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SIU Med School Graduates 67 New Physicians

Commencement exercises for the 28th graduating class of Southern Illinois University School of Medicine will be held at noon Sunday, May 19. Sixty-seven physicians and two doctoral students will graduate during the ceremony, which is held in the Sangamon Auditorium at the University of Illinois at Springfield. Three students are completing a six-year combined program for a M.D./J.D. dual degree.

Dr. Catherine D. DeAngelis, editor of the *Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA)*, is the commencement speaker. As editor-in-chief of scientific publications and multimedia applications, DeAngelis oversees *JAMA* and its related websites and all of the *Archives* publications.

Before her *JAMA* appointment, DeAngelis was vice dean for academic affairs and faculty at Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine and previously was editor of *Archives of Pediatrics and Adolescent Medicine*. She has authored or edited 10 books and published more than 150 original articles, chapters, editorials and abstracts. Several of her recent publications have focused on conflicts of interest in medicine, women in medicine, and medical education. She received her medical degree from the University of Pittsburgh's School of Medicine and her master's in public health from the Harvard Graduate School of Public Health.

George Tomecki of Oak Lawn, class chair, will deliver remarks on behalf of the graduating physicians. Dr. Erik Constance, associate dean for student affairs, will present the medical students for degrees while Edward J. Moticka, Ph.D., associate dean for research and faculty affairs, will present the doctoral candidates for degrees. Walter V. Wendler, Ph.D., SIUC Chancellor, will confer the degrees. Dr. J. Kevin Dorsey, interim dean and provost of the School of Medicine, will award the diplomas.

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SIU School of Medicine graduation – add 1

The graduates will honor two of their teachers with roles during the ceremony. Dorsey will read the Hippocratic Oath and Dr. John Murphy, clinical professor of pathology, will hood the graduates.

Three other faculty members will be recognized for honors. Constance will receive the Golden Apple Award for outstanding teaching. Dr. Terence Anthoney, associate professor of anatomy emeritus, and April Jackson, formerly an instructor of anatomy, will share the Carbondale Teacher of the Year honor for their contributions during the students' first year.

The Humanism in Medicine awards will be announced during the ceremony and presented to both a faculty member and graduating senior who “embody compassion and sensitivity in the delivery of care to patients and their family members.” The AOA Volunteer Faculty Award will be presented to the community physician who “effectively and generously donates time, skill and experience teaching students clinical skills.”

During the ceremony, two Illinois alumni will receive the medical school's distinguished alumni award. The award from the School's Alumni Society Board of Governors recognizes outstanding contributions to medicine and distinguished service to humankind. The 2002 recipients are Dr. Larry Jones, Class of 1976, and Dr. Sharon Hull, Class of 1987. A member of the School's charter class, Jones returned to his hometown of Harrisburg to practice after completing his family medicine residency. Hull, also a native of Saline County, began practicing in Marion after completing her family practice residency. In 1996, she was named assistant dean for student affairs and assistant professor of family and community medicine at the medical school in Carbondale.

The new SIU physicians will begin their residency training in their chosen specialty fields in July. Thirty-five of the 67 graduating seniors (52 percent) will enter primary care programs. SIU and its affiliated hospitals in Springfield, Carbondale and Decatur attracted 12 SIU graduates (18 percent) for residency training. Another 15 students (22 percent) picked other Illinois programs and 20 others (30 percent) selected Midwest programs, making a total of 47 students (70 percent) that will stay in the Midwest for postgraduate training.

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NOTE TO MEDIA: An interview time with Dr. DeAngelis can be provided after the commencement ceremonies at about 1:45 p.m. (Her address will occur at approximately 1 p.m.) Please confirm your interest in an interview with SIU Public Affairs.