



J. Kevin Dorsey, M.D., Ph.D., and Carl Getto, M.D.

Dean Getto Departs School of Medicine

SIU School of Medicine Dean and Provost Carl J. Getto, M.D., departed the School on Nov. 16 after announcing in August his acceptance of a position at the University of Wisconsin (UW) in Madison. Dr. Getto will assume the position as senior vice president for medical affairs at the UW Hospital and Clinics and associate dean for hospital affairs at the UW Medical School.

“So many good things are coming to fruition at SIU that now is a difficult time to leave,” said Dr. Getto. “I’m proud of what we’ve accomplished in recent years, and there are many good people in leadership positions who will continue these successes.”

SIU President James E. Walker, Ed.D., commended Dr. Getto’s accomplishments. “In his time at SIU, Dr. Getto has moved the School of Medicine forward in many ways, including advancing the role of primary care medicine to better deliver health care to the underserved citizens of central and southern Illinois.”

J. Kevin Dorsey, M.D., Ph.D., is serving as interim dean, and a national search has begun for Dr. Getto’s replacement.

Dr. Getto assumed the position as SIU’s dean in January 1994. He also was a professor of psychiatry and medical humanities. His previous tenure at UW covered 14 years.

Trauma Center Numbers Rise Study Points to More Birth Control Choices

The Southern Illinois Trauma Center (SITC) saw a 32 percent increase in the number of trauma cases treated in its second year. Injuries from motor vehicle collisions, which totaled 630, continue to be the most common ailments.

The SITC team at St. John’s Hospital treated a total of 1,191 patients over the last 11 months (July 2000-May 2001), compared to approximately 900 for the same 11-month period last year at Memorial Medical Center. To meet the growing need for trauma care, the School recruited a second trauma surgeon, John P. Sutyak, M.D., associate professor of surgery and associate director for SITC, who joins William Schiller, M.D., SITC director and professor of surgery.

SITC began providing trauma care for west central and southern Illinois in July 1999. It is a partnership among Memorial, St. John’s and the School of Medicine.

A study published in August in the medical journal *Contraception* finds that Alesse®, a low-dose oral contraceptive, showed no difference in average weight change in women who took the drug compared to women who took a placebo. In addition, the occurrence of estrogen-related side effects commonly associated with oral contraceptives, such as nausea, headaches and breast tenderness, was similar between both groups.

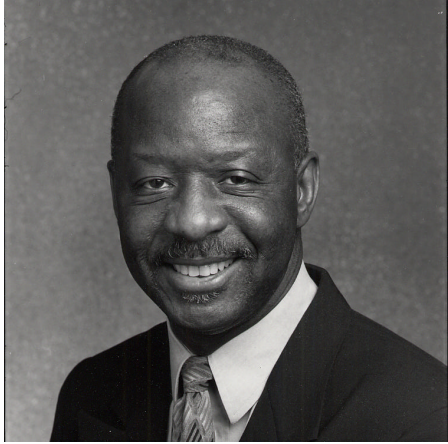
“For the first time, our study confirms that on average, a low-dose oral contraceptive does not cause women to gain weight any more than with a placebo,” explained Ponjola Coney, M.D., professor and chair of obstetrics and gynecology at SIU and lead author of the article.

“This clinical trial is good news for women because it demonstrates that we now have more birth control choices that are effective in preventing pregnancy while also offering other non-contraceptive health benefits such as ability to maintain a level weight,” said Dr. Coney. “In addition, the choice of a low-dose contraceptive resulted in a low occurrence of estrogen-related side effects,” she added.

Coney was one of the investigators in the study, which took place at 32 sites in the U.S., Canada and Australia. Alesse® is manufactured by Wyeth-Ayerst Pharmaceuticals.

New Phone Numbers at SIU

Effective Oct. 8, 2001, phone numbers at SIU School of Medicine in Springfield were changed to the prefix “545.” The last four numbers have remained the same in most cases. This change includes fax numbers. New numbers can be found online under “Directory” at the School’s web site — www.siumed.edu. For questions, contact Gloria Pacha, SIU Information Services at 217-545-1010 or gpacha@siumed.edu.



Wesley G. Robinson-McNeese, M.D.

Diversity Head Named

Wesley G. Robinson-McNeese, M.D., has been named executive assistant to the dean for diversity at the School of Medicine and an associate professor of internal medicine. His duties include working with student, resident and faculty recruitment, as well as providing on-campus support to under-represented minorities.

“Dr. McNeese is a wonderful resource for our students,” said Carl J. Getto, M.D., dean and provost. “The students who have met him are impressed by his student-friendly attitude and his common sense approach to medical education.”

Dr. McNeese earned his medical degree at SIU (1986), where he was class president all four years. He completed his emergency medicine residency at Northwestern University School of Medicine in Chicago (1990). He is certified as a diplomate in emergency medicine by the American College of Emergency Physicians. Dr. McNeese is a member of the medical school’s Alumni Society’s Board of Governors and pastor of the Capital City Church of God in Springfield. He is a native of East St. Louis.

From 1990 to 2001, Dr. McNeese was an emergency medicine physician and served as associate director of emergency medicine (1994-2001) at Riverside Medical Center in Kankakee.

SIU-Hamilton Memorial Partnership Announced

Thanks to a partnership between Hamilton Memorial Hospital in McLeansboro and the School of Medicine, two health care services in Hamilton County are receiving grant funding through the School’s Rural Health Initiative.

“These grants will help provide much needed health care services and equipment for the residents of Hamilton County and the surrounding area,” said Randy Dauby, hospital administrator, announcing the partnership during a news conference in July.

The first grant of \$75,000 has helped the hospital purchase a new ultrasound machine, allowing replacement of a 10-year-old unit and providing patients with a reliable

source for ultrasounds without having to travel 40 to 50 miles. The total cost of the unit was \$131,000. The Hamilton Memorial Hospital Foundation raised the balance.

Estimates indicate that more than 400 patients annually could benefit from the updated unit.

The hospital’s second grant of \$13,752 will be used to provide mental health services at two sites. A social worker will work with patients who come to the hospital’s emergency room for acute care and who also need crisis management services.

Patients interested in more information on either service may contact Randy Dauby at Hamilton Memorial Hospital, 618-643-2361.

SIU Physician Offers Sports Tips for Young Athletes, Parents

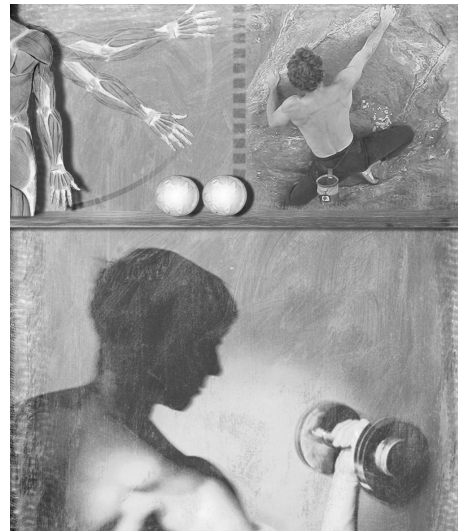
The school year brings a deluge of young athletes’ sports events, and, while the primary focus should be enjoyment for players and their parents, both should remember their basic rights and responsibilities, according to a family practitioner at the School of Medicine in Springfield.

“Children are entitled to a safe environment when playing sports,” explains Cameron C. Olson, M.D., associate professor of family and community medicine at the medical school. “This means equipment should fit appropriately and be of good quality.”

Dr. Olson, who is board certified in family practice and a member of the American College of Sports Medicine, notes, “Children also are entitled to proper coaching and skills development.”

He adds that both parents and coaches should know basic first aid and CPR to ensure the safety of all participants.

With a few basic safety precautions, participating in sports can be a fun and



important part of growing up. “Sports are an excellent outlet for a child’s mental, social and physical development,” says Dr. Olson. “They can instill in children a sense of confidence, accomplishment and team spirit.”

For more information about *In Brief* stories, contact the Office of Public Affairs, SIU School of Medicine, P.O. Box 19621, Springfield, Illinois 62794-9621, 217-545-2155 (office) or 217-545-0580 (fax) or e-mail Nancy S. Zimmers, director of public affairs, at nzimmers@siumedu.edu.