MEDICAL DIRECTOR NAMED FOR CANCER INSTITUTE: Manuel Valdivieso, M.D., has been named director for the SIU Cancer Institute and professor of internal medicine. He will start the new position in April. Valdivieso is currently professor of medicine and associate director of clinical investigations, director of multidisciplinary thoracic oncology and director of the clinical research office at the Harold C. Simmons Cancer Center of the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center in Dallas.

"I am very pleased with the successful recruitment of Dr. Valdivieso, who has nearly 30 years of clinical experience, as our first director. He is a compassionate physician with energy and organizational skills who can help us make the most of the opportunity we have to move cancer care in this region to the next level," said J. Kevin Dorsey, M.D., Ph.D., dean and provost. "We particularly appreciate how our affiliated hospitals -- Memorial and St. John's -- and the community oncologists helped with this recruitment."

Previously he was director of the Cancer Center of Excellence for the Oakwood Healthcare System in Dearborn, Mich. (1996-99); professor of medicine and director of the medical oncology section (1989-93) and the hematology and oncology division (1994-96) at Wayne State University in Detroit; associate director for clinical investigations at the Karmanos Cancer Institute in Detroit, (1994-96); and professor of medicine at the University of Texas (UT) M.D. Anderson Cancer Center in Houston, where he co-founded the multidisciplinary thoracic oncology program (1974-84). He also was in private practice in Zion and Waukegan, Illinois (1984-86).

Valdivieso completed a two-year fellowship in medical oncology at UT-M.D. Anderson (1974) and a one-year hematology fellowship at Cook County Hospital (1972) where he also completed his medicine residency (1971). He earned his medical degree at San Marcos University Medical School in Lima, Peru (1967) and completed a master's in administrative medicine at the University of Wisconsin (2000).

Valdivieso is a member of the Cancer and Leukemia Group B, sponsored by the National Cancer Institute, and serves on its board of directors. He is board certified in medical oncology and is a fellow of the American College of Physicians and the American College of Chest Physicians. He has authored or co-authored more than 200 manuscripts in peer-reviewed journals.

EMPLOYEE HONOR: Stacey Miller. Medicine, is the February employee of the month. Her nominators say "she exhibits excellent work skills, sound judgment and a positive attitude. She handles things with a ‘can do’ attitude." Congratulations, Stacey.

LECTURES & SYMPOSIA: The 13th Annual Diabetes Symposium, sponsored by the Department of Medicine, will be held 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, March 8, at MMC’s Wedeberg Conference Center. Romesh Khardori, M.D., Medicine, is the course director. For information, call Continuing Medical Education, 545-7711.

"Covering the Uninsured" issues will be the topic for Medicine Grand Rounds 8 a.m. Tuesday, March 4, in E72, Memorial Medical Center. For additional information, call KayDeFord. Medicine, 545-0193.

The 9th Annual Molecular and Cellular Biology Symposium, sponsored by SIUC and the School, is Friday and Saturday, March 28-29, at Pere Marquette Lodge and Conference Center in Grafton, Illinois. Harinder Singh, Ph.D., Department of Genetics and Cell Biology, at the University of Chicago, will be the keynote speaker. For information, call Kenneth Robinson, Continuing Education-Carbondale, 618-536-7751.
COMMUNITY CORNER

ENOS UPDATE: Enos School is collecting silver Pepsi bottle caps found on 16-, 20-, and 24-ounce and two-liter bottles. Each cap is worth 5 cents and will be collected until April 30. Money collected will be spent on birthday books and take-home books. Send them to Public Affairs, MC 9621, or look for the blue Enos bins throughout the School. Also keep collecting your box tops from General Mills products and don’t forget to donate your 2002 wall calendars and your new or gently used items.

The Department of Surgery has generously funded several educational outings for Enos students this year. The funds have taken students to the Apple Basket Farm, Adams Wildlife Sanctuary, Illinois Symphony Orchestra, Lincoln Memorial Garden, Laura Ingalls program at Sangamon Auditorium, a train trip to Lincoln, and a visit to downtown Springfield to see the police and fire stations and Lincoln Library. Representatives from the School’s trauma safety program also will present to the students.

TV PROGRAMS: The following American Cancer Society programs will air at 9 p.m. on Springfield cable channel Access 4 and feature SIU physicians: March 5 and 19, Jan Rakinic, M.D., Surgery, colorectal cancer; April 2, James Malone, M.D., Surgery, head and neck cancer; and April 16 and 30, Krishna Rao, M.D., Ph.D., Medicine, bone marrow transplants/cancer. All represented the SIU Cancer Institute.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES UPDATE: Dr. Jie-ju Huang, vice minister of public health in China, will receive the doctor of human letters from SIUC, one of those approved by the SIU Board of Trustees at their February meeting. Huang was nominated by the School of Medicine and recognized for his international status as a medical educator and clinician and his long-standing relationship to the School. In 1987, while dean of Sun Yat-Sen University (SUMS), Huang played a central role in establishing the affiliation between the medical school and Memorial Medical Center and SUMS. Since then, the School has been able to sponsor four continuing medical education delegations to China and scholars from China have visited here. Huang has helped facilitate the opportunity for senior SIU medical students to do elective study about traditional Chinese medicine. In the last ten years, 16 students have studied at Sun Yat-Sen. J. Kevin Dorsey, M.D., Ph.D., dean and provost, will present the degree to Huang in China and also renew the affiliation agreement between SIU and Sun Yat-Sen University of Medical Sciences.

The Board also awarded contracts totaling $475,653 for phase-two renovations at the SIU Clinics/Moy Building, 751 N. Rutledge, Springfield. This includes expanding the medical records area and renovating clinic and office space for the Department of Neurology and the Alzheimer’s Center.

HEARING LOSS SEMINAR: Hearing loss and the latest developments in hearing aid technology are the topics of a free educational seminar being presented by the School’s Audiology Clinic. Two sessions, 1:30 and 7:30 p.m., will be offered Tuesday, February 25, in rooms R & S, at the Carol Jo Vecchie Women and Children’s Center, 415 N. 9th Street, Springfield. For more information call Donna Cowley, Surgery, 545-4419.

QUINCY FCM GRANT: A federal grant will help the Western Illinois Area Health Education Consortium recruit and retain health-care professionals in rural communities. Quincy Family Practice and SIU Family Practice residency project in Girard are two of the beneficiaries of the $750,000 grant. “This project blends very well with our mission at Quincy Family Practice and we are proud to be a site for the expanded training opportunities...,” said Jerry Kruse, M.D., Family/Community Medicine, in the press conference by Congressman Lane Evans announcing the grant.

NEWS BRIEFS

PRESENTATIONS: Family/Community Medicine faculty and staff attended the Society of Teachers of Family Medicine Predoctoral Education Conference in February in Austin, Texas. Julie Robbs and Nata Young, M.D., presented a poster funded by a Title VII Bureau of Health Professions grant, “Measurements of Problem-Based Distance Learning in a Preceptor-Based FP Clerkship.” Arian Mowlavi, M.D., Young, Robbs, Melinda Conlee-Stevens, Anna Mies Richie, M.D., Tracy Aldridge, M.D., Cyndi Ledbetter, and Rich Jordan. Robbs also presented “Education Professionals in Family Medicine: Career Challenges, Opportunities and Successes.”

Also presenting at this conference was Sharon Hull, M.D., Student Affairs-Carbondale, who presented “Maintaining Wellness during Medical Training: Report of Wellness Data from the ESWIM Survey.”


STAFF UPDATE: Welcome to Staci Roseberry, ambulatory care aide, Surgery; Patrick Moreth, account technician, Patient Business Services; Christy Johnson, researcher, Surgery; Bobbie Moore, ambulatory care assistant, Surgery; and Karol Young, nurse, Neurology. Farewell to Jayme Crain, Family/Community Medicine; Jill Franklin, Pediatrics; Gerald Johnson, Institutional Planning/Management; and Gail Wolfe, Obstetrics/Gynecology.