

Annual Report UICOMP AY 2009-2010

The University of Illinois College of Medicine at Peoria has this vision statement:

Through the development of a community-wide collaborative initiative, the University of Illinois College of Medicine at Peoria will lead a cultural transformation from a group of organizations whose individual visions are focused on clinical excellence, to an interdependent and unified academic health center focused on excellence in patient care, research, and education.

The following actions occur to support this vision:

EDUCATION

Undergraduate/M2 – This year the campus completed the conversion to computerized testing for all M2 courses. The student technology fee money was used to purchase “thin clients” which supported this transition. Items in the test question data bank were transitioned into the electronic format. Student evaluations and focus groups were conducted for twenty-two M2 and M3 courses with the results sent to the Associate Dean.

Undergraduate/M3-M4 – The required clerkship of Pediatrics had a scheduled review with the recommendations returned to the Clerkship Director and the Committee on Instruction and Appraisal. We maintained the integrated fourth year curriculum focused on medical errors, discharge planning, giving bad news, and obtaining a consult. This curriculum provides formative feedback after an OSCE. A new integrated third year interdisciplinary curriculum was implemented which included two sessions - one on procedures and one on social/economic issues. A Senior Scholars Group was developed which helped provide manpower for ICM, the SubI OSCE and various workshops.

Academic Affairs – The LCME gave the College of Medicine the maximum 8 year accreditation but did emphasize a need to provide our students with more options for independent learning. We also are creating and modifying our faculty development programs so that they emphasize new teaching techniques. A philanthropic drive has provided the necessary funds to remodel the library and expand small-group learning spaces. Construction should be finished in June.

Graduate/Residency – All residencies remain fully accredited although one residency (Neurology) has been proposed for probation and an appeal is pending. All residency positions were filled through the match. A Residency Roundtable has allowed residency programs to share experiences and solutions. A User Work Group is developing a curriculum in simulation and is working collaboratively with OSF-SFMC to design a 25 million dollar simulation/education center which will also serve as a resource to medical students. Chair of Psychiatry, Ryan Finkenbine, completed the psychiatry residency application and site visit for our new psychiatry residency. Approval from the RRC was obtained and we expect to start a new psychiatry residency in July 2011.

Post-Graduate/Fellowships – Our goal is to expand the number of fellowships. We have a commitment from OSF-SFMC to fund a cardiology fellowship and are currently recruiting an academic cardiologist who could lead the development of the program. A stroke fellowship is also under development.

Postgraduate–CME/Faculty Development - UICOMP certified CME for 62 activities with our sponsoring hospitals and others in the Central Illinois region. The CAT Scholars Program graduated another cohort of junior faculty and was particularly successful at getting each graduate to complete a

methodologically sound research project. Formal faculty development occurred in several sessions including presentations on the audience response system and the use of panopto video conferencing equipment. The “Residents as Teachers” Program was also provided. Many faculty provided local, regional and national lectures to their peers and to the public.

Library - The library continues to be very active teaching students, residents, faculty and the public how to access reliable medical information with an emphasis on electronic access. It provides support for literature searches essential to the research and educational missions. The Library and UICOMP worked together closely to develop the Student Learning Enhancement Project. This project will provide technology rich small-group learning space. The Library also actively supported the campus’s Community Education series titled “Living Healthy.”

RESEARCH/SCHOLARSHIP

Department level - The Department of Cancer Biology and Pharmacology published 16 articles and 19 abstracts with nine publications in press. The Department received \$3,273,799 in direct grant funding generating \$1,660,673 in ICR. Department members also gave 19 presentations at national and international meetings. One additional funded tenure track faculty member was recruited as part of developing a cadre of independent cancer researchers who will help Dr. Rao to sustain and develop our cancer research program. There were also increased numbers of publications in the Clinical Departments with the Department of Medicine recently also receiving a RO1 grant. Essentially all Departments have shown some increase in their poster presentations or publications. The number of presentations at regional and national meetings also is climbing. We have made only slow progress on our Center for Health Outcomes Research. A proposal for temporary Center status is in Chicago, a search committee for leadership has been formed and this remains an important project for the coming year.

Student/Resident level - Dr. Dinh and the members of the James Scholar Committee have re-invigorated this program. Seven students will graduate this year having earned James Scholars honors. GME continues to promote resident research and provides an annual resident research forum. The addition of a second statistician has helped provide needed statistical support.

IRB/IACUC/IBC - The IRB has improved efficiency by using an electronic communication tool called IRBnet. The IRB was reviewed by the IRB accrediting body and was fully accredited. The IRB has agreed to provide IRB services to two additional community hospitals in our region. The IACUC continues to review animal research and the compliance of the LACF. In addition, a newly formed IBC (Institutional Bio-safety Committee) will be meeting to assure compliance with research requirements.

CANCER RESEARCH FACILITY

We have completed the design of a Cancer Research Facility that will be built on UICOMP land attached to the existing building. The new building contains 20,000 square feet of research laboratory space and will allow expansion of our successful cancer research program. This project is the culmination of years of hard work and is funded largely through the contributions of local businesses and private donors in addition to Federal, State and University funds.

PATIENT CARE

HIHAC (Heart of Illinois HIV/AIDS Clinic) continues to care for about 500 patients. They have been negatively impacted by State funding cuts that have led to a decrease in their ability to engage in outreach activities. The clinical volume on the inpatient hospitalist services continues to grow with an increase in average admission from about 300 to 400 per month. Pediatric clinical activities expanded with the addition of new faculty in hematology/oncology, intensive care and cardiology. Pediatrics used the new Critical Hire model to increase faculty while limiting the campus’s fiscal risk. Pediatric MSP continued to decline this year but appears to have stabilized and we hope to see an improvement next year. Psychiatry is anticipating new clinical activities as it develops new service lines in order to accommodate the residency. Two new OB-GYN oncologists were also hired using the Critical Hire model. The MSP has generally

maintained or improved its solvency. Many other departments have extensive clinical activities which are accomplished in conjunction with the affiliated hospitals or private practices.

FISCAL

UICOMP has made gains toward improved fiscal stability and accomplished further debt reduction this year. We recruited a new Chief Financial Officer who has substantially revised our billing processes and negotiated new contracts. We have been very careful with our expenditures and have had increased success in our philanthropic efforts. Two years ago we negotiated a multi-payor debt reduction plan that will eliminate UICOMP deficit accounts over five years and we have reached the annual debt reduction targets in this plan. We anticipate eliminating the deficit in five accounts this year. This campus is appropriately positioned to meet the demands of next year's budget.

FACULTY

Recruiting new faculty is key. Individuals must be able to be creative, motivated and able to work effectively in this complex community environment. We do not currently have any vacant Chair/Head positions. We are actively recruiting a leader for our Center for Health Outcomes Research, an Academic Section Chief in Cardiology, a funded tenured/tenure track Cancer Biology researcher, a Ph.D. educator for Pharmacology and an Academic Section Chief in GI.

CONCLUSION

Overall, the University of Illinois College of Medicine is satisfactorily progressing. We are completing year 2 of a five-year plan whose goals for this campus are:

- **Debt-free campus with solid revenue streams and some discretionary start-up funding for investment in new programs/projects.** We are on or ahead of schedule as we complete year two of a multi-payor, five-year debt reduction plan.
- **Active multi-departmental clinical research program with the focus on health outcomes/services.** We are making slow but continuing progress toward this goal.
- **Cancer Research Facility that is fully utilized by funded basic science researchers.** The building should be completed by December 2011 and I expect that it will take three to five more years before the space is fully utilized.
- **Expanded higher quality residencies and fellowships.** We have received RRC approval for the psychiatry residency although there are still steps to take to implement the program. We continue to work on medicine subspecialty fellowships and an increase in size for pediatrics, surgery, neurology and neurosurgery. We also wish to develop rural tracks for existing residencies.
- **Stronger medical student education with the space and faculty necessary to provide education in small groups, using more educational technology.** The Student Learning Enhancement Project should finish in July. We have/will submit Title VII Grant applications focused on rural medical student education and faculty development. The addition of the Senior Scholars Program has provided volunteer faculty resources.
- **Grow philanthropic support for this campus and our programs.** Identify integrated approaches to donors with bonds to our affiliated hospitals. The philanthropy focus is the simulation center and its educational programs; the cancer research facility and its programs; and the health outcomes research center.