



## Graduate Medical Education Report to the University of Illinois Board of Trustees

October 7, 2020

### **Introduction**

The University of Illinois College of Medicine is pleased to present this annual report on graduate medical education to the University of Illinois Board of Trustees. Such reporting is in accordance with the accreditation standards of the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME). This report reflects all graduate medical education activities sponsored by the College of Medicine during the July 2019 through June 2020 academic year.

Graduate Medical Education (GME) consists of the post-medical school training of physicians, under supervision, in preparation for independent practice. Medical school graduates first complete a residency program, of three (e.g., internal medicine, pediatrics) to seven (neurosurgery) years' duration, and leading to board eligibility in that specialty. Many then go on to subspecialty fellowship training of one to three additional years, gaining eligibility for additional board certification in a subspecialty (e.g., an internist who completes further training in cardiology).

Each College of Medicine campus maintains accreditation as an independent ACGME Institutional Sponsor for the residency and fellowship programs based at that campus, as the clinical affiliations are unique to each campus and residency rotations are largely confined to the surrounding region. Each campus thus has a separate faculty leader serving as associate dean and ACGME Designated Institutional Official, reporting to the regional dean or, in the case of Chicago, to the College's senior associate dean for educational affairs.

### **Overview of the GME programs at each campus**

#### Chicago

The Chicago campus sponsors 63 ACGME-accredited programs – 25 residencies and 38 fellowships – and in addition oversees a number of additional fellowship programs that are institutionally sponsored, meaning that there is no external body offering accreditation in these disciplines. The Graduate Medical Education Committee in Chicago, led by the associate dean for graduate medical education/ACGME Designated Institutional Official for Chicago, assists the associate dean in maintaining all accreditation and reporting requirements for the ACGME-accredited programs and holds the non-accredited programs to comparable standards as well.

The programs sponsored by the Chicago campus provide clinical experiences within UI Health, the Jesse Brown Veterans Affairs Medical Center, and affiliated institutions across the metropolitan Chicago area; most notably Advocate Christ Medical Center, Advocate Illinois Masonic Medical Center, Advocate Lutheran General Hospital, Mercy Hospital, Mount Sinai Hospital, and John H. Stroger Hospital. As of

June 30, 2019, a master affiliation agreement was signed with OSF Little Company of Mary Hospital, and the first clinical rotations for residents and fellows have begun. All our programs are based at UI Health, with rotations to these other hospitals providing a variety of experiences to complement those at UI Health, with four exceptions:

- The Metro Group Hospitals' general surgery residency and a related surgical critical care fellowship, managed in collaboration with several of our affiliates and distinct from the general surgery program at UI Health;
- A third general surgery program at Mount Sinai Medical Center;
- An internal medicine residency, again separate from the UI Health program, at Advocate Christ Hospital.

Sixty-two of the 63 residency and fellowship programs in Chicago that are subject to accreditation by the Accreditation Council on Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) have maintained continued accreditation, and no individual programs are on probation. The general surgery residency at Mount Sinai Medical Center carried "continued accreditation with warning" status this past academic year (and has since undergone a site visit on September 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2020, with decision pending). The Reproductive Endocrinology and Infertility fellowship program had its accreditation withdrawn at the beginning of the academic year. Following significant discussion with all parties, the decision was made not to appeal the decision. Additionally, the Vascular Interventional Radiology program voluntarily withdrew its status, in keeping with a national shift in the structure for training programs in the field.

Five programs underwent ACGME site visits during the course of the year, resulting in continued accreditation for all. In addition, the College's status as Institutional Sponsor for all ACGME-accredited programs conducted at UI Health and other major affiliates was reaffirmed in January 2020. Three new citations regarding the provision of oversight were received and are actively being addressed or have previously been rectified. (The ACGME will conduct a site visit for Institutional Accreditation on October 13<sup>th</sup>, 2020).

The Graduate Medical Education office took on new leadership in AY 2019-2020. Abigail Litwiller, MD was appointed associate dean for graduate medical education and ACGME Designated Institutional Official in November, succeeding Dr. Henry Dove. Ms. Gia Mac was then appointed senior director of the Office of Graduate Medical Education.

Significant work has been done over the last 10 months to ensure that our programs and institution remain in good standing. Over 11 special reviews of programs have been performed to date, with another ten scheduled for the next two months. The goal of the Special Reviews is to provide support and assistance with continuous quality improvement for programs involved. The Graduate Medical Education Committee (GMEC) was restructured to include two new subcommittees to assist in oversight of programs, as well as the educational programs provided by the GME office: the Annual Oversight Committee (AOC) and Educational Development Subcommittee (EDS), respectively. The Resident Forum was revamped in order to ensure greater resident participation and feedback. The COM Anti-Racism Urgent Action Committee (ARUAC) included a subcommittee for Resident Recruitment and Concerns. The DIO serves as co-chair for the subcommittee which is charged with improving the overall recruitment efforts for underrepresented in medicine candidates through bias mitigation and targeted recruitment, as well as improving the inclusivity of our ongoing work environment through resource development and mentoring.

The Chicago campus programs entered ACGME's Stage 3 pandemic response classification on March 28, 2020. This followed the UIH declaration of emergency status on March 11, 2020 and the cessation of elective cases on March 16, 2020. The Stage 3 response included contraction and cohorting of inpatient services, telehealth outpatient visits, and reassignment of residents and fellows to support COVID-forward services. UIH and several of our affiliates generously provided hazard pay to the residents/fellows. During this period, the associate dean/DIO held weekly calls with program directors for well-being checks of programs, faculty, and learners and systematic updates of hospital and program response, and additional meetings with department heads, program directors, and chief residents leading the frontline response to ensure proper oversight as it relates to resident coverage. The intensive efforts at UIH to provide real-time education and updates through in-person/virtual training, an intranet page dedicated to COVID-19, daily COVID-19 updates, well-being resources and a COVID-19 Social-Emotional Resources Guide were also routinely shared with residents, program coordinators, and program directors. The Stage 3 pandemic response ended on May 25, 2020. Programs continue to adapt to the ongoing challenges that the COVID pandemic has brought to our training institutions.

#### Peoria:

The University Of Illinois College Of Medicine campus at Peoria now sponsors 20 ACGME accredited programs – 13 residencies and 7 fellowships. All programs, with the exception of those with initial accreditation status, are fully accredited with no encumbrances. In addition, the campus oversees 4 additional fellowships not eligible for ACGME accreditation. These fellowships are in the areas of family medicine obstetrics, emergency medicine ultrasound, breast imaging, and simulation.

Francis J. McBee-Orzulak, MD was named associate dean for graduate medical education and ACGME Designated Institutional Official for the Peoria campus in fall 2019, succeeding Thomas Santoro, MD. The College's collaboration with its two major clinical affiliates - Unity Point Methodist Medical Center (psychiatry and family medicine) and OSF St Francis Health Care (all other disciplines) – is overseen by the Joint Oversight Committee for Academic Programs (JOCAP). Both clinical affiliates are co-located with the College of Medicine buildings in central Peoria, and strongly committed to the educational mission of the College.

The vascular and interventional radiology fellowship is closing, effective July 2020, and has been replaced by an independent interventional radiology residency. This is in keeping with a national shift in the structure for training programs in the field. Two new fellowships - in neonatology, and pediatric hospital medicine – have received initial ACGME accreditation and are recruiting fellows to begin July 2021.

Two additional new programs are planned, a fellowship in pediatric critical care medicine at OSF St. Francis Medical center, and a second family medicine residency. The latter will be based at OSF, within the Department of Family Medicine and in partnership with OSF St. Joseph Medical Center in Bloomington. The pediatric critical care fellowship application is in process and recruitment of a program director for the new family medicine program is underway.

#### Rockford

The Rockford campus sponsors three family medicine residency programs and one fellowship in hospice and palliative care medicine. The largest of the three residencies is based at Swedish American Hospital in Rockford; the second program utilizes Swedish American Hospital for the first residency year with the final two years based at Katherine Shaw Bethea Hospital in Dixon, Illinois. A third program, a rural

training track based in Monroe, Wisconsin and modeled on the Dixon program with its initial year based at Swedish American, holds initial accreditation status from both ACGME and the American Osteopathic Association.

Swedish American Hospital served a large number of critically ill COVID-19 patients this spring, and the core family medicine residency program in Rockford spent approximately five weeks at Pandemic Stage 3, ending June 7. These residents participated in augmented coverage for the Intensive Care Unit. The hospice and palliative medicine service was also instrumental in assisting the COVID unit care teams, patients and families. While the two rural programs cared for a relatively small number of COVID-19 patients, all were involved in emergency planning at their hospitals and clinics. Telemedicine, screening tent planning and resident reassignments took place during the peak pandemic challenges.

### **Recruitment outcomes for the 2019-2020 residency and fellowship application cycle**

The National Resident Matching Program (NRMP) is the principal source for recruitment of trainees. During the 2019-2020 recruitment cycle (i.e., those trainees who began our programs in late June 2020), all positions offered through the match filled. Several preliminary surgery one-year positions in Chicago and in Peoria were not offered in the Match and filled independently.

### **Summary**

The graduate medical education programs sponsored by the College of Medicine across the Chicago, Peoria, and Rockford campuses are thriving. These programs are essential to the educational, clinical and service missions of the College of Medicine, UI Health, our clinical partners in Peoria and Rockford, and the University of Illinois. Together, we have built the foundation for high quality health care throughout the state: Over 40% of the physicians currently licensed in the State of Illinois received their MD degree and/or completed postgraduate training in our programs.

We are grateful to UI Health, the Jesse Brown VA Medical Center, and all our clinical affiliates across the state for their commitments to our programs and trainees. We are committed to the work of continuous quality improvement in our GME programs to continue serve as destination sites for future learners.

Respectfully submitted,

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