

Decker named medical director for Lincoln Prairie

David H. Decker, M.D., assistant professor of psychiatry and chief of SIU's child and adolescent psychiatry division, has been named medical director for the new Lincoln Prairie Behavioral Health Center in Springfield. Dr. Decker oversees the clinical operations of the 80-bed psychiatric hospital for children and adolescents, which opened in May.

"We are very fortunate to have Dr. Decker in this key position because he has spent the majority of his career serving children and adolescents in central and southern Illinois. No one is more attuned to the issues and challenges faced by the youth of our communities," said Scott Viniard, CEO for Lincoln Prairie. "His relationship with SIU's psychiatry department also will give us access to exceptional psychiatric services and create



Dr. Decker

an excellent opportunity for future recruitment." The group provides inpatient and outpatient treatment to children and adolescents as well as consultation services to primary care physicians.

The Department of Psychiatry has started a child psychiatry fellowship, and the first fellow has begun training. The two-year program is accredited to train four physicians in total. Clinical rotations for the fellows will include Lincoln

Prairie and SIU's own clinics as well as consultations as requested at the school's affiliated hospitals, St. John's Hospital and Memorial Medical Center.

"The new fellowship, combined with our partnership with Lincoln Prairie, will help us now respond to the severe shortage of child psychiatrists in downstate Illinois," said Decker. "The range of patient problems that we expect to see at this new facility will help provide a training experience with significant breadth and depth, as we provide the highest quality of care to our patients."

Decker's clinical interests include depressive disorders, attention deficit hyperactivity disorders, and obsessive-compulsive disorder. He is board certified in psychiatry and in child and adolescent psychiatry.

Top 10 in family physicians

The School's Department of Family and Community Medicine has received a "Top Ten Award" from the American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP) as one of the top ten medical schools in the nation for producing family medicine physicians.

The award recognizes SIU's efforts to foster student interest in family medicine and was given at AAFP's annual conference in May. Using a three-year average (2005-07), 18.7 percent of SIU's graduated students have entered accredited family medicine residency programs, the third highest percentage in the country.

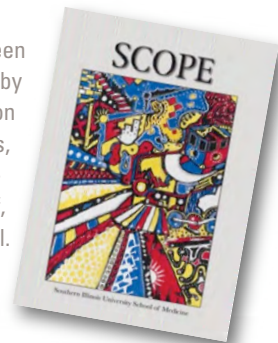
"While SIU graduates enter a variety of medical specialties, we're proud of this recognition of our students who choose family medicine for their life's work," said **J. Kevin Dorsey, M.D., Ph.D.**, SIU's dean and provost. "We know that results like this means there can be even more dedicated SIU family medicine alumni in practice in Illinois."

The family and community medicine specialty emphasizes comprehensive care to individuals and families, with emphasis on health promotion, disease prevention, and care of the acutely and chronically ill. **Amber J. Barnhart, M.D.**, associate professor of family and community medicine and pre-doctoral education director, and **Harald Lausen, D.O.**, assistant professor of family and community medicine and clerkship director, oversee SIU's family medicine training, which occurs in all four years of medical school.

In their third year, SIU medical students work with practicing family physicians in central and southern Illinois. This preceptorship experience lets students work and learn in an office setting under supervision of an experienced physician. The students choose from more than 160 family practice physicians in Illinois for their preceptorship.

SCOPE turns 15

SIU's 15th annual edition of SCOPE literary magazine has been published. Produced each year by SIU medical students, this edition contains 33 short stories, poems, drawings and photographs submitted by students, faculty, staff, alumni and friends of the School. Prizes were awarded to the top three entries in poetry, prose and visual art.



First-place poetry winner was Jan Presley of the Carbondale community for "You Speak of Med School Cadavers." The first-place prose winner was **Blaine Eubanks, M.D.**, '08 for "Eggs." The first-place visual art award was presented to Tomas Schaver, son of **Maggie Schaver**, Neurology, for his painting "Train in the City," featured on the cover.

Second-year medical students **Kaitlin Morton** and **Gina Paulauskis** served as editors-in-chief. Faculty advisors are **Phillip Davis, Ph.D.**, associate professor of medical humanities in Springfield, and **Jacqueline Scolari, Ph.D.**, director of the medical resource center in Carbondale. Staff editors are **Karen Carlson**, **aspects** editor, and **Jim Hawker**, photographer, both external and health affairs.

All editions are available at www.siumed.edu/oec/SCOPE/index.htm. Copies are available by calling Carlson at 217-545-0870 weekdays. Submissions for the 2009 edition will be accepted October through December.

Early detection is key to beating skin cancer

More than one million cases of skin cancer are diagnosed each year in the United States. Skin cancer is primarily caused by overexposure to the ultraviolet rays of the sun as well as from tanning salons. It may be the result of a very bad sunburn years ago or from an accumulation of sun exposure over many years.

“There are three basic types of skin cancer with basal cell carcinoma being the most common. It looks like a waxy nodule on the skin. You can see little blood vessels crossing over it. But it is quite curable,” says

Stephen Stone, M.D., professor of dermatology at SIU.

The second most common type of skin cancer is called squamous cell carcinoma. A red scaly growth that progressively enlarges, Stone says it has a slightly higher risk of spreading to lymph nodes and liver and metastasizing.

The third most common type of skin cancer is malignant melanoma, which is black, brown or multiple colors. It is the most serious kind and can cause death, so it should be removed as soon as possible.

Stone encourages people to do self examinations and have skin screenings to detect skin cancer in its early stages. If you or someone you know has a skin spot that could be cancer, you should see your primary care physician or dermatologist for an evaluation and possible treatment.

Med School honors employees

The School of Medicine has honored two civil service employees and a team in the Department of Psychiatry for exemplary work during employee recognition activities this spring.

Rick Marcum, building service worker in capital planning and service operations, is the 2007 Employee of the Year. His nominators said, “he is exceptionally courteous, respectful and hardworking. He goes the extra mile to do whatever is necessary to keep the facility in the best possible condition.”

Amy Hoffman, charge nurse in the surgery department, is the 2007 Supervisor of the Year. Her nominators said, “she always makes herself available to assist with any issue. She is trustworthy and dedicated and her years of experience at SIU are invaluable.”

This year’s Group Quality Award has been awarded to the Community Support Network (CSN), a program that provides intensive, comprehensive outreach services to severely and persistently mentally ill individuals. CSN’s nominators said, “the group’s efforts enable these individuals [approximately 75] to function in society and decrease their need for hospitalization.” The team is led by **Karen Lee**, CSN executive director, and **Peggy Raabe**, clinical coordinator. The team members include **Chris Aut, Jeffrey Bennett, M.D., Michael Birch, Judith Bly, Mary Corrigan, Juliet Eggemeyer, Abby Fitch, Barbara Nelson, Valerie Rife, Amie Robinson** and **Helen Seymour**, all faculty and staff in the psychiatry department.

The Group Quality Award recognizes a group for their outstanding contributions in delivering service or improving health outcomes or work processes.

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



Above, JoAnn Lemaster, outreach facilitator at St. John's Children's Hospital, gives Gene Jiang information at the Cover the Uninsured Week health fair.

Cover the Uninsured Week

Nearly 47 million Americans, more than 15 percent of the population, were without health insurance in 2007. In recognition of the problem, Southern Illinois University School of Medicine, its affiliated hospitals, Memorial Medical Center and St. John's Hospital, and the Sangamon County Medical Society again joined the national grassroots campaign, Cover the Uninsured Week. The April 27 – May 3 campaign is sponsored by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (www.covertheuninsured.org).

A health fair was offered free to the public at the Boys and Girls Clubs in Springfield. Other activities included a public forum, a Medicine Grand Rounds teaching program, and a recognition luncheon for community agencies.

A volunteer committee, lead by **Janet R. Albers, M.D.**, associate professor of family and community medicine, organized the events.

CME Program reaccredited

The Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME) has awarded accreditation for four years for the School's continuing medical education (CME) program. Accreditation measures the accomplishments of the office and indicates to both physicians and the public that SIU's continuing medical education activities meet ACCME national standards.

SIU's Office of Continuing Medical Education (www.siumed.edu/cme/) is responsible for the organization, development and coordination of continuing education programs both on-campus and off-campus. In FY07, the office organized 82 programs with more than 3,500 registrants.

The CME office supports the continuing professional development of health-care professionals and offers them a full range of educational experiences to enhance their knowledge base, provide updates and review and expand professional skills.