

UIC COLLEGE OF MEDICINE
Committee on Admissions
Annual Report 2008-2009

The competition for positions in the entering class continues to be substantial. In this environment, the task of the Committee focused on selecting the most qualified individuals while continuing to serve the needs of the diverse constituencies of the State of Illinois. Nationally, after a five year increase in applicants to medical schools, the number of applicant leveled off this year. UIC, however, experienced a decrease of applicants of 5.8% in 2008 versus 2007. In spite of the decrease that UIC experienced in the total number of applicants, the total number of eligible candidates in 2008 (3,616) was virtually the same as 2007 (3,608). All candidates for admission were interviewed by faculty and upper-class medical students. Overall, about 985 applicants were interviewed. Of those, 645 were offered places in the class, and 308 enrolled.

Of the total applicants pool, 988 under-represented minority applications were received, a decrease of about 4% versus 2007. Of those, 801 were considered eligible. A total of 144 were offered places in the entering class; 76 enrolled in the Fall.

The Committee on Admissions also considered candidates for the Guaranteed Professional Program Admissions (GPPA), which seeks to attract high-achieving high school students to UIC by offering simultaneous acceptance to the undergraduate curriculum as well as to the College. The College received 293 applications through this program. Of those, 56 were admitted, and 29 accepted our offer. These students began their studies at the UIC Honors College last Fall and, if they meet the set criteria along the way, will enter the medical school as early as Fall, 2011.

The special programs managed by the College continue to experience strong interest from applicants. Below are the highlights for each of those initiatives. The Illinois Agricultural Association/Illinois State Medical Society (IAA/ISMS) program interviewed 13 applicants this year. The Illinois Farm Bureau is in charge of the initial screening of candidates for this program. They determine who would be best suited for a rural medical practice, based on previous experiences and a personal interview of each applicant. They then recommend a group of students to the UIC Committee on Admissions, who judge these candidates in terms of academic credentials. This year, IAA accepted 10 students, and of those 7 enrolled in the Fall.

The Rural Medical Education (RMED) program, based at the Rockford campus, interviewed 24 applications. Twenty-two candidates were accepted for this program, and of those 15 enrolled. RMED students complete a special curriculum in Rockford that prepares them for family medicine practices in rural communities.

It must be noted that the academic credentials of students who entered the College through one of these two programs are the strongest ever. The process put in place by the Committee allows it to give the strong consideration to the most qualified individuals.

The Medical Scholars Program based at the Urbana-Champaign campus received about 136 applications for Fall, 2008. These highly competitive applicants seek admission to combined degrees in medicine and a variety of other disciplines. Of the initial pool of candidates, 41 were accepted by both the COM and a graduate unit in Urbana-Champaign; 16 enrolled in the Fall.

Finally, the Medical Science Training Program (MSTP) at the Chicago campus received 129 applications for Fall 2008 a 12% increase in the applicant pool, the highest in the recent five years. Of those, 13 were accepted by both the COM and a basic science department within the College; 6 matriculated at UIC.

As of this writing, work on the entering class of 2009 is nearly complete. The overall applicant pool and the qualified applicant pool (those who meet the initial screening level) are both virtually the same as last year. About 328 students are presently holding a seat in the College.

Respectfully Submitted,

Leslie J. Sandlow, M.D., Senior Associate Dean
Chair, Committee on Admissions

Jorge A. Girotti, Ph.D., Associate Dean and Director
College of Medicine Admissions