



# UIC

**Illinois Eye and Ear Infirmary**  
**UIC** Department of Ophthalmology & Visual Sciences

**RESIDENCY AND FELLOWSHIP PROGRAMS**

## MESSAGE FROM THE Department Head

As a Resident seeing patients in the Illinois Eye and Ear Infirmary, you will fulfill an integral role in our mission to diagnose and treat the most serious and complicated cases in ophthalmology. For over 150 years, the Illinois Eye and Ear Infirmary has been a leader in improving the diagnosis, management and treatment of blinding eye diseases through discovery science, clinical and surgical innovations, and top-ranked education programs.

The Illinois Eye and Ear Infirmary, the patient care and teaching center of the Department of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences, sees 50,000-60,000 patients each year on the UIC Medical Center Campus and at the Millennium Park Eye Center in downtown Chicago. Our patient care is strengthened by unceasing collaboration and exchange of ideas between our physicians and research scientists. The core attending staff for the Infirmary's General Eye Clinic and nine subspecialties comprises 40 full- and part-time physicians and is augmented by 45 volunteer community ophthalmologists. Our physicians are named Top Doctors® and Best Doctors in America® each year. In fact, all of our subspecialties are directed by Best Doctors!

Our ophthalmology faculty are dedicated to teaching. They understand that our residents will become their future colleagues as superb clinician-surgeons and highly accomplished academic ophthalmologists.

Ophthalmology residents at the Illinois Eye and Ear Infirmary join the nation's largest and most diverse medical college. The Chicago campus, one of four campuses that make up the University of Illinois College of Medicine, is located in the heart of the world's largest medical district, a mile west of downtown Chicago. It is part of the University of Illinois at Chicago, a major research university offering the cultural, business and entertainment opportunities you can only find in a world-class city.

We welcome you to the Illinois Eye and Ear Infirmary, and we look forward to your contributions in our effort to overcome the debilitating effects of vision loss and blindness.



Dimitri Azar, MD  
Interim Dean, University of Illinois College of Medicine  
B.A. Field Endowed Chair of Ophthalmologic Research  
Professor and Head, Department of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences





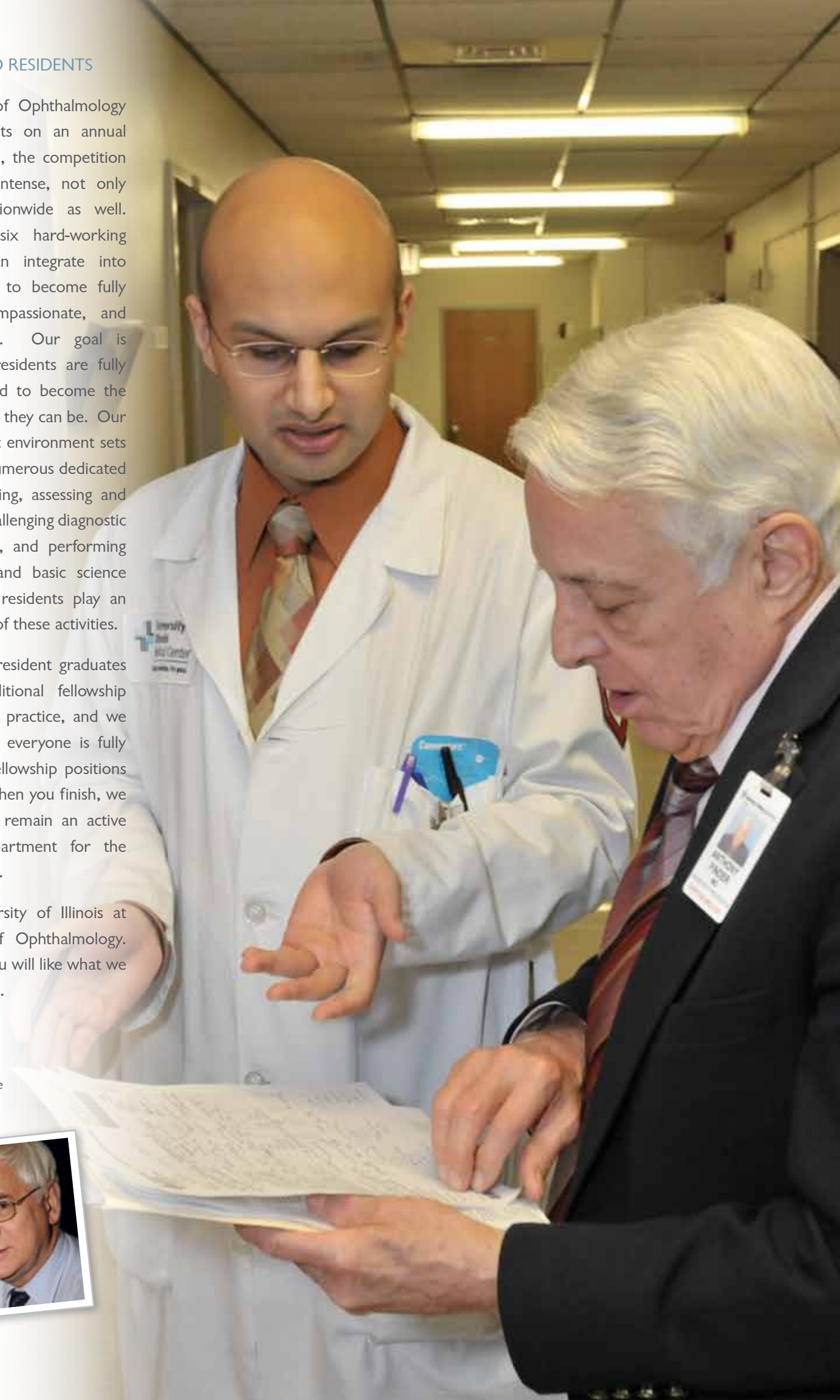
## OUR COMMITMENT TO RESIDENTS

The UIC Department of Ophthalmology selects six new residents on an annual basis. As is well known, the competition for these positions is intense, not only here at UIC, but nationwide as well. We are looking for six hard-working individuals that we can integrate into our program and train to become fully competent, skilled, compassionate, and ethical ophthalmologists. Our goal is to make sure that all residents are fully challenged and motivated to become the best ophthalmologist that they can be. Our tertiary-referral academic environment sets the stage for this, with numerous dedicated faculty who enjoy teaching, assessing and treating a vast array of challenging diagnostic patient-related problems, and performing highly relevant clinical and basic science research as well. The residents play an active and key role in all of these activities.

We recognize that our resident graduates will pursue either additional fellowship training or enter private practice, and we want to make sure that everyone is fully competitive for future fellowship positions or job opportunities. When you finish, we also hope that you will remain an active supporter of our Department for the remainder of your career.

Welcome to the University of Illinois at Chicago Department of Ophthalmology. We are confident that you will like what we have to offer here at UIC.

**William F. Mieler, MD**  
*Vice Chair for Education*  
*Director, Residency Program*  
*Director, Ocular Oncology Service*  
*Professor of Ophthalmology*





## UIC DEPARTMENT OF OPHTHALMOLOGY AND VISUAL SCIENCES

The UIC Department of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences leads in the diagnosis, management, and treatment of the most difficult and complicated ophthalmologic cases. The cases most likely to result in profound vision loss or blindness are those that are exceptionally complicated, requiring treatment beyond the usual and customary care provided by a general ophthalmologist. Such cases affect individuals from every walk of life, from CEO's to uninsured children. Onset can be sudden, such as in cases of acute macular degeneration; congenital, as in certain glaucomas; or, can advance silently over time, like diabetic retinopathy.

Our patient care, delivered in our Illinois Eye and Ear Infirmary clinics and at the Millennium Park Eye Center in downtown Chicago, focuses on conditions that require unparalleled experience and expertise. Each year, 50,000-60,000 patients are seen in our clinics. Resident training is built on an exceptional variety and volume of diseases, disorders, and injuries treated in our nine subspecialty clinics and our resident-run General Eye Clinic. Our outstanding fellowships in Retina, Cornea and Refractive Surgery, Glaucoma, Oculoplastic Surgery, Neuro-Ophthalmology, Uveitis, and Pediatric Ophthalmology greatly enhance the resident education experience. Our basic science and clinical research is aimed at discovering the causes of blinding eye disease and designing new tools and therapies to treat them.

All of our major ophthalmologic subspecialty clinics are directed by physicians ranked as America's Best Doctors® and Castle Connolly Top Doctors®. U.S. News & World Report includes the UIC Department of Ophthalmology among its top listing of America's Best Hospitals for Ophthalmology. Our doctors are pioneering advances in corneal, retinal, and glaucoma surgeries. Our clinics serve as major sites for multi-center National Eye Institute clinical studies; over 20 pharmaceutical company trials of new drugs and drug delivery methods are underway. Basic science investigations are uncovering genes implicated in the development of glaucoma, keratoconus and retinal diseases, as well as laying the groundwork for nanoscale biostructures that will bypass damaged photoreceptor cells to restore retinal function and sight. Progress toward better diagnosis and treatment of blinding eye disease is being made every day in our department through discovery science and innovative clinical applications of new technologies.



# Rotations

## THE RESIDENCY PROGRAM

Throughout the three years of residency, didactic lectures in ophthalmology and basic science are integrated daily into the training program. Residents balance their clinical and surgical experience with research under the mentorship of our experienced faculty. At the culmination of our residents' final year, research projects are presented at our annual Alumni Day, giving them experience presenting research to an audience of both alumni and experts in the field.

# 1

## FIRST YEAR

First year residents receive a two week introduction to basic ophthalmology. Afterwards, they serve six 8-9 week clinical rotations, learning the basic techniques of diagnosis and medical management of various diseases. The residents spend their first year in the General Eye Clinic which includes a consult rotation where they encounter a great variety of ocular pathologies. They also spend one 8-9 week rotation at the Jesse Brown VA Medical Center. In addition, residents perform and assist with surgery at both locations.

# 2

## SECOND YEAR

In the second year of training, residents receive in-depth exposure to the subspecialty clinics, spending 8-9 weeks in each of the following:

- Cornea/Contact Lens
- Neuro-Ophthalmology/Uveitis
- Glaucoma/Jesse Brown VA (incl. intraocular surgery skills)
- Pediatric Ophthalmology (including surgery)
- Retina/Hereditary Disease
- Oculoplastics

Our PGY2's also get the opportunity to travel to Keio University in Tokyo Japan for two weeks to expand their ophthalmic knowledge and get exposed to cases different from those here in North America.



# 3

## THIRD YEAR

In the final year of training, residents take on more clinical responsibility. They help the attending ophthalmologist supervise the junior residents in the General Eye Clinic and the Jesse Brown VA. They also have a surgical rotation at the Captain James A. Lovell Federal Health Care Center in North Chicago. Subspecialty fellows assist faculty in the teaching and clinical supervision of medical students and ophthalmology residents.

### SURGICAL PROGRAM

Major surgical procedures are performed at the University of Illinois Medical Center, the Jesse Brown VA Medical Center, and the Captain James A. Lovell Federal Health Care Center. Residents perform surgery each year of their training with a steady increase every year. Their final year is a surgically oriented year and can be geared towards the resident's particular interest. Fellows in the surgical subspecialties perform surgery and may attend residents' surgical cases.

The total average number of surgeries performed by a resident is 125 per year.

### LOGISTICS

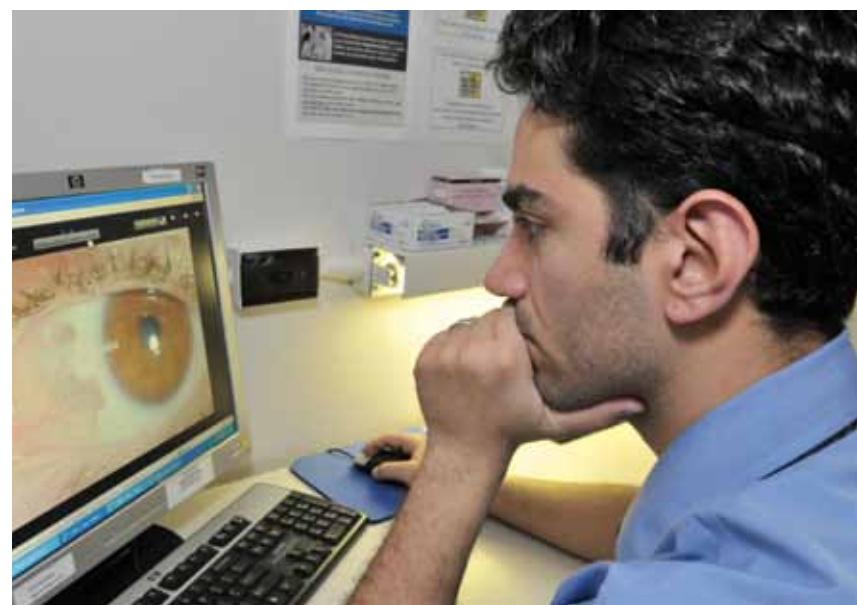
The average workday ranges from nine to twelve hours. Vacation, holidays and sick leave are determined by UIC Department of Graduate Medical Education's policy.

Residents have a 100 percent appointment with the University of Illinois and are therefore entitled to benefits, including health and life insurance, vacation and sick leave. The university provides malpractice insurance coverage to all residents and fellows for clinical activities associated with the program.

### RESOURCES

The Department purchases the AAO Basic and Clinical Science Series for each resident along with a year subscription to AAO's The Resident Hub a new and exciting learning resource specific to each PGY class. In addition, each resident receives a \$3,200 stipend for the 3-year residency. This fund can be used toward the purchase of required equipment, books, and travel to educational meetings. \$1,400 of the fund may be used toward the purchase of equipment; the remaining \$1,800 must be used for travel to conferences and books.

Residents can add to their Educational Funds by publishing articles. The Department Head provides an incentive payment for all articles published during residency .





## WET LAB

Our hands-on wet lab provides residents the opportunity to conduct practice surgeries to help strengthen their learning experience and broaden their Ophthalmic knowledge.

## EYE PATHOLOGY LAB

Residents also receive outstanding training in Ophthalmic Pathology. Lectures are given by one of our alumni, Amy Lin, MD, Assistant Professor in the Department of Pathology at UIC, who is Board Certified in both Ophthalmology and Pathology. These lectures use state-of-the-art equipment which includes a microscope and digital document camera to provide up-close images of pathology specimens.

## EDUCATION SUITE

The newly designed education suite provides UIC Ophthalmology residents a relaxed environment to help break away from the pressures of clinic. The suite also provides residents who are on call a relaxing room to rest and remain close to the hospital in urgent cases. The Education Suite is outfitted with three computer workstations, couch with pull out bed, sofa, TV/DVD, and all the essential needs to help study for the annual OKAP exam.

## SPECIALTY COURSES

Chicago Curriculum in Ophthalmology; department CME courses; Illinois Eye Review; exchange programs in Japan, Brazil and India.

## DIAGNOSTIC, THERAPEUTIC AND EDUCATIONAL EQUIPMENT

The diagnostic and therapeutic equipment in the General Eye Clinic and subspecialty services include virtually every new and established clinical diagnostic tool available including: Ultrasound Biomicroscope (UBM), retinal topography, corneal topography, and 3-D B-scan ultrasound. In the operating rooms,

we have state-of-the-art phacoemulsification machines, LASIK instrumentation, and equipment for all subspecialty surgeries. Basic equipment in the clinic, research laboratory, and hospital includes a RetCam 120, Spectralis spectral domain OCT (SD-OCT), imaging equipment for fluorescein (FA) and indocyanine green (ICG) angiography, autofluorescence, Humphrey and Goldman Visual Fields, Yag Laser, Argon Laser, CIPHERGEN Protein Chip Laser Confocal Microscope System and the Core Imaging Facility. In addition, the Outpatient Care Center attached to the Illinois Eye and Ear Infirmary by skywalk has three new MRIs including a 3.0 T MR Scanner dedicated to research activities. Additionally, the Neuro-Oncology Service is home a 9.4 T MR Scanner, the largest in the country, which is approved for clinical use.

## RESEARCH

The Department continues its approach to the resident research requirement by formalizing mentorship of residents. Each resident class is now paired with an established research scientist who works with them to develop skills in literature searching, research design and methods, statistical analysis, data management, medical writing and presentation skills. These class/faculty pairings provide residents with an established research scientist who teaches them research skills from the start of their training to the conclusion of their projects.

## DEPARTMENT of OPHTHALMOLOGY Support Services

Medical education is coordinated by Steve Svoboda, Assistant Director of Medical Education, and includes all resident program activity, foreign exchange program, medical student rotations, fellowship support, and CME event coordination.

## LIBRARY

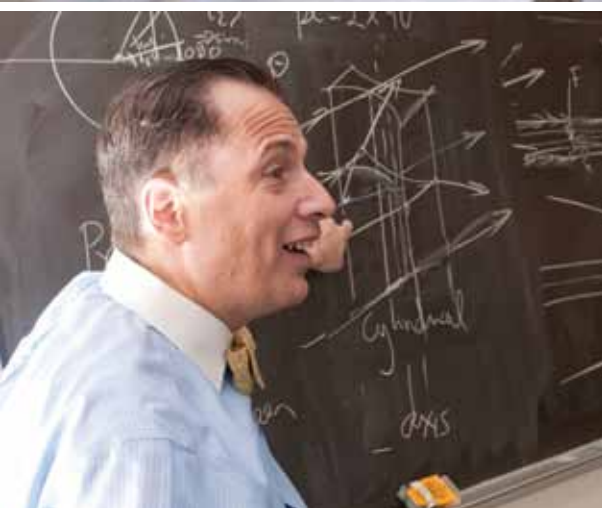
The Illinois Eye and Ear Infirmary Library provides onsite resources for residents, as well as faculty, fellows, medical students and alumni.

In addition to the department library, the Library of the Health Sciences, one of the largest academic health sciences libraries in the country, is located two blocks from the Department at 1750 West Polk Street. It contains a comprehensive collection of health related resources.

## MEDICAL ILLUSTRATION & GRAPHIC DESIGN

Residents who present their research at major professional meetings may use the resources of the Department's Medical Illustration & Graphic Design office for assistance.









## SWEET HOME Chicago

Chicago is rich in history, culture, and pride—just ask anyone who lives here, they won't be shy in singing the praises of our fair city. From the spectrum of ethnic food to the countless museums, Chicago has something for everyone. This list just scratches the surface of what Chicago has to offer.

### RESTAURANTS

[Yelp.com](http://Yelp.com)

[chicagolandrestaurants.net](http://chicagolandrestaurants.net)

[chicago.citysearch.com/section/restaurants](http://chicago.citysearch.com/section/restaurants)

### SPORTS

The Bulls - [www.nba.com/bulls](http://www.nba.com/bulls)

The Blackhawks - [www.chicagoblackhawks.com](http://www.chicagoblackhawks.com)

“Da” Bears - [www.chicagobears.com](http://www.chicagobears.com)

The Cubs - [www.cubs.com](http://www.cubs.com)

The White Sox - [www.chisox.com](http://www.chisox.com)

The Chicago Sport and Social Club - [www.chicagosportandsocialclub.com](http://www.chicagosportandsocialclub.com)

### CULTURE

The Art Institute of Chicago - [www.artic.edu](http://www.artic.edu)

The Field Museum of Natural History - <http://fieldmuseum.org>

The Chicago Symphony - [www.chicagosymphony.org](http://www.chicagosymphony.org)

The Museum of Science and Industry - [www.msichicago.org](http://www.msichicago.org)

### CHICAGO LIVING

[www.cityofchicago.org](http://www.cityofchicago.org)

[www.chicagotribune.com](http://www.chicagotribune.com)

[www.chireader.com](http://www.chireader.com) (good site to find housing)

[www.metromix.com](http://www.metromix.com)

[www.transitchicago.com](http://www.transitchicago.com) (public transportation)

### UIC WEBSITE ADDRESSES

University of Illinois at Chicago - [www.uic.edu](http://www.uic.edu)

Department of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences -  
[www.IllinoisEyeandEarInfirmary.com](http://www.IllinoisEyeandEarInfirmary.com)

College of Medicine - [www.medicine.uic.edu](http://www.medicine.uic.edu)

University of Illinois Medical Center - [uillinoismedcenter.org](http://uillinoismedcenter.org)