

## Surgery faculty member receives Hubbard Award

Reed G. Williams, Ph.D., received the 2006 John P. Hubbard Award. The award, from the National Board of Medical Examiners, is given to individuals recognized as making significant lifetime contributions to the pursuit of excellence in the field of evaluation in medicine.



Dr. Williams is professor and vice chairman for educational affairs in SIU's Department of Surgery.

In making its selection, the 2006 Hubbard Award Committee noted Dr. Williams' basic measurement work in performance-based testing and focus on assessment of clinical competence, his scientific papers reporting empirical studies of measurement properties of assessment instruments mostly in relation to reliability and validity, the practical application of results of his research, including his pioneering work in use of standardized patients, and his continued studies emphasizing application of direct observation in clinical environments for assessment at the workplace.

Dr. Williams is the third SIU School of Medicine faculty member to receive the honor. Department of Medical Education faculty member Jerry A. Colliver, Ph.D., received the award in 1995. Howard S. Barrows, M.D., former associate dean for educational affairs received the award in

1995. Howard S. Barrows, M.D., former associate dean for educational affairs received the award in

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

## SIU IN THE NEWS



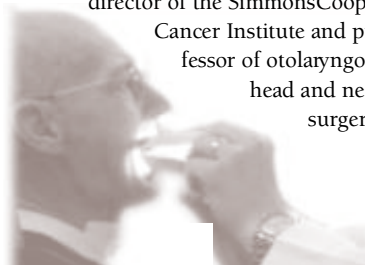
*SIU School of Medicine will be featured in the October issue of Academic Medicine. Coverage includes a cover photograph by James Hawker and a short cover note about the medical school. The journal will be posted online at [www.academicmedicine.org](http://www.academicmedicine.org).*

## Cancer clinical trial pairs drug with therapies

A new clinical trial to treat head and neck cancer in patients is underway at the SimmonsCooper Cancer Institute at SIU. The Tarceva-RADPLAT trial is a phase II study being conducted only at SIU and will involve up to 20 patients. If the treatment is successful, it could expand to a multicenter trial and be studied at other cancer centers around the country.

"This trial is the first worldwide to test the potential benefits of combining a biologic agent with high dose intra-arterial chemotherapy and radiation therapy," says K. Thomas Robbins, M.D.,

director of the SimmonsCooper Cancer Institute and professor of otolaryngology head and neck surgery,



who is co-directing the study.

The co-principal investigator is Krishna A. Rao, M.D., Ph.D., assistant professor of hematology and oncology and also a member of the SimmonsCooper Cancer Institute at SIU. "Tarceva<sup>®</sup> is currently used to treat lung cancers," Dr. Rao explains. "This trial will give us the scientific evidence needed to see if the combination with intra-arterial chemoradiation may work with head and neck cancer and if any adjustments need to be made in the treatment protocol." The intra-arterial approach uses a higher concentration of the drug to reach the tumor.

The FDA has approved Tarceva to treat lung and pancreatic cancer. The hope of this trial is that the drug also will prove a safe treatment for head and neck cancer.

Physicians can refer patients to the Institute's clinical trials office in Springfield, 217-545-7929 weekdays.

Fourteen clinical trials are underway for patients ([www.siumed.edu/cancer](http://www.siumed.edu/cancer)).

## When baby doesn't wake up

Sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS) is the leading cause of death in infants between one month and one year of age and the third leading cause of infant mortality in the United States.

"SIDS is an unexplained cause of death occurring in infants when they are found dead in their crib or other places where they have been sleeping," says Tracy P. Milbrandt, M.D., assistant professor of pediatrics at SIU and one of the physicians at the St. John's Children's Hospital in Springfield.

New findings indicate that a root cause of SIDS may be decreased levels of serotonin, a compound found in human tissue, according to an article in the *Journal of Neuroscience*. The study proposed a link between the decreased serotonin levels and the ability to gasp for air and resuscitate when an infant succumbs to SIDS.

"The authors suggest there is a back-up breathing mechanism in addition to the normal regulatory pattern of breathing. In a baby whose normal auto-regulation is disturbed, the back-up mechanism does not work properly," Dr. Milbrandt says.

Parents can help reduce the risk. "We encourage mothers not to smoke during pregnancy, and there should be no smoking in the home where there is an infant," Dr. Milbrandt notes.

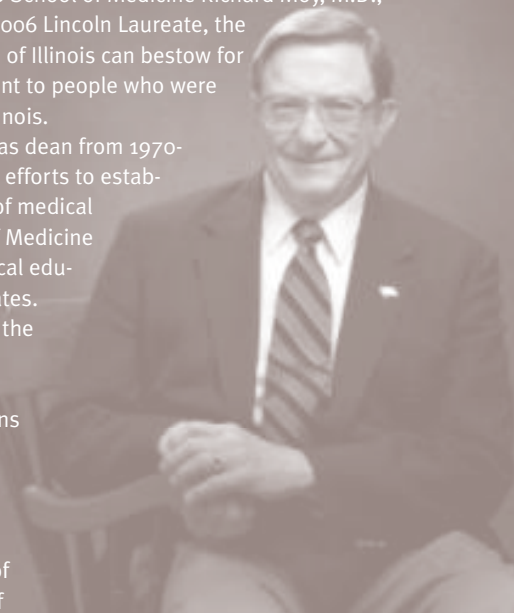
## Founding dean Dr. Moy receives Lincoln Laureate

Founding dean of SIU School of Medicine Richard Moy, M.D., was a recipient of the 2006 Lincoln Laureate, the highest honor the state of Illinois can bestow for outstanding achievement to people who were born or have lived in Illinois.

Dr. Moy, who served as dean from 1970-1993, was noted for his efforts to establish a daring new kind of medical school at SIU School of Medicine and revolutionize medical education in the United States. Dr. Moy was profiled in the Summer 2005 issue of *ASPECTS*.

Outstanding Illinoisans who have excelled in communications, medicine, business, the arts and social service are honored as Laureates of The Lincoln Academy of Illinois.

The Lincoln Academy, unique among the 50 states, was established in 1965 to honor Illinois' most distinguished citizens, either by birth or residence, who have brought honor to the state by their achievements. Other past honorees include John Chancellor, Paul Harvey, Mike Royko, Ann Landers, Lester Crown, Gwendolyn Brooks and Louis "Studs" Terkel.



## Humanities, OB/GYN departments name interim chairs

Sharon K. Hull, M.D., '87, associate professor in medical humanities, has been named interim chair of the medical humanities department. She succeeds Theodore R. LeBlang, J.D., now emeritus professor of law and medicine.

Dr. Hull returned to the medical school's faculty last

fall after completing a two-year primary care research fellowship, a preventive medicine residency and a public health master's degree at the University of North Carolina. She was assistant dean of student affairs in Carbondale (1996-



2003). She was on the SIUC student health program staff (1993-96) and in private practice in Marion (1990-92).

She is board certified in family medicine and

preventive medicine and a fellow of the American Academy of Family Physicians.

William H. Schultz, M.D., professor of obstetrics and gynecology, has been named interim chair of the department.



He replaces Kofi S. Amankwah, M.D., who is retiring.

Dr. Schultz joined the SIU faculty in 2000 after 26 years in private practice in Springfield. He also served on the volunteer teaching staff at SIU (1975-2000). A U.S. Army veteran, Dr. Schultz practiced OB/GYN at Walston Army Hospital in Fort Dix, N.J. (1972-74).

He is certified as a diplomate by the American Board of Obstetrics and Gynecology and is a fellow of the American College of Obstetrics and Gynecology.