

School of Medicine History

We're guided by a clear mandate.

SIU School of Medicine is guided by our mission to assist the people of central and southern Illinois in meeting their present and future health needs through education, patient care, research and service to the community. We work to train caring and competent physicians, to develop new models for providing health care in rural areas, and to provide a clinical practice focused on the health care needs of central and southern Illinois. The School is part of Southern Illinois University Carbondale.

Beginning in 1970, our founding dean, Richard H. Moy, M.D., and newly recruited department chairs and clinical, basic science and medical education faculty literally created the School's innovative competency-based curriculum.

After the School received provisional accreditation in 1972, the members of the charter class began their studies in Carbondale in June 1973. Full accreditation came in 1975, followed that same year by the first commencement of 24 advanced-standing students and in 1976 by the graduation of 43 students in the charter class. Since then, classes have graduated every spring, bringing the total in 2009 to 2,269 new physicians.

Today, the School encompasses a complete sequence of programs beginning with undergraduate medical education and progressing through residency training and continuing education for practicing physicians. J. Kevin Dorsey, M.D., Ph.D., was named our third dean and provost in 2001.

Using existing University and community resources in Carbondale and Springfield, the School has grown rapidly. In Carbondale, home of our parent campus,

the faculty deliver the basic science curriculum using various science facilities. Springfield, 170 miles to the north, is the site of the remaining three years of undergraduate curriculum and 14 residency programs, a basic science and clinical faculty of 300-some, and the School's central administration. Approximately 760 downstate physicians serve as volunteer and part-time faculty for both locations.

In 2007, we received full accreditation for another eight years from the Liaison Committee on Medical Education, the maximum length of accreditation awarded. The LCME report highlighted the national prominence of our problem-based learning curriculum and the supportive relationship we have with our two teaching hospitals in Springfield, Memorial Medical Center and St. John's Hospital.

The School has grown to one of the largest local employers, offering considerable medical expertise and playing a big role in Springfield as a medical destination. An area in the city for a Medical District, which includes the medical school, has been established to advance activities in research and patient care. The Mid-Illinois Medical District will develop facilities and undertake projects to advance the city's position as a medical center of excellence. www.midillinoismedicaldistrict.org.

The School is funded by state appropriations, clinical income, research grants, tuition, service contracts and philanthropic gifts. Our total annual budget is approximately \$138 million (FY09); about 31 percent is from state appropriations.



*The Harbinger of Good Will
in the School's Springfield courtyard*

Our emphasis on outreach and service has focused this medical school on growth so that we can continue being a dynamic resource for the people of Illinois.

- The School's facilities include University-owned structures and leased space in our affiliated community hospitals. In Carbondale, most activities are based in Wheeler and Lindegren Halls, Life Science II and III, and Neckers Building. In Springfield, we are located in 21 buildings. The Medical Instructional Facility at 801 N. Rutledge houses many classrooms, laboratories, offices and the medical library. Our clinical offices in Springfield are located primarily in the SIU Clinics/Richard H. Moy Building and the Baylis Medical Building, across from Memorial Medical Center, and in the Pavilion and Carol Jo Vecchie Women and Children's Center, at St. John's Hospital.
- SIU has residency training programs for physicians in 14 specialty areas - dermatology, family medicine, internal medicine, medicine/psychiatry, neurology, obstetrics/gynecology, pediatrics, psychiatry, radiology and five surgery programs that include general surgery, orthopaedic/rehabilitation, otolaryngology, plastic/reconstructive and urology. Our graduate programs lead to master's and doctoral degrees in pharmacology, physiology, and molecular biology, microbiology and biochemistry.
- Patients come from throughout Illinois and the Midwest for a full range of services, including tertiary-level specialty care, provided by our physician practice group, SIU HealthCare, formerly known as SIU Physicians & Surgeons. In FY09, faculty at our various clinical sites had more than 364,000 patient visits.
- A permanent facility in Springfield for the SimmonsCooper Cancer Institute at SIU, dedicated in 2008, was funded by \$21.5 million from the State of Illinois. The Institute is focusing the School's efforts on cancer research, physician and public education, and treatment for patients from across central and southern Illinois and will reach throughout the entire downstate region.
- The Parkinson Center at SIU, one of the national centers of excellence affiliated with the National Parkinson Foundation, and our Center for Alzheimer Disease and Related Disorders have a core faculty of clinicians and researchers in Springfield as well as a network of "primary providers" throughout the state.
- The School of Medicine is a partner with St. John's Hospital in the creation and development of St. John's Children's Hospital, which combines SIU's faculty resources with the pediatric facilities and services of St. John's. It is accredited by the National Association of Children's Hospitals and Related Institutions.
- Designated a Level I trauma center by the Illinois Department of Public Health, the Southern Illinois Trauma Center is a cooperative effort of Memorial Medical Center, St. John's Hospital and the School of Medicine. It began providing trauma care for west central and southern Illinois in July 1999.



Clinical Skills laboratory

- Our research efforts continue to grow and expand, adding to the atmosphere of study and inquiry so important for a medical school. With more than \$22 million in funding and more than 100 research labs in Springfield and Carbondale, many of our research programs are becoming nationally recognized including those in aging, hearing and neuroscience.

While we can point to much of our own growth, we also recognize our many alumni who are in practice and who are helping us meet our mandate to assist the people of Illinois with their health care needs. We have graduates working and teaching throughout the Midwest and the country - we're very pleased with what they've accomplished.

