



SimmonsCooper Cancer Institute at SIU

The SimmonsCooper Cancer Institute at SIU serves the people of central and southern Illinois by addressing their present and future cancer care needs through a comprehensive approach of education, research and patient services.

The Cancer Institute's charge includes working to upgrade the standard of cancer care in downstate Illinois communities. It is a community-based patient care, research, education and outreach program established to improve cancer care.

Cancer Clinical Teams and Faculty Members, Southern Illinois University School of Medicine

The SimmonsCooper Cancer Institute at SIU offers multidisciplinary cancer teams, known as organ site working groups, made up of cancer specialists and subspecialists such as medical, surgical, psychosocial, and ancillary and support services are available to the patient at the same location and point of time. The current groups are the Breast Center at SIU, Colorectal Cancer Clinic, the Gynecologic Oncology Clinic, the Head and Neck Oncology Team or HANOT, the Hematology and Oncology Clinic, the Pediatric Hematology/ Oncology Clinic, the Prostate Center, and the Thoracic Oncology Program or TOPS.

SIU's goal is to substantially increase the number of clinical trials underway in central Illinois, so that patients no longer have to travel to metropolitan centers to find the latest drug treatment trials for various cancers. Current trials are underway for breast, gastrointestinal, kidney, and head and neck cancer. We also have access to research protocols sponsored by our affiliated hospitals.

Dr. Carol Bauer, associate professor of surgery, joined the SIU faculty in 1995 after completing a one-year fellowship in neurology at Baylor College of Medicine (1995). She completed her residency in otolaryngology at the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics (1994). She earned her medical degree from the University of Iowa College of Medicine in Iowa City (1989) and bachelor's degree from Grinnell College (1980). She is board certified in otolaryngology and specializes in treating chronic diseases of the ear.

Dr. Gregory P. Brandt, assistant professor of pediatrics and director of SIU's pediatric hematology/oncology division, came to SIU in 1995 from the Children's Hospital Medical Center in Cincinnati, where he completed a fellowship in hematology/oncology/bone marrow transplant (1995). He completed his pediatrics residency and earned his medical degree from St. Louis University School of Medicine (1991, 1988). He earned his bachelor's from the College of St. Thomas (1983). He is board certified in pediatrics and pediatric hematology/oncology and specializes in treating children, adolescents and young adults with hematology/oncology disorders.

Dr. Jeffrey Christy, associate professor of cardiothoracic surgery, joined SIU in 2003. He completed his thoracic and cardiovascular surgery residency at Indiana University Medical Center (1994) and his general surgery residency at the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics (1992). He earned his medical degree from the University of Iowa (1987) and his bachelor's from Drake University (1992). He is board certified in surgery and thoracic surgery.

Dr. Gary L. Dunnington, professor and chair of surgery and director of the Breast Center at SIU, joined the SIU faculty in 1997. Dunnington completed his surgery residency at the University of Arizona (1985). He earned his medical degree from Indiana University School of Medicine (1980) and bachelor's from Ball State University (1976). He is board certified in surgery and specializes in breast and endocrine surgery and surgical oncology.

Dr. Richard Embrey, associate professor of cardiothoracic surgery, joined the SIU faculty in 2003. He completed a fellowship and a residency in cardiothoracic surgery at the University of Alabama (1991, 1990) and a surgery residency at Massachusetts General Hospital (1988). He earned his medical and bachelor's degrees from The Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine (1983, 1980). Embrey is board certified in general and thoracic surgery and specializes in cardiothoracic and lung cancer surgery.

Dr. Jonathan Goldfarb, associate professor of medicine and chief of the dermatology division, joined the SIU faculty in 1992, after having served as an adjunct faculty member since 1981. He completed a two-year postdoctoral fellowship in internal medicine and dermatology residency at The Johns Hopkins Hospital (1980, 1977) and a fellowship in dermatological surgery at the New York University Medical Center (1981). He earned his medical degree from New York Medical College (1975) and his bachelor's from Franklin and Marshall College (1972). He is board certified in internal medicine and dermatology.

Dr. Stephen R. Hazelrigg, professor and chair of the cardiothoracic surgery division, joined the SIU faculty in 1993. He completed a fellowship in cardiothoracic surgery at the University of Missouri Hospitals and Clinics (1990) and a general surgery residency at SIU (1988). He earned his medical degree from SIU (1983) and bachelor's from Knox College (1980). Hazelrigg is board certified in surgery and the subspecialty of thoracic and cardiac surgery and specializes in lung cancer surgery.

Dr. Joseph Q. Henkle, associate professor of internal medicine and chief of pulmonary medicine, joined the SIU faculty in 1986. He completed a two-year fellowship in pulmonary medicine at Good Samaritan and Veterans Administration Medical Centers in Phoenix (1986) and a residency in internal medicine at the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics (1984). Henkle earned his medical and bachelor's degrees from the University of Wisconsin (1981, 1976). He is board certified in internal medicine and specializes in treating lung cancer.

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SIU Cancer Institute Clinical Faculty (continued)

Dr. Jeff Karnes, assistant professor of surgery, joined the SIU faculty in 2003. He completed his urology residency and general surgery internship at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minn. (2003). Karnes received his medical degree from SIU (1997) and his bachelor's from Brown University (1992). He is board eligible in urology and specializes in treating urological cancers and general urology.

Dr. James P. Malone, assistant professor of surgery, joined the SIU faculty in 2002. He completed a two-year head and neck surgical oncology fellowship at Ohio State University (2002) and his otolaryngology residency at Hershey Medical Center at Pennsylvania State University (PSU) (2000). He earned his medical degree from the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine (1995) and bachelor's from PSU (1991). Malone is board certified in otolaryngology and specializes in treating head and neck cancers.

Dr. L. Stewart Massad, associate professor of obstetrics and gynecology and chief of the gynecologic oncology division, joined the SIU faculty in 2003. He completed a three-year fellowship in gynecologic oncology at Barnes Hospital in St. Louis (1992). He completed his internal medicine residency and earned his medical degree at Duke University Medical Center (1989, 1984). He earned his bachelor's from Williams College (1980). Massad is board certified in gynecologic oncology and specializes in the treatment of cervical, uterine, ovarian and other female genital cancers.

Dr. Michael Neumeister, professor of surgery, joined the SIU faculty in 1997. He completed a one-year fellowship in hand and micro-surgery at SIU (1997) and a three-month fellowship at Harvard University's Brigham & Women's Hospital (1996). He completed a plastic surgery residency at the University of Manitoba (1996) and general surgery residency at Dalhousie University (1993). He earned a medical degree from the University of Toronto (1988) and bachelor's from the University of Western Ontario (1984). He is board certified in plastic surgery.

Dr. Daniel Niebrugge, assistant professor of pediatrics, joined SIU in 2004. He completed a two-year fellowship in pediatric hematology and oncology at Children's Hospital and Health Center in Seattle (1982) and his pediatric residency at the University of Missouri Medical Center (1980). He earned his medical degree from SIU School of Medicine (1977) and bachelor's from the University of Illinois (1973). He is board certified in pediatrics and specializes in treating children, adolescents and young adults with hematology/oncology disorders.

Dr. Elizabeth Peralta, assistant professor of surgery, joined the SIU faculty in 2000 after completing a three-year fellowship in surgical oncology at the City of Hope National Medical Center in California (2000). She completed her general surgery residency at Virginia Mason Medical Center (1997). Peralta earned her medical degree from the University of California (UC) College of Medicine (1992) and her bachelor's from UC (1987). She is board certified in surgery and specializes in treating breast and gastrointestinal cancers.

Dr. Michael Pranzatelli, professor of pediatric neurology, is chief of child neurology and director of the National Pediatric Myoclonus Center. He joined the SIU faculty in 1999. He was a research fellow in neuropharmacology and neurology at Children's Hospital of Los Angeles at the University of Southern California (1982-85). Pranzatelli completed a pediatric neurology residency at the University of Colorado (1982) and a pediatrics residency at Case Western Reserve University (1979). He earned his medical degree from Pennsylvania State University (1976) and his bachelor's from Duquesne University (1972). He is board certified in pediatrics, psychiatry and neurology and specializes in treating childhood neuroblastoma and a paraneoplastic syndrome.

Dr. William Pyle, associate professor of cardiothoracic surgery, came to SIU in 2004. He completed fellowships in cardiothoracic surgery and vascular surgery at the University of Iowa Hospital and Clinics (1989, 1987). He earned his medical and bachelor's degrees from Southern Illinois University (1981, 1978). He is board certified in surgery and thoracic surgery.

Dr. Jacquelyn Quin, assistant professor of surgery, joined SIU's faculty in 2001. She completed her general surgery residency at St. Mary's Hospital in Waterbury, Conn. (1996) followed by additional training as a cardiothoracic surgery resident and a cardiothoracic surgery transplant fellow at University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center (1999, 2000). She also was a Winchester Fellow in Research in cardiothoracic surgery at Yale University (1997). Quin received her medical degree from the University of California-San Diego (UCSD) School of Medicine (1990) and bachelor's from the UCSD-Revelle College (1985). Quin is board certified in thoracic and general surgery and specializes in treating adult cardiac and lung cancer surgery.

Dr. Jan Rakinic, associate professor of surgery, joined the faculty in 2001. She completed a fellowship in colon and rectal surgery at Thomas Jefferson University Hospital (1990) and a residency in general surgery at University of Illinois/Cook County Hospital (1989). She earned her medical degree from Tulane University Medical School (1983) and bachelor's from Wayne State University (1978). Board certified in surgery and colon and rectal surgery, she specializes in treating colorectum, breast and female genital tract cancers.

Dr. Krishna A. Rao, Ph.D., assistant professor of hematology and oncology, joined SIU's faculty in 2002. He completed a fellowship in hematology/medical oncology at the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center (1998) and a doctorate in pathology at the University of Washington (2002). He completed his residency in internal medicine at Mayo Graduate School of Medicine (1994). He earned his medical and bachelor's degrees from the University of Miami (1991, 1986). Rao is board certified in internal medicine, hematology and medical oncology and specializes in bone marrow and peripheral blood stem cell transplants and the treatment of breast cancer.

Dr. K. Thomas Robbins, professor of surgery, is the director of the SIU Cancer Institute. He joined the SIU faculty in 2003. He completed a fellowship in head and neck surgical oncology at the Institute of Laryngology and Otology in London, England (1982) and his residency at the University of Toronto (1981). He earned his medical degree from Dalhousie University Medical School (1973) and his bachelor's from Memorial University of Newfoundland (1969). Robbins is board certified in otolaryngology and specializes in the treatment of head and neck cancers.

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SIU Cancer Institute Clinical Faculty (continued)

Dr. David Rogers, professor of surgery, came to SIU in 2000. He completed a two-year pediatric surgery residency at the University of Tennessee (1994) and a one-year pediatric surgical oncology fellowship at St. Jude Children's Research Hospital (1992) as well as a one-year research fellowship with the Association for Surgical Education (1996). He completed his surgery residency at the Medical College of Georgia (1990) and earned his medical and bachelor's degrees from the University of South Florida (1984, 1980). He is board certified in pediatric surgery.

Dr. Laura Rogers, associate professor of internal medicine, joined the SIU faculty in 2001. She completed her internal medicine residency at the Medical College of Georgia (1987), a three-year faculty development fellowship program in general internal medicine from the University of North Carolina (1990) and a master's of public health at the University of South Carolina (2000). She earned her medical degree from the University of South Florida School of Medicine (1984) and her bachelor's degree from Erskine College (1980). She is board certified in internal medicine and is studying breast cancer and the impact exercise has on breast cancer recovery.

Dr. Leonard Rybak, Ph.D., professor of surgery, joined the SIU faculty in 1981. He completed his doctoral degree as well as a residency in otolaryngology at the University of Minnesota (1979). Rybak earned his medical degree from the Medical College of Wisconsin (1973) and his bachelor's from the St. Louis College of Pharmacy (1969). Rybak is board certified in otolaryngology and specializes in treating head and neck cancer. He was named SIUC's Outstanding Scholar in 2005.

Dr. Prabodh C. Shah, professor and chief of hematology and oncology, joined the SIU faculty in 1999. He completed a two-year fellowship in hematology and completed his residency in internal medicine, both at Veterans Administration Hospital in Chicago (1970, 1968). He received his medical degree from BJ Medical School in Ahmadabad, India (1962). Shah is board certified in internal medicine and the subspecialty of hematology and oncology.

Dr. Nicole Zook Sommer, assistant professor of plastic surgery, joined the SIU faculty in 2002. She completed a fellowship in breast and aesthetic surgery at the Nashville Plastic Surgery Center (2002). She completed her plastic surgery training and earned her medical degree at SIU (2002, 2996) and her bachelor's from Illinois Wesleyan University (1992). A plastic and reconstructive surgeon, she specializes in treating breast surgery.

Dr. Akshah Sood, assistant professor of pulmonary medicine, joined the SIU faculty in 2001. Sood completed fellowships in pulmonary and critical care medicine and occupational and environmental medicine at the Yale University School of Medicine (1994-97). He completed his residency in internal medicine at the St. Luke's Hospital and Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons (1994). Sood earned his medical degree from the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (1990) and earned his master's from Yale (1997). He is board certified in internal medicine, pulmonary disease, critical care and occupational medicine.

Dr. David Steward, professor and chair of the internal medicine department, joined the SIU faculty in 1979. Steward completed his internal medicine residency at SIU (1978). He earned his medical and bachelor's degrees from the University of Iowa (1972, 1975). He is board certified in internal medicine and a fellow of the American College of Physicians.

Dr. Stephen Stone, associate professor of dermatology, joined the SIU faculty in 2000. He began his training in internal medicine at Lincoln Hospital and Albert Einstein College of Medicine and later completed a residency in dermatology at the Mayo Graduate School of Medicine (1974). He earned his medical degree from New York University School of Medicine (1967) and bachelor's from Tufts University (1963). Stone is board certified in dermatology and specializes in treating skin cancer as well as psoriasis and dermatitis.

Dr. Thomas Tarter, Ph.D., associate professor of urology, joined the SIU faculty in 2001. He completed a residency in urology and general surgery at the University of Southern California (1996) and a three-year fellowship at the Population Council Center for Biomedical Research at Rockefeller University (1986). He earned his medical degree from Albany Medical College (1990) and doctorate at Oregon Health Sciences University (1983). He earned his bachelor's from Linfield College (1977). He is board certified in urology and specializes in the treatment of cancers of the prostate, bladder and kidney.

Dr. Penny Tippy, professor of family and community medicine in Carbondale, joined the SIU faculty in 1982. She also serves as medical director of the School's affiliated family practice centers in Carbondale and West Frankfort. Tippy completed her family practice residency at C.S. Wilson Memorial Hospital in (1977). She earned her medical degree from the University of Illinois School of Medicine (1974) and bachelor's from Knox College (1970). She is board certified in family practice.

Dr. Bradon J. Wilhelmi, associate professor of surgery, specializes in plastics and reconstructive surgery. He came to SIU in 2000 after completing a one-year hand and microsurgery fellowship at Harvard Medical School/Massachusetts General Hospital. He completed his plastic surgery residency at the University of Texas (1999). Wilhelmi earned his medical degree from Rush Medical College (1992) and his bachelor's from Creighton University (1988).

Dr. Elvin Zook, professor and chair of the plastic surgery division, came to SIU in 1973. He was a James Whitcomb Riley plastic surgery fellow and Christine Kleinert fellow in hand surgery at the University of Louisville (1966-70). He completed residencies in both thoracic and general surgery and plastic surgery and earned his medical degree from Indiana University (1971, 1969, 1963). He is board certified in plastic and general surgery and in thoracic and cardiovascular surgery.

Springfield physicians affiliated with the SIU Cancer Institute

Dr. Mary Bretscher, Springfield Clinic, specializes in oncology and palliative care.

Dr. Parashar J. Nanavati, University Radiologists, specializes in radiation oncology.

Dr. Thomas G. Shanahan, University Radiologists, specializes in radiation oncology.

Dr. Bruce E. Shevlin, University Radiologists, specializes in radiation oncology.

Dr. James H. Wynstra, University Radiologists, specializes in radiation oncology.