



Kruse named to national post for graduate medical education

Jerry E. Kruse, M.D., professor and chair of family and community medicine, has been named by Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) Michael Leavitt to a four-year term on the Council on Graduate Medical Education (COGME). The 17-member council is authorized by Congress to provide an ongoing assessment of physician workforce trends, training issues and financing policies and to recommend appropriate federal and private-sector efforts to address identified needs. COGME makes recommendations to DHHS, the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions, and the House of Representatives Committee on Commerce.

Kruse joined SIU's faculty at the Quincy Family Practice Residency Program in 1984 and now serves as chair of the family and community medicine department. He completed a Robert Wood Johnson Fellowship in academic family practice and a master's degree in public health at the University of Missouri at Columbia (UMC) (1984). He completed a family medicine residency and earned his medical and bachelor's degrees at UMC (1982, 1979, 1975). Kruse is board certified in family medicine.

Newest SIU medical students begin training

Medical students in the Class of 2012 at SIU started their medical training in August in Carbondale, where they participated in the White Coat Ceremony.

J. Kevin Dorsey, M.D., Ph.D., '78, dean and provost welcomed the students during the ceremony. The president of the School's Alumni Society, **Doug Carlson, M.D., '84**, a pediatrician at Washington University and St. Louis Children's Hospital, handed out the white coats. The students also received the "Compassion, Respect and Integrity" pin from the SIU Foundation.

David S. Resch, M.D., '86, associate professor of internal medicine and psychiatry at SIU, gave the keynote speech. He was the recipient of the School's 2007 Humanism in Medicine Award.

Most of the 77 students are from the southern two-thirds of the state, says **Erik J. Constance, M.D. '88**, associate professor of internal medicine, associate dean of student affairs. There are 42 males and 35 females in the class.

The White Coat Ceremony is designed to establish a "psychological contract for professionalism and empathy" in medicine and is held at most U.S. medical schools each fall.



Dean and Provost J. Kevin Dorsey, M.D., Ph.D., left, and Douglas Carlson, M.D., far right, welcome medical students (from top) Stephanie Gadbois, Steve Gentry, and Luke Freiburg.

Mentor of the Year

Rebecca Hartman, M.D., was recognized as the "Mentor of the Year" for her work as a volunteer mentor to SIU's first-year medical students in



Carbondale. SIU provides the clinical mentor program for its first-year students.

The award was presented during the annual White Coat Ceremony. The class of 2011 selected her for the honor.

The medical student nominating Hartman wrote "She has a sweet and friendly disposition that was comforting not only to her patients but also to the anxious beginning medical student. She enjoys teaching and helping students know what is important. She is an exceptional mentor who provided me with an invaluable experience."

A gynecologist, Hartman is based at New Horizons Group Practice in Carbondale.

Sixty area physicians served as mentors this last school year. Hartman was one of 20 nominated for recognition.

SIU faculty physicians named “Best Doctors”

Twenty-six faculty physicians at SIU School of Medicine are included in Best Doctors® in America 2007-2008 database. Best Doctors includes more than 40,000 U.S. physicians, chosen by peer-review and representing the top five percent of physicians in more than 400 medical subspecialties. The SIU physicians included are:

Dr. Daniel G. Batton, professor of pediatrics and chief of the neonatology division; **Dr. Carol A. Bauer**, associate professor of otolaryngology head and neck surgery; **Dr. Lucinda S. Buescher**, associate professor of dermatology; **Dr. Robert A. Buzzell**, assistant professor of dermatology; **Dr. Lanie E. Eagleton**, professor emeritus of pulmonary and critical care medicine; **Dr. Rodger J. Elble, Ph.D.**, professor and chair of neurology; **Dr. Jonathan N. Goldfarb**, associate professor and division chief of dermatology; **Dr. Stephen R. Hazelrigg**, professor and division chair of cardiothoracic surgery; **Dr. Jerry E. Kruse**, professor and chair of family and community medicine; **Dr. Wilfred Lam**, professor of cardiology; **Dr. J. Ricardo Loret de Mola**, associate professor and chair of obstetrics and gynecology; **Dr. Mark McAndrew**,

professor of orthopaedic and rehabilitation surgery; **Dr. Patrick H. McKenna**, professor and division chair of urology; **Dr. Michael W. Neumeister**, professor and division chair of plastic surgery; **Dr. Cameron C. Olson**, associate professor of family and community medicine; **Dr. Michael Pranzatelli**, professor of pediatrics and neurology and division chief of child neurology; **Dr. Jan Rakinic**, associate professor of general surgery; **Dr. K. Thomas Robbins**, professor of otolaryngology head and neck surgery and director of the SimmonsCooper Cancer Institute at SIU; **Dr. Leonard P. Rybak, Ph.D.**, professor of otolaryngology head and neck surgery and SIU Distinguished Scholar; **Dr. David E. Steward**, professor and chair of internal medicine; **Dr. Stephen P. Stone**, professor of dermatology; **Dr. Theodore R. Sunder**, professor of child neurology; **Dr. Thomas Tarter**, associate professor of urology; **Dr. Andrew J. Varney**, associate professor of general internal medicine; **Dr. Gayle Woodson**, professor and chair of otolaryngology head and neck surgery; and **Dr. Casey Younkin**, associate professor and division chief of general obstetrics and gynecology.

Be vigilant about vaccinations

Getting childhood vaccinations is one of the most important steps parents can take to ensure their children are healthy.

“Vaccines have historically been one of the most amazing public health endeavors ever. Many life-threatening illnesses that once weighed heavily on the minds of parents and pediatricians are now being fought proactively rather than in a reactive manner thanks to these vaccines,” says **Craig Batterman, M.D.**, assistant professor of pediatrics at SIU. The Center for Disease Control and Prevention has reported that vaccine-preventable disease levels are now at near record lows in the United States.

Although vaccines are a safe and effective

way to reduce the risk of potentially fatal diseases, Batterman says that there tends to be an inconsistent understanding of the importance of immunizations. As certain diseases become less visible, some parents may feel vaccinations are no longer needed. But he warns that those diseases haven’t gone away and parents need to remain vigilant.

“If we do not vaccinate our children, we are relying on those around us to get their children vaccinated and provide some kind of secondary immunity to those who do not get their vaccines,” Dr. Batterman cautions.

Warning signs for ovarian cancer

Ovarian cancer is the seventh most common cancer among women and is often not diagnosed until it is in an advanced stage of the disease.

About 25,000 women are diagnosed with ovarian cancer each year.

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Although no screening test has been developed, warning signs for ovarian cancer now have been determined, according to **Gary Johnson, M.D.**, professor of obstetrics and gynecology and chief of the gynecologic oncology division at SIU.

“Some common symptoms include abdominal bloating, increase in abdominal girth, changes in both bowel and bladder habits, and more specifically some element of involuntary loss of urine, and sometimes abdominal or pelvic discomfort or pelvic pain,” explains Dr. Johnson, who is director of the Gynecologic Oncology Clinic at the SimmonsCooper Cancer Institute at SIU.

After ovarian cancer is diagnosed, it is usually treated with a combination of surgery and chemotherapy. When it is detected early, survival rates have improved.

“Risk factors include a woman’s family history. If she has a first-degree relative, a mother or sister, with a diagnosis of ovarian cancer, that certainly adds to the element of risk,” Dr. Johnson adds.

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