

Sharon K. Hull, M.D., M.P.H., is Interim Chair and Research Associate Professor in the Department of Medical Humanities at Southern Illinois University School of Medicine. She holds a baccalaureate degree from the University of Evansville (Indiana) and is an alumna of SIU School of Medicine. Upon completion of a family medicine residency at Union Hospital in Terre Haute, Indiana, she opened a solo family practice in Marion, Illinois and subsequently served as Chief of Women's Health at the Student Health Services Clinic at SIU's Carbondale campus. She returned to SIU School of Medicine as assistant dean of student affairs in 1996. In 2003, she was awarded a competitive Primary Care Research Fellowship at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill from 2003-2005, where she concurrently completed a Master of Public Health in Health Policy and Administration and a Preventive Medicine Residency.

During her tenure with the School of Medicine, Dr. Hull has been extensively involved in medical student education, helping to develop the first-year Doctoring curriculum, which provides instruction in clinical skills and professionalism. She has served as a tutor in years one and two of the problem-based learning curriculum. She has also lectured extensively to professional and lay audiences about the scientific evidence related to complementary and alternative medicine. She has recently received a grant to develop a Regional Medicine/Public Health Education Center at the school, in partnership with state and local health departments, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and the Association of American Medical Colleges. Dr. Hull teaches in all four years of the medical school curriculum, including medical humanities, evidence-based medicine, population health, preventive medicine, clinical skills, health policy and physician advocacy.

In addition to her teaching efforts, she has been committed to improving access to health care in underserved areas in the state, particularly in deep southern Illinois. She helped to create and staff a free clinic in Marion, Illinois and went on to serve as a technical consultant for the startup of a school health center in Gallatin County, Illinois. This county had no physician, no dentist and no mental health worker for several years prior to the successful inception of this clinic. She has most recently been involved with efforts to build a coalition of existing school health centers in the deep downstate region in order to facilitate the long-term sustainability of these clinics. Dr. Hull serves a liaison role from the School of Medicine as a senior health policy analyst for the Paul Simon Public Policy Institute in its efforts to support school health centers and to effect change in public policy relevant to improving access to health care in rural areas.

Dr. Hull also serves as a faculty member in the Department of Family and Community Medicine where she works with the department in community health, rural health and health policy activities. She has served as a member of that department's Rural Health Strategic Planning Task Force, and has taught a number of electives in complementary and alternative medicine and family medicine leadership.

Dr. Hull holds board certification in two specialties, Family Medicine and General Public Health and Preventive Medicine. She is a Fellow of the American Academy of Family Physicians, and holds membership in the American College of Preventive Medicine, the Society of Teachers of Family Medicine, and the Association of Teachers of Preventive Medicine. She has served as an officer and on the Boards of Directors for both the Illinois Rural Health Association and the Illinois Academy of Family Physicians. She has been named a Distinguished Alumna of SIU School of Medicine in 2002, and was awarded the John Atkinson Ferrell Distinguished Preventive Medicine Resident Award from the University of North Carolina School of Medicine in 2005.