

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

**Academic Year 2023-2024**

Submitted October 8, 2024

## 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). The present report reflects all graduate medical education activities sponsored by the College of Medicine during the July 2023 through June 2024 academic year.

Graduate Medical Education (GME) consists of the post-medical school training of physicians, practicing under supervision, in preparation for board certification and independent practice. Medical school graduates first complete a residency program three years (e.g., internal medicine, pediatrics) to seven years (neurosurgery) in duration, 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 of the College of Medicine campuses – at Chicago, Peoria, and Rockford – are separately accredited as ACGME Institutional Sponsoring Institutions for the residency and fellowship programs based at that campus. Each campus thus has a separate faculty leader serving as associate dean and ACGME Designated Institutional Official (DIO), reporting to the regional dean or, in the case of Chicago, to the College’s senior associate dean for educational affairs.

## Annual summary of the GME programs at each campus

### Chicago

The Chicago campus sponsors 63 ACGME-accredited programs – 25 residencies and 38 fellowships, with a total of 776 trainees currently enrolled – and oversees 52 additional fellowship programs that are either accredited by other bodies (including 3 accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation) or institutionally sponsored, meaning that there is no external body offering accreditation in these disciplines. The Office of Graduate Medical Education is housed within the University of Illinois Hospital & Clinics (UI Hospital) and led by Gia Mac, senior director, graduate medical education.

The programs sponsored by the Chicago campus provide clinical experiences within UI Hospital, 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, Mount Sinai Hospital, OSF Little Company of Mary Hospital, and John H. Stroger Hospital of Cook County. The rotations at these other hospitals provide a variety of experiences to complement those at UI Hospital, which serves as the primary site for all programs except for two surgery residencies, one managed by the Metro Group Hospitals (MGH) system and one based at Mount Sinai Medical Center, as well as a critical care surgery fellowship at Advocate Illinois Masonic Medical Center. The MGH program is being phased out, following the 2021 sale of Mercy Hospital and Medical Center, which had been a major rotation site, and its remaining component sites Advocate Illinois Masonic and Presence Saint Francis Hospital are being progressively incorporated into our main general surgery residency program based at UI Hospital. This transition will be complete as of 2026.

All 63 residency and fellowship programs in Chicago that are subject to accreditation by the ACGME carry Continued Accreditation or Initial Accreditation status without any adverse action. However, two programs - the UI Hospital General Surgery Program and the MGH General Surgery Program - received Continued Accreditation with Warning status in AY 2023-24. Both programs have undergone a Special Review (an intramural process conducted through the GME Committee), and the Academic Oversight Committee is closely monitoring their progress; both demonstrated significant improvements in the ACGME survey scores for 2023-2024. The anesthesiology, neurology, obstetrics and gynecology, and urology programs, which previously had Accreditation with Warning, received Continued Accreditation in 2023-2024.

A new fellowship in neurology critical care received initial accreditation in April 2024. A new application for a combined family medicine/psychiatry program was approved by the American Board of Family Medicine and the American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology and will be one of only seven such programs in the nation.

The Office of Graduate Medical Education continued its series of seminars on professional development topics for faculty, program coordinators, and trainees and a retreat focused on resident feedback, with an emphasis on learners who are not meeting expectations.  The associate dean/DIO also led the formation of a new Professionalism Committee within the structure of the institutional Graduate Medical Education Committee. To date, the new committee has drafted a Professionalism Statement outlining the expectations of trainees and providing examples of professional and unprofessional behavior and has begun an educational series for residents’ executive function skills. The committee is also working to expand UI Hospital’s Co-worker Observation Reporting System (CORS) to include residents. CORS is an evidence-based tool and process that helps organizations address professionals who threaten quality, safety, and risk through unprofessional behaviors.

In AY 2023-24, UI Hospital and the Chicago campus of the College of Medicine entered the third and final year of support from Blue Cross Blue Shield of Illinois through its Health Equity Hospital Quality Incentive Pilot Program. This program has two main aims, one focusing on reducing inequities in the provision of health care across the State of Illinois and the other aiming to increase the recruitment, support, and retention within Illinois of physicians from racial and ethnic groups under-represented in medicine. The GME office is heavily involved in this effort, providing workshops on holistic residency selection practices for program directors and members of residency selection committees. Through this program, and other diversity initiatives such as the ACGME Equity MattersTM program, we have significantly narrowed the diversity gap between the composition of our GME trainee cohort and population data for our Primary Service Area. Among the residents newly recruited to our programs this year, 10% identify as Black/African American and 9.8% as Hispanic/Latino, maintaining the advances made over the last two years.

We continue efforts to provide Safe Zone training for all faculty and residents. Safe Zone training is designed to educate individuals on LGBTQ awareness and allyship. The goal is to educate faculty and residents on creating an inclusive environment for our LGBTQ+ patients and colleagues.

Our Services for Enrichment and Educational Development (SEED) program continues to receive considerable attention following several presentations at regional and national professional meetings, with requests from other institutions for assistance in adopting this model. SEED helps guide residency and fellowship programs in creating and implementing performance improvement plans for learners not meeting expectations and provides faculty development for faculty on teaching and evaluations.

### Peoria

The University of Illinois College of Medicine campus at Peoria now sponsors 23 ACGME accredited programs – 14 residencies and 8 fellowships - with a total of 377 trainees currently enrolled. This includes a new Anesthesiology program developed with OSF St. Francis Medical Center, which matriculated its first residents in late June 2024. All programs, aside from those with initial accreditation status, are fully accredited. In addition, the campus oversees 6 additional fellowships not eligible for ACGME accreditation; these include fellowships in family medicine obstetrics, emergency medicine ultrasound, breast imaging, simulation, surgery acute care, and oncology hospitalist medicine. The ACGME conducts site visits of each Sponsoring Institution on a ten-year cycle; the Peoria campus underwent its site visit in June and is awaiting the ACGME’s decision.

The College’s educational collaboration with its major clinical affiliates – Carle Health Methodist (psychiatry and family medicine), OSF St Joseph Medical Center (family medicine), and OSF St Francis Medical Center (all other disciplines) – is overseen by our Joint Oversight Committee for Academic Programs (JOCAP). Carle Health Methodist and OSF St Francis Medical Center are co-located with the College of Medicine buildings in central Peoria. St Joseph Medical Center is located in Bloomington. We are now partnering with OSF St. Mary Medical Center in Galesburg to open a rural obstetrics focused Family Medicine residency with a target of opening the program for academic year 2026-27. All of our affiliates are strongly committed to the educational mission of the College.

The first class of 12 trainees completed the Academic Clinical Educator Track, a year-long longitudinal educational program for trainees interested in academic careers. This program recruits from all Peoria GME programs and focuses on further development of skills necessary to have a successful career in academic medicine.

Simulation has become a key modality for medical education and as the need for high quality simulation has increased, we have outgrown the size of our simulation education team in Peoria. In light of this, we are increasing the size of the team and restructuring it to better meet the needs of our trainees.

Based on the annual resident and faculty surveys, GME in Peoria is focused on 3 areas for improvement for the upcoming academic year: the process for confidentially submitting concerns without fear of retaliation, the impact of other learners on education, and loss of information during transitions of care. For the submissions of concerns process several areas of need were identified including definition of confidential or anonymous reporting, improved transparency of process, improved tracking of issues, and regular reporting of issues to GMEC and JOCAP. Initial investigation of the impact of other learners shows that the primary impact is from learners in advanced practice provider fellowships in intensive care units. We are partnering with the academic leaders from these hospital-based programs to seek solutions. Finally, we are partnering with health system quality improvement and patient safety programs to address the issues around loss of information during patient transfers.

### Rockford

The University of Illinois College of Medicine Rockford (UICOM Rockford) sponsors three ACGME-accredited training programs - two family medicine residency programs and one hospice and palliative medicine fellowship. A new headache medicine fellowship, affiliated with the Rockford family medicine residency, received provisional accreditation for three years from the United Council for Neurologic Subspecialties and anticipates full accreditation in 2025. All programs are in good standing and without warnings or citations. In total, UICOM Rockford currently trains thirty residents and one fellow. The Hospice and Palliative Medicine program is on hiatus pending the recruitment of a new program director.

The Department of Family and Community Medicine has received a grant from the Winnebago County Mental Health Board to establish an addiction medicine fellowship. The ACGME application for the program is complete and will be submitted when the ongoing search for a program director is completed. We anticipate enrollment of the first fellow in 2026.

The UICOM Rockford Dixon Rural Training Track residency’s primary training hospital, KSB Hospital, has been acquired by OSF HealthCare. The acquisition will be finalized within the next few months. The residency has been reassured that graduate medical education is a high priority for OSF and that the operations of the program will remain stable for the foreseeable future. All other family medicine residencies and fellowships are funded by UW Health SwedishAmerican Hospital.

The Rockford campus continues to distinguish itself through innovative programs designed to train clinicians for comprehensive family medicine practice in rural and underserved areas of the state and region. In addition to an advanced obstetrical training track begun a few years ago, we now also offer an Integrated Family Medicine program to Rockford campus medical students. Three students have been accepted this year for the program, which assures a place in the Rockford family medicine residencies upon medical school graduation. While in medical school they will be provided 20 longitudinal sessions in continuity clinic, a sub-I rotation, and a faculty/resident mentorship program before joining the 2028 residency class through National Resident Matching Program.

## Recruitment outcomes for the 2022-2023 residency and fellowship application cycle

The National Resident Matching Program (NRMP) is the principal source for recruitment of our trainees. During the 2023-2024 recruitment cycle (i.e., those trainees who began our programs in late June 2024) all positions offered through the match were filled. Several preliminary surgery and preliminary medicine one-year positions in Chicago were not offered in the Match and filled independently.

## Summary

We are pleased to report the continued success of our graduate medical education programs in recruiting and supporting nearly 1200 physicians-in-training across our three campuses. With a new family medicine residency in Bloomington and one planned in Galesburg we are attending to the need for more primary care physicians across Illinois. We continue to attend to the needs of our diverse and in many instances historically underserved patients through holistic and mission-based recruitment practices. We continue to emphasize excellence as well as educational innovation, through new programs such as the Academic Clinical Educator track in Peoria, the Integrated Family Medicine program in Rockford, and the integrated family medicine/psychiatry program in Chicago.

These programs are essential to the educational, clinical, and service missions of the College of Medicine, UI Hospital, our clinical partners in Peoria and Rockford, and the University of Illinois. Together, we provide a solid foundation for the assurance of high-quality health care throughout the state. We are grateful to UI Hospital, the Jesse Brown VA Medical Center, and all our clinical affiliates across the state for their commitment to our programs and trainees. We continue to work with them to help ensure the future of medical care for the people of Illinois.

Respectfully submitted,

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