angiography and myocardial perfusion imaging at the Cardiac Study Center in Tacoma, Wash. He lectures around the country on the use of CT angiography for stent planning and chronic total occlusions. In addition, he is a director of the SCCT-endorsed CT angiography fellowship and has been asked to serve on the SCCT advocacy committee. Malhotra is married to Priya Singh; they are raising one son, Mahir, 7. He can be reached at dr.malhotra@cardiacstudycenter.com.

1998
Bharati Chittineni, MD, Res ’02, BS ’94, of Westmont, is a dermatologist at Leone Dermatology Center in Arlington Heights. A hair loss and skin cancer researcher, she has been published in the Journal of Investigative Dermatology and Journal of the American Academy of Dermatology. Chittineni also has special interests in diseases of ethnic skin, hair and nails.

1999
Grant S. Hamilton III, MD, is an assistant professor and clinical director of the division of facial plastic and reconstructive surgery in the department of otolaryngology-head and neck surgery at the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics. In August, he traveled to Vietnam as an invited speaker and to perform live rhinoplasty surgery at the ASEAN Congress in Ho Chi Minh City. He currently is editing a comprehensive atlas of facial plastic surgery and has written 11 textbook chapters on topics ranging from standardized photography to rhinoplasty.

2000
Sarah Hartz, MD, and husband Yehuda Ben Sahar welcomed daughter Noa in August. She joins brother Itai. Hartz is in the midst of her psychiatry residency at the University of Iowa.

2006
Shilpa Dave, MD, Res ’00, of Oak Park, practices internal medicine at Dreyer Medical Clinic. She is a member of the American Medical Association.

Robert Fuller, MD, PhD ’98, currently is completing the third year of his maternal-fetal medicine fellowship at the University of Vermont. He is board-certified from ACOG as a general ob/gyn (FACOG). He plans to practice MFM in...
Class Notes

What’s New?

Your classmates are curious about what you’ve been up to. Please fill them in by sending your latest news and accomplishments to medcomm@uic.edu, and we’ll be sure to include it in the next issue of UIC Medicine.

Macon, Ga., where he will be adjunct to Mercer University and continue to work with residents and medical students.

Eric P. Heller, MD, BS ’96, and Tamara A. Heller, MD ’00, MBA ’00, BS ’93, of Champaign, recently joined the Christie Clinic, a Champaign-based healthcare provider. Eric serves in the department of urology; Tamara serves in the department of obstetrics and gynecology. Both completed their residencies at the University of Missouri Hospital in Columbia.

Eric Horn, MD, PhD ’00, BS ’92, and his wife, Lori, are the proud parents of their first child, Nicholas Elliot Horn, who was born on Nov. 22, 2006. Horn and his family moved to Indianapolis, where he is assistant professor of neurosurgery and director of neurosurgery at Indiana University.

Kristin Hospelhorn, MD, married John H. Fasig, MD, on Oct. 29, 2006. Both are completing pathology residencies at Vanderbilt University.

Steven Jareh, MD, and wife Nyla announce the birth of their son, Nathan, in September 2006. Nathan joins his sister, Madeline.

Johnny L. Lin, MD, BS ’96, of Oak Brook, joined Midwest Orthopaedics at Rush in September 2006. A foot and ankle specialist, he researches foot and ankle disorders such as tendon and ligament problems, arthritis and foot deformities. Lin completed a fellowship in foot and ankle surgery at the University of Tennessee—Campbell Clinic, department of orthopaedic surgery.

Sally Salmons, MD, MBA, moderated the homecoming CME program on “Ethics, Policy and Politics in Healthcare.”

Deborah Oh, MD, PhD ’99, and her husband, Damian Lowe, are the proud parents of their first child, Kian Lowe, who was born on April 24, 2006.

Kevin Sanders, MD, PhD ’98, and Brenda Sanders, MD, PhD ’93, now reside in Tacoma, Wash. Brenda accepted a position with Pediatrics Northwest, a group of 20 pediatricians and five nurse practitioners in Tacoma. Kevin is a radiation oncologist.

Samuel Steffen, MD, was interviewed by Robert Bazell, the chief science and health correspondent for “NBC Nightly News,” as part of a story about Spencer Johansen, the local police chief in Lexington who recently was diagnosed with Alzheimer’s disease. Steffen is Johansen’s physician.

Scott Walker, MD, PhD ’99, MS ’92, recently completed a neuroradiology fellowship at the University of Washington. In September, he joined Medical Imaging Northwest in Lakewood, Wash.

Geoffrey G. Capes, MD, BS ’98, of Ottawa, is certified by the American Board of Pediatrics and American Board of Internal Medicine as a diplomate in pediatrics and internal medicine. Since November 2006, he has practiced internal medicine and pediatrics at Ottawa Medical Center. Capes specializes in health promotion, disease prevention, and diagnosis and treatment of acute and chronic illnesses.

Sandra Ettema, MD, PhD ’99, AM ’93, BS ’91, completed her otolaryngology residency at the Medical College of Wisconsin in Milwaukee in June 2007. She is now at Southern Illinois University School of Medicine to complete a fellowship in laryngology. In addition, Ettema plans on marrying her fiancé, Steve Everitt, in September 2008.

Niranjan Karnik, MD, PhD ’03, is an adjunct faculty member in the department of anthropology, history and social medicine at UIC. He is also an assistant professor with a second appointment in psychiatry. Karnik divides his time between working at a shelter conducting detailed psychiatric assessments, working at his own child psychiatric clinic, and doing research. He also was selected as the recipient of the 2007 Art of Medicine Alumni Award from the College of Medicine at Urbana-Champaign.

Rachel Coel, MD, PhD ’00, was matched at University of Colorado at Denver in its pediatric sports medicine fellowship program. She began her fellowship in July.

Arvin Gee, MD, PhD ’01, is engaged to be married. His fiancée, Sherily, is a speech pathologist in the Beaverton, Oregon, school district.

Denise Pine Mattas, MD, welcomed her first child, Robert Jeffrey (R.J.), on Feb. 24, 2006. Mattas, a full-time family practice physician at Cork Medical Center in Marshall, took over Dr. George Mitchell’s practice after he passed away in July 2006. She is joined in practice by Amy (Obendorf) James, MD ’03, who married Preston James, a radio frequency engineer, on Aug. 5, 2006, in Mt. Morris.

John Kisiel, MD, received the 2007 Outstanding Achievement Award for the internal medicine residency program of the Mayo School of Graduate Medical Education and began serving as a chief medical resident of the Mayo Internal Residency Program in July 2007.

Darlene Duncan, MD ’05, will also be a chief resident. As a senior resident, Kisiel was the recipient of a Chief Medical Resident’s Award for Outstanding Contribution to Resident Education as Harrison’s Club Leader.

2005

Maha K. Ahmad, PhD ’05, of Chicago, is a clinical assistant professor in the department of oral biology at the UIC College of Dentistry. Her research focuses on the synaptic ultrastructure of the rodent vestibular periphery under hypergravity. She was previously a research assistant in the department of anatomy and cell biology at the UIC College of Medicine. In 2004, Ahmad was honored with the UIC Provost’s Award for Graduate Research.

Kara Willenberg, MD, recently had a letter to the editor published in the New England Journal of Medicine regarding a case of human Streptococcus suis Meningitis in the United States.

2007

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

GOT ANY NEWS? TELL US WHAT YOU’RE UP TO!

ClassNotes
In Memoriam

Faculty

SHELDON DRAY, MD
'46, MS '47, a pioneer in the field of immunology and longtime professor and head of microbiology and immunology at UIC, died July 23.

Dray was a leader in tumor immunology who showed the advantage of low-dose versus high-dose chemotherapy in some cancer treatment while advancing the understanding of the immune system.

"He was able to show that a lower dose chemotherapy treatment could potentiate the immune system, enlisting the body's own defenses in fighting the tumor," says Margalit Mokyr, PhD, professor of biochemistry and molecular genetics at UIC and a longtime friend and colleague. "His work saved many people from the deleterious effects of high-dose chemotherapy."

Arriving at the College of Medicine in 1965, Dray was responsible for recruiting outstanding scientists in immunology and related fields, such as virology. His influence in the field of immunology extends through the dozens of young scientists he mentored over the course of his career. His former students have gone on to careers in science all over the world.

Dray graduated from the University of Chicago in 1941, and earned a master's degree in biochemistry and his MD from UIC, and a PhD in biochemistry from the University of Minnesota in 1954. He worked for the U.S. Public Health Service from 1947 until 1965, first in Oregon and California, and, later, at the National Institutes of Health in Maryland. He was named UIC professor emeritus in 1991.

Dray was awarded the Boris Pregel Award in Biology by the New York Academy of Sciences in 1972, the UIC Distinguished Faculty Award in 1984, the UIC Distinguished Alumni Award in 1986, and the University Scholar Award in 1987. He was the author of more than 250 scientific papers and is listed in the Citation Index as among the most-cited 1,000 contemporary scholars.

He was an active member of professional societies, including the American Association for the Advancement of Science, the American Society for Microbiology, the American Association for Cancer Research and the American Association of Immunologists.

He is survived by his wife, Marjory, two children and a stepdaughter. He had five grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

PAUL C. LAUTERBUR, DSC,
a professor of chemistry with a joint appointment in the College of Medicine who was awarded a Nobel Prize in 2003 for his pioneering work in the development of magnetic resonance imaging, died March 27, 2007. The cause of death was kidney disease. Lauterbur was 77 years old.

A member of the faculty at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign since 1985, Lauterbur shared the Nobel Prize for physiology or medicine with Sir Peter Mansfield of Nottingham in England.

Lauterbur was among the first scientists to use nuclear magnetic resonance spectroscopy in the study of molecules, solutions and solids. In the early 1970s he began applying the same technology to biological organisms. As in other NMR experiments, Lauterbur put his subjects (he first used a clam) inside a powerful magnetic field and collected the resulting radio signals that were emitted by atomic nuclei within the tissues. He discovered that using a static magnetic field and varying the intensity of a second magnetic field across his subjects yielded clearer signals, allowing better imaging of different tissues.

Mansfield, a physicist, improved the utilization of magnetic gradients and showed how the resulting signals could be analyzed mathematically.

"Through his life and his work, Paul Lauterbur exemplified the ideals of the University of Illinois—creativity, passion, tenacity, and most importantly, commitment to mankind," says Richard Herman, chancellor of the Urbana campus. "Paul's influence is felt around the world every day, every time an MRI saves the life of a daughter or a son, a mother or a father. He will be greatly missed."

Lauterbur, who was born May 6, 1929, in Sidney, Ohio, earned a doctorate in chemistry from the University of Pittsburgh in 1962 and a bachelor's degree in chemistry in 1951 from Case Institute of Technology, Cleveland.

He was a professor in the department of chemistry at the State University of New York at Stony Brook from 1963 to 1985, when he joined the College of Medicine faculty. In his 22 years at the University of Illinois, Lauterbur also had appointments or affiliations with the Center for Advanced Study, the Beckman Institute, the department of electrical and computer engineering and the department of physiology and biophysics (now two units: the department of molecular and integrative physiology and the Center for Biophysics and Computational Biology). At the time of his death, he was a Center for Advanced Study professor of chemistry, biophysics and computational biology and bioengineering. He also was the Distinguished University Professor of Medical Information Sciences.

In addition to the Nobel Prize, Lauterbur received the following honors and awards: Technology Award from the Eduard Rhein Foundation (2003); National Academy of Sciences Award for Chemistry in Service to Society (2001); Kyoto Prize from the Inamori Foundation of Japan in recognition of lifelong research accomplishments in advanced technology (1994); Order of Lincoln Medallion, the state of Illinois' highest award (1992); Franklin Institute's Bower Award for Achievement in Science (1990); and the Albert Lasker Clinical Research Award (1984). Lauterbur was a member of the National Academy of Sciences and a fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science and of the American Physical Society.

He is survived by his wife, U of I physiology professor Joan Dawson; a daughter, Elise Lauterbur, a student at Oberlin College; and a son and daughter from his first marriage: Daniel Lauterbur, of Perry, Mich., and Sharyn Lauterbur-DiGeronimo, of Selden, N.Y. Lauterbur's first wife, Rose Mary Caputo, lives in East Setauket, N.Y.
Faculty

JAY L. DASKAL, MD ’63, RES ’69, BS ’59, of Chicago, died Sept. 27. Vice chairman of the ob/gyn department at Illinois Masonic Medical Center, he also was a clinical associate professor at the College of Medicine who trained medical students, interns and residents. He also served as a captain during the Vietnam War.

THOMAS E. GAMBLE, PHD ’73, EDM ’70, passed away on Nov. 7, 2006. While dean of students/administrative services and an associate professor in the College of Education, he helped with the establishment of the University of Illinois College of Medicine in Urbana-Champaign.

LEO PERUCCA, MD, passed away on Oct. 20, 2006. He was a physician at Carle Clinic Association for 35 years and on the faculty of the College of Medicine at Urbana-Champaign since 1972.

BYRON RUSKIN, MD ’55, BS ’53, of Champaign, died Sept. 23. Following medical school, he practiced general medicine for two years and then pursued a pathology residency. He served as the pathologist for St. Mary’s Hospital in Chicago and did a one-year fellowship at the University of Florida. After, he returned to serve community hospitals in Charleston, Paxton, Hoopesont, Paris and Mattoon and at Sarah Bush Lincoln Hospital in central Illinois. In 1986, he joined the UIUC medical school faculty and taught for 10 years before retiring.

Alumni

1941
Sam Fogelhut, MD, of Pittsburgh, died Oct. 3. A major in the U.S. Army Medical Corps during World War II, he was a native of Chicago and a physician in Pittsburgh for over 50 years.

Harry Y. Greeley, MD, died Nov. 12. Following postgraduate training, he joined Dryer Medical Clinic in Aurora in 1942. After his retirement in 1986, Greeley volunteered medical services in 18 underserved locations throughout the world. He also authored three books detailing his life in medicine.

Lewis Goodell McKeever, MD, of Orinda, Calif., died July 4. After medical school, he practiced general medicine and obstetrics. Later in his professional career, McKeever went into psychiatry, treating acute psychotic depression. Struck by polio as a child and the father of a severely debilitated child, he committed his professional life to helping those who could not help themselves.

George Sharpe, MD, of Silver Spring, Md., died Nov. 23. He was a long-time physician in Montgomery County and author of Brothers Beyond Blood, a memoir of his experiences as a World War II battalion surgeon.

1942
Martin B. LeBeck, MD, died Nov. 30. A thoracic surgeon and former Hillcrest Hospital chief of staff, he served two years in the Army Medical Corps. LeBeck later set up a private practice in Tulsa, Okla. He performed his first open-heart surgery circa 1954; it was also the first surgery in Milwaukee-area hospitals as a physician advisor in utilization review. He interned at the U.S. Naval Hospital in Portsmouth, Va., before being deployed by the U.S. Navy to Korea, where he served as a commanding officer for a field medical company. For his service, Stenborg was awarded a Bronze Star.

1944
Leslie Charlton Lundsten, MD, of Berndji, Minn., died Aug. 21. Following an internal medicine residency at Hines VA Hospital in Maywood, he joined the Berndji Clinic as the first internal medicine specialist in Berndji. He practiced from 1951 to 1984. Lundsten served in the U.S. Army Air Force, honorably discharged in 1947, and loved to fly as a private pilot. He was a member of the Civil Air Patrol.

Walter P. Stenborg, MD, of Hartland, Wis., died July 14, 2006. Stenborg began practicing surgery in 1954, serving on the staff at St. Mary’s, Milwaukee County General, West Allis Memorial and St. Luke’s hospitals and as chief of surgery and staff at St. Francis Hospital. Following his retirement from surgery in 1983, he joined two Milwaukee-area hospitals as a physician advisor in utilization review. He interned at the U.S. Naval Hospital in Portsmouth, Va., before being deployed by the U.S. Navy to Korea, where he served as a commanding officer for a field medical company. For his service, Stenborg was awarded a Bronze Star.

John S. Watson, MD, of Durango, Colo., died Aug. 25. During his career, he was chief of radiology at both Mercy and Community hospitals as well as at San Juan Regional Hospital in Farmington and Southwest Memorial Hospital in Cortez. Watson also was the founder and senior member of Durango Radiology Associates. He served in the Army Medical Corps from 1945 to 1947, rising to the rank of captain.

1948
John W. Argabrite, MD, of Watertown, S.D., died July 13. He served in the U.S. Army from 1946 to 1948, after which he practiced internal medicine at the Brown Clinic in Watertown until 1967. He is also a member of the South Dakota Medical Association for being an MD for 50 years; received the Ambassador South Dakota Award from the governor; and was elected to honorary life membership to the council of the South Dakota State Medical Association; was granted the Good Shepherd Award from Lutheran Ministries; and received the Distinguished Service Award from Governor Bill Janklow.

1947
Jean Phillip Karr, MD, FACP, of Jackson, Mich., died Dec. 10. After a residency in internal medicine and neurology at Henry Ford Hospital, he served as chief of medical service at Idaho’s Mountain Home Air Force Base. Karr practiced internal medicine, specializing in neurology, in Jackson from 1952 to 1972. He then consulted until 1986 for the Michigan Social Security Disability Determination Administration. Karr’s involvement in the Jackson community was diverse—serving on the Beth Moser Mental Health Clinic Board and the Jackson County Heart Unit of the Michigan Heart Association, Industrial Medicine Committee. He also was the chief of the department of medicine at Foote Hospital. He participated on the citizen’s advisory committee as well as instituted a sex education program for Jackson Public Schools.

1949
William J. Seidel, DDS, BS ’49, of Flossmoor, died Sept 25.

1950
William E. Lacy Jr., MD, BS ’49, died in September. He practiced medicine for 32 years in Seattle, and was a diplomate of the Family Practice Board; held a clinical faculty appointment at the University of Washington Medical School; and was a member of the King County Medical Society, the Washington State Medical Association and the Washington Association of Black Health Care Professionals. He also served on the staff of Providence Medical Center, Seattle General Hospital, Doctor’s Hospital and Swedish Medical Center. Prior to medical school, Lacy joined the U.S. Army and earned two Bronze Stars during active combat in Italy. He also was a member and/or volunteer of numerous community organizations.
Memorial Gifts

To make a memorial gift to the college, please contact the Office of Advancement at (312) 996-4470 or med-email ucu.ed u.

Alumni

Frank Wright, MD, BS ’48, of Appleton, Wis., died Nov. 23. He served in the U.S. Naval Reserve from 1942 to 1946, attaining the rank of USNR. Wright practiced medicine in Appleton and was affiliated with St. Elizabeth Hospital and Appleton Medical Center from 1952 until 1990. He was involved with the American Cancer Society, Visiting Nurses Association, American Medical Society and Wisconsin Medical Society.

1951
Edward Spencer, MD, formerly of Alaska, died Aug. 28 in Marysville, Wash. A family practice physician, he was active in the American Academy of Family Practitioners, American Medical Association, Alaska State Medical Board and many other civic organizations.

1953
Robert E. Nyquist, MD, BS ’51, of Fort Myers Beach, Fla., died Jan. 7. Shortly after receiving his medical degree from UIC, Nyquist served as a medical officer in the U.S. Air Force at MacDill Air Force Base in Florida from 1954 to 1956. For 45 years, he practiced child, adolescent and adult psychiatry at Hinsdale Medical Center and Hinsdale Hospital. He also founded the adolescent psychiatric program at Riveredge Hospital in Forest Park, where he served as director for 15 years.

Robert Alvin Reifman, MD, BS ’51, AB ’49, of Chicago, died in October.

1954
Margaret N. Alexander, MD, BS ’49, of Fayetteville, Ark., died July 14. A pediatrician and anesthesiologist who practiced in Arizona, she was an Army Medical Corps veteran and retired from the Army Reserve as a colonel.

1955
William Bartlett Anderson, MD, BS ’53, of Buckhead, Ga., died Sept. 2. He received his psychiatric training at Menninger’s and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. He had practiced in Atlanta since 1965 with a special emphasis on psychopharmacology.

Jean R. Boatright, MD, BS ’53, of Champaign, died July 9. He retired in 1987 as medical director of Anna Mental Health Center. Boatright served on the faculty of the University of Illinois College of Medicine, where he served as director for 15 years.

Eugene H. Raney, MD, of Sarasota, Fla., died Oct. 16. Prior to medical school, he served in the U.S. Navy at the end of World War II. He did his internship and residency in ob/gyn at Cook County Hospital and then began practicing medicine in Appleton, Wis. Between medical arts clinics and private practice, Raney cared for patients in Appleton for 31 years.

Norman Venger, MD, of Las Vegas, Nev., died July 4. He was a lieutenant commander in the U.S. Navy, serving from 1956 to 1959. He completed his internal medicine residency at Cook County Hospital and moved to Las Vegas in 1964. He retired from private practice in internal medicine there in 1991.

1958
Howard Franklin (Rosenblatt) Martin, MD, Res ’58, of the San Francisco area, died Sept. 4. He was the first facial plastic surgeon to become a fellow of the American College of Surgeons. He taught at the Stanford Medical School and the Veterans Hospital in Palo Alto for more than 40 years, and was a member of numerous medical groups and societies. He served in the U.S. Navy as a doctor and attained the rank of commander. He was the first ENT/facial plastic surgeon at El Camino Hospital in Mountain View, Calif., and worked there until he retired in December 2002.

1961

James Stuart Wolf Sr., MD, of Hilton Head, S.C., and formerly of Winnetka, died Aug. 6. He trained in general surgery and transplantation under Dr. David M. Hume, one of the pioneers of organ transplant surgery. Wolf served as chief of surgery at McGuire VA Medical Center in Richmond, Va. In 1976, he joined Northwestern University Medical School, serving in several capacities until 1994. He founded and served as president and medical director of the Regional Organ Bank of Illinois (now Gift of Hope). Wolf also served in many positions with the United Network for Organ Sharing. He was among the earliest transplant professionals dedicated to public education in support of organ donation. In his honor, Donate Life America established the Dr. James S. Wolf Courage Award in 1999 to recognize individuals who have played a significant national role in educating the public about organ and tissue donation.

1963
Klaus E. Biallowons, MD, died Sept. 28. A U.S. Army veteran, he was a partner at Boulevard Medical Clinic from 1967 to 1992 and on staff at St. James Hospital.

Alan P. Mintz, MD, BS ’59, of Las Vegas, died June 3. He co-founded the radiology management company, Medicom, Inc., and served as the corporation’s CEO and president. His work as founder and CEO of Cenegenics Medical Institute, age-management medicine organization, received national attention. Previously, Mintz was chairman of the department of radiology at several Chicago-area hospitals and an adjunct professor for Northeastern Illinois University’s Center for Cardiovascular Research. Mintz also was a diplomat of the American Board of Radiology and board-certified in radiology, nuclear medicine and radiation therapy.

1964
Doris M. Schaaff, MD, Res ’67, of Oak Brook, died Dec. 3. She retired from Hines VA Hospital in Maywood.

1968
Fred W. Cycholl, MD, of Flora, died Oct. 10. He was a physician and medical director for Christopher Rural Health.

1969
Stuart Cooper, MD, of Albuquerque, N.M., died Nov. 8. A Chicago native, Cooper practiced ophthalmology in Milwaukee, Wis., and later relocated to Albuquerque.

1992
Ernesto Garza, MD, passed away in Albuquerque, N.M., on June 27. He devoted much of his career to the treatment of patients with debilitating conditions, including Parkinson’s, the disease that contributed to his own death.

2004
Tanya Andric, MS ’04, of Chicago, died on June 11. A driven student and scientific researcher, she received her BS from Indiana University in 1993 and won UIC’s Provost Award in 2003 in the course of earning her master’s degree in physiology. In addition to her high intellect, she also was known for her captivating sense of humor and her enthusiastic athleticism. She is survived by her parents, Snejana and Momo Andric, two sisters, a niece and a nephew. The family has established the Tanya Andric Endowment Fund in honor of her memory. For more information, please visit tanja.andric.us.

Students

Andrea Plaut, a fourth-year medical student and member of the Class of 2008, passed away in August 2007. Andrea was a wonderful person who was on her way to being an exceptional and caring physician. A scholarship fund has been established in her memory to assist students who share her ideals and compassion for helping others. For information about the fund, contact Mark Urosev at (312) 996-4715 or urosev@uic.edu.
In 1956, a 36-year-old Sears, Roebuck and Co. warehouse worker came to the University of Illinois Medical Center at Chicago for surgery on his detached retina, setting him on an unlikely course to become an accomplished artist. Fifty years later, Carmelo C. Gannello expressed his gratitude by donating 22 pieces of his art to the University of Illinois at Chicago’s Eye and Ear Infirmary. A second display of his work is on exhibit at the pediatric clinic in UIC’s Outpatient Care Center.

A freak ladder accident at the Sears warehouse in Joliet where Gannello worked originally left him with black circles in his right eye. Called “floaters,” they are blind spots or intense flashing circles in the line of vision, which interfere with eyesight. About 10 years later, his left eye also suffered a retina detachment, which left him legally blind and later caused an eye fluid leak as the retina stretched back over time.

“MY accident wasn’t the end,” says Gannello, who worked as a stock clerk to support his family but had studied art at the National Academy of Design in New York City, where he grew up. “To me it was just the beginning—a beginning in how I saw and interacted with people. I overcame my disability by my art.”

Gannello was forced to go on disability after his second retina detachment, but he turned this setback into an advantage by focusing on his art full time. His doctor at the UIC eye clinic, Charles M. Vygantas, MD, associate professor of ophthalmology and visual science, suggested he incorporate his floaters into his artwork. “We have always encouraged him to show his art,” Vygantas says. “It is a tremendous inspiration to see someone turn their disability into a creative outlet.”

Previously a representational artist, painting the world as it is, Gannello enrolled at the Art Institute of Chicago to study abstract art, earning a Bachelor of Fine Arts in 1976. He has worked with oil, conté, pastel, watercolor, linocut and mixed media. His work has been featured at the New York and Chicago public libraries, the National Academy Museum, the Museum of the City of New York, Oehlschleger Gallery, the Art Institute of Chicago, the Milwaukee Art Museum and Oak Park’s Public Library and Village Hall, among other places.

Gannello hopes his art will uplift other eye center patients. “If I can help someone who is visually impaired or sick, then that means more to me than anything else,” he says. “Art helps people heal.”
WITH THIS HONOR ROLL, we express our sincere gratitude to the following alumni, friends, faculty, staff, corporations and foundations who have provided support to the UIC College of Medicine and the University of Illinois Medical Center at Chicago during fiscal year 2007 (July 1, 2006 – June 30, 2007). This Honor Roll is arranged to reflect the breadth of the college’s support by including the following categories: □ Individual donors, including both alumni of the College of Medicine and other friends (alumni donors also are listed by class year to acknowledge the support of our graduates) □ Bequests and estate gifts □ Businesses and foundations. Gift levels are based on cumulative giving during the fiscal year. We have named the highest contribution levels for distinguished past leaders of the college. At all levels of support, all contributors to UIC’s medical enterprise are leaders in advancing medical education, research and care for the people of Illinois, and everywhere.

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Professor of Surgery, UIC College of Medicine
1967–1987

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1893–1914

Bruno A. Pasquinelli

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Kerry J. Newman MD '63, Res '66
Ray J. Pennington MD '66
Thomas H. Pinkstaff MD '63
Robert F. Siegert MD '63
Burton E. Silver MD '63, Res '69
Robert L. Smith MD '63
Paul C. Vanderbilt MD '63
Barry R. Weiss MD '63, Res '68
Lorin D. Whittaker Jr. MD '63, Res '64
Joseph A. Zalar Jr. MD '63

Class of 1964
Total Class Giving $7,095
Miles F. Adler MD '64
Joseph L. Burke MD '64
Lawrence I. Chapman MD '64, Res '68
George Charnecki MD '64
Michael A. Colandrea MD '64
Theodore S. Eisenman MD '64
Akhin L. Francik MD '64, Res '70
Louis H. Franks MD '64
Bill R. Fulk MD '64
K. Roger Gilbert MD '64
Ronald L. Gilum MD '64, Res '69
Howard P. Girard MD '64
Theodore B. Goldstein MD '64, Res '69
W. Edward Harriss MD '64
Gene W. Hollingsworth MD '64
HeLEN S. Johnstone MD '64
William J. Kennell MD '64
Robert T. Kessler MD '64
Alexander W. Miller MD '64
Robert R. Neal Jr. MD '64
Donald R. Nelson MD '64
Louise J.M. Riff MD '64, Res '67
Graham A. Rogers MD '64
Charles H. Shattil MD '64
George I. Starr MD '64
Herbert Weinsteirn MD '64, Res '68
John L. Werner MD '64

Class of 1965
Total Class Giving $308,495
Lee R. Akker MD '65
Donald P. Barich MD '65
Daniel R. Benson MD '65
Jonathan F. Borus MD '65, Res '69
Lawrence M. Cadkin MD '65, Res '68
Norman F. Cantor MD '65
Michael J. Carbon MD '65
Thomas R. Cotton MD '65
Anthony M. D'Agostino MD '65, Res '68
C. William Gibson MD '65
Noel S. Howard MD '65
Stephen N. Lang MD '65
Timothy G. Lee MD '65
Michael A. Leff MD '65
Robert C. Lehner MD '65
Melvin Lopata MD '65
Don G. Nelson MD '65, Res '66
David F. Powell MD '65
John E. Randolph* MD '65, Res '69
Margaret A. Real MD '65, Res '67
John B. Roth MD '65
Lawrence R. Rubeil MD '65
Lawrence R. Rubel MD '65
Lewis I. Segal MD '65
Arnold M. Stirling MD '65
Jay C. Tonne MD '65
David Zbara MD '65

Class of 1966
Total Class Giving $8,700
Roger L. Bengston MD '66
Herbert C. Berry MD '66
Gerald D. Capoot Jr. MD '66, Res '73
John N. Dowling MD '66
Paul F. Dvorak MD '66
Shirley L. Fannin MD '66
Samuel Goldman MD '66
Arnold S. Goldstein MD '66
Sharon Bondues Hegler MD '66
Arthur J. Klowden MD '66, Res '69
Allan J. Korsower MD '66
William B. Latta MD '66
Roger A. Lueders MD '66, Res '68
Ronald W. McCoy MD '66
John H. McCulloch MD '66
Robert A. McGuffin Jr. MD '66
Ronald L. Nichols MD '66, MS '70, Res '72
Christopher S. Norborg Jr. MD '66
Nathan W. Pearman MD '66
Ronald F. Shallat MD '66, Res '73
Peter H. Slugg MD '66
Trenton J. Spolar MD '66
Terry B. Strom MD '66, Res '68
Donald R. Tredway MD '66
Michael A. Werczke MD '66
Thomas M. Wiggins MD '66

Class of 1967
Total Class Giving $5,625
Larry G. Anderson MD '67
Morris Button MD '67
Thomas J. Cusack MD '67
Clarence B. Dugan MD '67
James R. Farkas MD '67, Res '72
Michael L. Fisher MD '67, Res '70
Gerald T. Hanley MD '67, Res '70
Loring R. Helfrich MD '67
Don M. Hoffman MD '67, Res '70
Ronald A. Kalayta MD '67, Res '70
Michael S. Kaplan MD '67
Alan R. McCull MD '67
Tim C. Miller MD '67
Sonny S. Oparah MD '67
Christopher C. Penn MD '67
Arthur B. Schuller MD '67, Res '69, Res '72
Michael S. Sidell MD '67
William H. Stone MD '67
Rodney L. Teichner MD '67
Melvin S. Teichner MD '67
Ethelwyn Williams-Neal MD '67
Howard J. Zeitz MD '67, Res '68

Class of 1968
Total Class Giving $4,350
Ronald L. Arianigo MD '68
Joyce Atlee MD '68
Colin S. Doyle MD '68
Andrew G. Gaizunass MD '68
Howard K. Gelman MD '68, Res '75
Barry H. Goldberg MD '68
Robert A. Greendale MD '68
Robert J. Hart MD '68
Bruce A. Hyman MD '68
Frank C. Kestler MD '68
Norman Lavin MD '68
Edward P. Monnelly MD '68
Gerald W. Shay MD '68
Steven L. Shub MD '68
Diane M. Tate MD '68
Mary C. Webster MD '68
George J. Wyhinn MD '68, Res '76

Class of 1969
Total Class Giving $8,025
Robert M. Arensman MD '69, Res '76
Joseph L. Bisgrove MD '69
Gary H. Cooper MD '69
Jerome A. Hanovsky MD '69
Don B. Hartline MD '69, Res '77
Alan I. Hartshorne MD '69
Robert D. Hoffman MD '69
Herbert I. Kadison MD '69
Joseph P. Karcavich MD '69
Robert W. Kirby MD '69

Class of 1970
Total Class Giving $66,885
Iris Klawir Aronson MD '70
William R. Beltz MD '70
Steven P. Bleier MD '70
Robert Earl Boyd III MD '70, Res '71
Michael R. Bristow MD '70, PhD '71
Barry D. Brown MD '70, Res '71
Ralph V. Cabin MD '70
Richard F. Dennis MD '70
Edwin H. Dolin MD '70
Rodney I. Eiger MD '70
Mike Guley MD '70
Paul Z. Han MS '70, MD '70
Roger N. Holt MD '70
Dwain C. Illman MD '70
Eugene K. Lambert MD '70
Bob Leibowitz MD '70
Richard S. Lieberman MD '70
Daniel Melber MD '70
William H. Metzger MD '70
William M. Miller MD '70
James E. Oberheide MD '70
Thomas C. Ocheltree MD '70
Benjamin V. Rezba MD '70
David B. Rosenthal MD '70
Michael George Ryan MD '70, Res '74
Edward Tenner MD '70
Ralph J. Wessel MD '70

Class of 1971
Total Class Giving $51,550
N. Erick Albert MD '71
Michael L. Beehner MD '71
Robert J. Boucek MD '71
Richard D. Bradley MD '71
Kirk L. Browns MD '71, Res '78
Dennis M. Corcoran MD '71
Daniel V. Ehrensa MD '71, Res '78
Michael C. Fishbein MD '71
Joseph A. Flaherty MD '71, Res '75
Phillip Friedman MD '71, Res '77
Myron Glassenberg MD '71
Donald A. Greeley MD '71
John D. Hoffman MD '71
Theresa P. Kazlauskas MD '71, Res '72
Timothy E. Kratzer MD '71
Jerrold H. Mink MD '71
James G. Piro MD '71
Richard B. Rabins MD '71
Lewis D. Resnick MD '71
Herbert J. Smith MD '71
Ronald F. Stavinga MD '71
K.M. Tan MD '71
Jerome B. Taxy MD '71

Class of 1972
Total Class Giving $9,067
Richard F. Bruch MD '72, Res '77
George C. Bulloch III MD '72
Sharon L. Burke MS '68, MD '72
John J. Coon MD '72
Kevin P. Corley MD '72
John I. Cronkhite MD '72
Patricia M. Dix MD '72
Joseph R. Drago MD '72
Richard E. Dubin MD '72
James F. Dupre MD '72, Res '78
Allan L. Gutovitz MD '72, Res '74
Margaret Ann Hayes MD '72
M. Robert Hill MD '72
Kenneth R. Nelson MD '72
Marc A. Rubinstein MD '72, Res '74
John D. Sandeen MD '72

*Deceased
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<td>Paul S. Gaynon MD '74</td>
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<td>Joal Fischer MD '74</td>
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<td>Fredrick L. Dunn MS '73, MD '74</td>
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<td>William H. Chamberlin Jr. MD '74</td>
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<td>John E. Tully MD '74</td>
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<td>Bonita J. Sorenson MD '74</td>
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<td>Steven L. Silver MD '74</td>
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<td>Kenneth W. Schroeder MD '74, PhD '74</td>
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<td>Suzanne W. Rylands MD '74</td>
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<td>Bennet D. Greenspan MD '76</td>
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<td>Clifton C. Hickman MD '76</td>
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<td>Paul M. Hoge MD '76, Res '80</td>
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<td>Michael J. Kaminski MD '76</td>
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<td>Theodore L. Kitowski MD '76</td>
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<td>June H. Koizumi MD '76</td>
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<td>Tunji Ladipo MD '76, Res '77</td>
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<td>Lee S. Levin MD '76</td>
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<td>Carl Ronald Lindberg MD '76, Res '80</td>
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<td>Steven Macke MD '76, Res '79</td>
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<td>Jerome J. Madler MS '74, MD '76</td>
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<td>Francis S. Maeda MD '76</td>
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<tr>
<td>Richard A. Nyako MS '71, MD '76, Res '80</td>
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<td>Richard P. O'Connor Jr. MD '76</td>
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<td>Michael G. Phillips MD '76</td>
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<td>Norman A. Pyke MD '76</td>
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<td>Sue Ellyn Sauerer MD '76</td>
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<td>W. Anthony Sauerer MD '76</td>
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<td>Peter T. Schlaeke MD '76, Res '85</td>
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<td>Dee M. Stempel II MD '76</td>
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<td>Terrence E. Tegtemier MD '76</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gerald W. Weissberg MD '76, Res '76</td>
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<td>Donald L. Williams MD '76</td>
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<td>Gregory J. Anderson MD '77</td>
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<td>Donald G. Ball MD '77</td>
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<td>Peter A. Beatty MD '77</td>
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<td>Marvin E. Bergeson MD '77</td>
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<tr>
<td>Arthur F. Bishop MD '77</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gerard T. Boyle MD '77, Res '83</td>
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<tr>
<td>James W. Breckendridge MD '77</td>
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<td>Vincent R. Cabras MD '77</td>
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<td>John H. Day MD '77</td>
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<td>Daniel P. Doody MD '77, Res '84</td>
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<td>Eugene P. Dust MD '77</td>
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<td>Agnes M. Franz MD '77</td>
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<td>Michael P. Hayes MD '77</td>
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<td>Sherilyn J. Hummel MD '77</td>
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<td>Climentene Jones MD '77</td>
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<td>Karen A. Kienker MD '77</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jim Kruiedien MD '77</td>
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<td>Mark Stephen Kushner MD '77, Res '82</td>
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<td>Rodger W. Leffler MD '77</td>
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<tr>
<td>Patricia Madaj MD '77, Res '80</td>
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<td>Edmund J. Mattessina MD '77</td>
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<td>Stephen J. Metz MD '77</td>
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<td>Carl K. Moy MD '77</td>
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<td>Robert A. Nocer MD '77, Res '80</td>
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<td>James P. Ostrenga MD '77</td>
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<td>Dominic A. Pincuski MD '77</td>
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<td>Jorge J. Prieto MD '77</td>
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<td>Hoyland H. Ricks MD '77</td>
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<tr>
<td>Peter D. Analytis MD '79, Res '81</td>
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<tr>
<td>Steven D. Averbuch MD '79, Res '82</td>
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<tr>
<td>Michelle A. Bene Bann MD '79, Res '83</td>
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<td>Carmela R. Barr MD '79</td>
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<td>Bonnie L. Barsky MD '79</td>
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<tr>
<td>Joseph R. Baumgart MD '79</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sandra B. Benckendorf MD '79</td>
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<tr>
<td>Austin J. Boyle MD '79, Res '82</td>
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<td>Steven J. Bruce MD '79</td>
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<tr>
<td>William T. Chao MD '79</td>
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<td>Kenneth A. Davenport MD '79</td>
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<td>Thomas L. Erickson MD '79, Res '84</td>
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<td>Lawrence E. Gluskin MD '79, Res '81</td>
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<td>Nicole A. Harthog MD '79, Res '82</td>
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<td>W. Keith Henry MD '79</td>
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<td>Terry Mason MD '79, Res '82</td>
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<td>John J. McGetrick MD '78, Res '82</td>
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<td>Shayle Miller MD '78</td>
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<td>Claudia J. Schroeder MD '78</td>
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<td>Bruce E. Zweibian MD '78</td>
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Bonnie M. Williams MD ’91

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Rita G. Borromeo MD ’92
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Steven E. Chen MD ’92
Langston B. Cleveland MD ’92
Melissa Dianaovsky MD ’92
James F. Gluckner MD ’92
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Marcos A. Lopez MD ’92
Jeffrey Mark MD ’92
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Gretchen M. Orosz MD ’92
Matthew T. Stedelin MD ’92
Huan N. Tran MD ’92
Thomas K. Watanebe MD ’92

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Fernando Bayardo MD ’93

*Deceased
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Spring 2008

UIC Medicine 79
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Reflections of the Class of 1947, 1957 and 1967

Robert Weiss, MD '47, spent 24 years working in maternal and child health, the majority as bureau director for the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health, before retiring in 1984. He previously spent six years in private pediatric practice and also was a medical officer in the U.S. Air Force, running a pediatric ward at Clark Air Force Base in the Philippines. He lives in Manhattan Beach, Calif.

"I was very fortunate to be accepted into the program, and it was very hard work," he recalls. "I was neither the smartest nor the dumbest in the class, and I was proud to graduate in the top 25 percent of my class."

Weiss particularly remembers his first-year anatomy class that met five mornings a week for the entire academic year. He also cites an embarrassing moment during his junior year being reprimanded for not taking off a Band-Aid while scrubbing in before entering the operating room. "Here I was, all grown up, and all scrubbed in," he laughs. "My hands are in front of me, waiting for the sterile towel, and the nurse notices the bandage and sends me back to do it all over again."

Danuta Buzdygan, MD '57, retired after 20 years as the chief pediatric consultant for New Jersey Medicaid. She lives in Princeton, N.J.

A native of Warsaw, Poland, Buzdygan moved to Chicago after World War II. She still feels a special bond with her classmates and fellow interns. She’s particularly grateful to Ira Rosenthal, MD, professor of pediatrics, whom she cites as a mentor who introduced her to research and encouraged her to write and present articles.

As one of the few female medical students attending the College of Medicine at the time, Buzdygan treasures the close relationships she shared with women upperclassmen, who she describes as "big sisters who were very supportive and encouraging." It was important for Buzdygan to create that same kind of atmosphere and camaraderie for female undergraduates when she had the opportunity to become a "big sister."

Buzdygan is proud of her long association with the College of Medicine, which included an appointment as an instructor in pediatrics. "I spent so much time at UIC, going to medical school, doing my internship, residency, a fellowship, and being a member of the teaching staff. This association prepared me well for an interesting and rewarding career," she says.

Donald T. Fullerton, MD '57, is professor emeritus at the University of Wisconsin Medical School and lives on a farm in Cazenovia, Wis. He retired in 1994 after service as associate dean of the medical school and director of several programs in the department of psychiatry.

Prior to working for the university, he was in practice for 10 years as a psychiatrist and director of medical education at the Marshfield Clinic in Marshfield, Wis.

Fullerton regards the low tuition for his medical school education as a gift from the citizens of Illinois. "Medical students have a wonderful opportunity to get into a profession to do good," he says. "Medical school can be hard work and emotionally draining, but it’s definitely worth it in the end."

He vividly recalls his sophomore class in pathology, when the students watched autopsies at Cook County Hospital. "The death was explained, along with the anatomical findings," Fullerton says. "Our assignment was to take the autopsy findings and write a report explaining how this pathology led to the patient’s illness and death.

"It was a great exercise that helped us understand the mechanisms of disease, and I remembered it all through my medical career."

Ethelyn Williams-Neal, MD '67, is a pediatrician in Memphis, Tenn. She has been in practice for more than 40 years.

She recalls that during medical school, "I worked harder there than at any academic endeavor before. "The whole existence at medical school is study, study, study," she continues. "There are such large volumes of material, and you never think you’re going to get through it."

During her time at the College of Medicine, Williams-Neal was one of a handful of women in the program. "The men did not necessarily like the girls being there," she laughs. "They felt we were wasting our time, when all we were going to do is get married."

The women in the class formed a tight bond, and Williams-Neal says she never felt isolated. Sometimes the women even outnumbered the men: Williams-Neal remembers that a fellow male classmate was paired up in the gross anatomy cadaver lab with her and two other female students.

She considers herself a very proud graduate of the College of Medicine. "UIC is a great school, with excellent faculty," she says. "I got a great education there."
**Events**

**GREEN RIBBON GOLF OUTING**

The UIC Gastrointestinal and Liver Disease Council held its 2nd annual Green Ribbon Open golf outing to raise money for research, patient care and education at UIC. Pictured (left to right) are Tim Duet, Bob Fiorini, Nick Fiorini, Don Phalen and Gilbert Lucidini.

**TALLEY FOUNDATION**

A room in the UIC Craniofacial Center recently was named in honor of Mattie Talley in recognition of the Mattie Talley Foundation’s support of the center. Founded by Talley’s daughter, Diretha Layozzo, after her mother died of cancer, the foundation provides prostheses for children with cancer. Pictured are David J. Resberg, MD, director of the Craniofacial Center; Andrea Biel-Cohen, president of the Face the Future Foundation; Diretha Layozzo; John DeNardo, MS, MPH, CEO of UIC Healthcare System; Dean Joseph Flaherty, MD; Bernadette Biskup, chief operating officer, UIC Hospital; and Minnis Cohen, MD, head of the division of plastic and reconstructive surgery.

**ROSE BOWL**

Dean Joseph A. Flaherty, MD, attended this year’s Rose Bowl football game between teams from the University of Illinois and the University of Southern California. Pictured (left) are Dean Flaherty with Terry I. Younger, MD ’87, Res. ’92. Pictured (right) are Kristine Cieslak, MD ’93, Jorge Cavero, MD, community outreach coordinator in the department of medical education and clinical assistant professor of internal medicine at UIC, and Dean Flaherty.

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

Please save the dates to attend these upcoming events at UIC:

**UIC Best Docs Breakfast**, celebrating UIC faculty voted The Best Doctors in America® and America’s Top Doctors® by their peers Thursday, June 12, 2008

**College of Medicine Young Alumni Networking Event** Thursday, June 19, 2008

**Department of Ophthalmology 150th Anniversary Celebration** Friday, June 20, 2008

**Department of Otolaryngology 150th Anniversary Celebration** Tuesday, September 23, 2008

**A Silver Lining Foundation Dinner**, benefiting cancer treatment options for underserved individuals Saturday, October 4, 2008

**GILD Gala**, benefiting research in gastrointestinal and liver disease at the University of Illinois Medical Center at Chicago Saturday, October 18, 2008

For more information about these events, please contact the Office of Special Events for the College of Medicine at (312) 996-1640 or medevents@uic.edu.