

Cancer Institute names associate director

John E. Godwin, M.D., has been named associate director for clinical services for the SimmonsCooper Cancer Institute at SIU. He also has been appointed professor and chief of the hematology and oncology division in the Department of Internal Medicine.

Dr. Godwin is developing the clinical services at SIU's Cancer Institute, including clinical outreach programs for downstate Illinois and enhancing clinical research programs.

Dr. Godwin comes to SIU after 21 years as faculty at Stritch School of Medicine at Loyola University in Chicago, where he was a professor of medicine and pathology and director of special hematology clinical coagulation laboratory.

"John's expertise and national prominence in testing new cancer agents fits well with our goal to provide the citizens in our region with therapies on the cutting edge," said K. Thomas Robbins, M.D., director of the Cancer Institute.

RESEARCH INTERESTS:

Biology and treatment of hematologic malignancies and clinical thrombosis.

- National principle investigator for two leukemia research trials; has received funding for 14 grants.
- Project leader at Loyola for translational research in hematologic malignancies.
- Author of more than 60 scientific publications.
- Member of a National Institutes of Health (NIH) study section, which covers the epidemiology of cancer.
- Participant in NIH grant and program reviews.



EDUCATION:

Fellowship in hematology and oncology at the University of North Carolina (1983-85). Fellowships in hematology and oncology and in general internal medicine at Baylor College of Medicine.

- Board certification: Internal medicine and hematology and a fellow of the Council of Thrombosis for the American Heart Association.
- Residency: Internal Medicine at Baylor College of Medicine (1981).
- Master's degree: in epidemiology at the University of Texas School of Public Health in Houston (1983).
- Medical degree: University of Alabama School of Medicine in Birmingham (1978).
- Bachelor's degree: University of Montevallo in Montevallo, Ala. (1974).

Smoke free, inside and out

The School of Medicine became tobacco and smoke campus buildings and grounds in September.

"The new tobacco- and smoke-free policy reflects our commitment to protect the health and safety of our students, faculty, staff, and the general public in central and southern Illinois. By implementing this policy, we are taking a significant step with our partners in the medical community who have also taken similar action," said J. Kevin Dorsey, M.D., Ph.D., dean and provost of SIU School of Medicine.

Tobacco use and smoking are not allowed in any School facilities or on the grounds surrounding SIU-owned or on properties that it leases. Employees and visitors are allowed to smoke in their personal vehicles parked on campus.

The SIU Office of Human Resources is offering smoking cessation programs to SIU employees.



Summer in the lab

For students, summer break typically consists of sleeping in and enjoying lazy days. But for four Springfield high school students, this summer involved doing cancer research at the SimmonsCooper Cancer Institute at SIU in Springfield.

Astasia Clayborne from Southeast High School, Laura Henkle and Sarah Robbins from Springfield High School, and Rebecca Herrington from Glenwood High School interned at the Institute. The American Cancer Society program, now in its fourth year, sponsored 21 other students who interned at other leading medical research facilities in the state.

During the eight-week program, students follow an established scientist to do hands-on work in a cancer research laboratory.

For more information about In Brief stories, contact Nancy S. Zimmers, Public Affairs (nzimmers@siumed.edu) at 217-545-2155.

Exemplary employees

Two civil service employees and a team in the Department of Internal Medicine were honored for exemplary work.

■ Debbie Kemper, an office systems specialist for the SimmonsCooper Cancer Institute at SIU, was named civil service employee of the year. She was selected from the 2005 employees of the month. Her nominators said, "Debbie is fair-minded and brings wisdom and insight to her job."



■ Monty Webber, chief building operations engineer, was named supervisor of the year. His nominators said he "maintains a delicate balance between what is best for the School and getting the best from his staff. Monty is supportive, compassionate, polite and understanding with his staff." Webber retired this summer.

■ The first Group Quality Award was given to the General Internal Medicine Project Team. The award recognizes outstanding contributions in delivering service or improving health outcomes or work processes.

The team included Robert Bussing, M.D., Maureen Francis, M.D., Susan Hingle, M.D., Waneta McKemie, Stefanie Slightom and Andrew Varney, M.D., all from the internal medicine department, and Kathy Mahaffey and Brenda Vilayhong, both in the SIU Physicians & Surgeons administrative office.

Their nominators said, "This group has made tremendous strides in quality improvement for their patients by implementing an advanced open-access system. This has made the School one of the leaders in quality improvement among academic medical centers."



Othniel Doolittle, MSI, poses with his wife, Rachel, and their son, Osborne.

Welcome Class of 2010

Seventy-three students in the Class of 2010 donned their first white coats at the White Coat Ceremony in August, signaling the beginning of their training at the School of Medicine. The annual event, held in Carbondale, lets students and their families establish a "psychological contract of professionalism and empathy." Students entering most U.S. medical schools this fall participate in this rite of passage.

Elizabeth Peralta, M.D., assistant professor of surgery, was the keynote speaker for the SIU ceremony. Dr. Peralta received SIU's 2004 Humanism in Medicine Award. Kevin Dorsey, M.D., Ph.D., dean and provost, '78, read the Hippocratic Oath with the students.

Alumni Society President Sam Gaines, M.D., '77, a Springfield

Off to a good start

Kendra Woods, MSI, received a monetary award from the Dr. Hildegard C. Landecker Memorial Endowment Fund at the School of Medicine. The gift is given annually to a freshman female medical student in high academic standing.

The Landecker fund was established in 1982 by Manfred Landecker, Ph.D., emeritus professor of political science at SIU Carbondale, in memory of his mother, a pediatrician.

internist, helped the students into their coats. The class of 33 men and 39 women also received the "Compassion, Respect and Integrity" pin from the SIU Foundation. Most of the class are from the southern two-thirds of the state.

SIU physician elected IAFP president

Kathleen Miller, M.D., assistant professor of family and community medicine in Decatur, was elected president of the Illinois Academy of Family Physicians (IAFP) this summer. The IAFP is a professional membership society representing more than 4,300 family physicians, residents and medical students across the state.

Dr. Miller is associate program director for SIU's Decatur family medicine

residency program. She joined the SIU faculty in 1992.

"In order for the Illinois Academy of Family Physicians to best serve the family physicians of this state, the organization has to remain nimble and able to respond to the ever-changing environment," Miller said in her address. "More than that, we must lead the charge, so our patients will be best served in the future."