Reported to the Board of Trustees

November 16, 2023



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

**Academic Year 2022-2023**

Submitted October 9, 2023

# 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 2022 through June 2023 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 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).

The three 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 771 trainees currently enrolled – and oversees 40 additional fellowship programs that are institutionally sponsored, meaning that there is no external body offering accreditation in these disciplines. The Office of Graduate Medical Education is housed within UI Health and led by Gia Mac, senior director, graduate medical education.

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, 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 Health, which serves as the primary site for all programs except two surgery residencies, one managed by the Metro Group Hospitals (MGH) system and one based at Mount Sinai 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 will be incorporated into our main general surgery residency program based at UI Health.

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, four programs -the neurology, urology, anesthesiology, and obstetrics and gynecology programs - received Continued Accreditation with Warning status in AY 2022-23. All four programs have undergone a Special Review (an intramural process conducted through the GME Committee), and the Academic Oversight Committee is closely monitoring their progress; all four demonstrated improvements in the ACGME survey scores for 2022-2023. The neurosurgery program, which previously had probationary status, had a follow-up ACGME site visit in December 2022 and received Continued Accreditation with Commendation. A new neurology department fellowship in epilepsy received initial accreditation in May 2023.

To address the annual resident and faculty surveys, programs with citations, and as part of the action plan of the Annual Institutional Review, the GME office conducted ten Special Reviews of programs, participated in the Medical Staff Executive Committee meetings, and met with hospital and department leadership to address areas for improvement of the trainees’ experience. To accommodate the increased number of special reviews, the Graduate Medical Education Committee Increased the frequency of meetings of its Academic Oversight Committee, which oversees the Special Review Process.

Other initiatives aimed at continuous improvement of patient care and of the graduate medical education learning environment include a continuing series of seminars on professional development topics for faculty, program coordinators, and trainees and two retreats focused on teaching and supervision. The Fall 2022 retreat focused on expectations of communication and supervision of residents and fellows, including how to balance supervision with autonomy. The Spring 2023 retreat focused on best practices for evaluations and feedback. It included presentations on how to teach effectively briefly and daily and set goals and provide feedback for procedures.

Last year’s report noted that the Service Employees International Union (SEIU) and its subsidiary Committee on Interns and Residents (CIR) had been seeking to organize the Chicago campus residents and fellows employed by the Board of Trustees, and that negotiation of an initial collective bargaining agreement had begun in February 2022. On February 6, 2023, after 26 bargaining sessions with the CIR, a tentative agreement was reached; it was then was ratified later that month. The DIO, assistant deans of GME, and senior director of GME were part of the bargaining team. This process gave our Institution new, in-depth insight into the needs of trainees.

In AY 2022-23, UI Health and the Chicago campus of the College of Medicine entered the third year of support from Blue Cross Blue Shield of Illinois through its Health Equity Hospital Quality Incentive Pilot Program. This three-year 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, creating a new resident-faculty Diversity Council under the leadership of Assistant Dean Keia Hobbs, MD, and providing workshops on holistic residency selection practices for program directors and members of residency selection committees.

Other diversity initiatives include the ACGME Equity MattersTM program, which supplies a framework for continuous learning and process improvement in the areas of diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) and anti-racism practice. As part of this program, the GME leadership team has continued to provide educational sessions on holistic review to the leadership of each training program. These efforts have begun to significantly narrow the diversity gap between the composition of our GME trainee cohort and population data for our Primary Service Area and were presented at the ACGME’s first annual Equity Matters Symposium in December.

The Institution implemented mandatory 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.

In AY2022-2023, the GME Office added academic skills specialist services to aid struggling learners, guide programs in creating and implementing learner's performance improvement plans and provide faculty development on teaching and evaluations. Dr. Adrienne Williams joined the GME office to lead these efforts. Dr. Michelle Barnes also joined the GME Office as assistant dean for graduate medical education. This position focuses on accreditation and compliance and leads the Special Review process.

**Peoria**

The University of Illinois College of Medicine campus at Peoria now sponsors 23 ACGME accredited programs – 15 residencies and 8 fellowships), with a total of 331 trainees currently enrolled. This includes a new regional Family Medicine Program developed with OSF St. Joseph Hospital in Bloomington, which matriculated its first residents in July 2023. All programs, aside from those with initial accreditation status, are fully accredited. In addition, the campus oversees 4 additional fellowships not eligible for ACGME accreditation; these include fellowships in family medicine obstetrics, emergency medicine ultrasound, breast imaging, and simulation. The ACGME conducts site visits of each Institutional Sponsor on a ten-year cycle; the Peoria campus is now preparing for its site visit which is due to take place in 2024.

One of our affiliates, Methodist Hospital, joined Carle Health and is now Carle Health Methodist. The College’s educational collaboration with its two 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 the Joint Oversight Committee for Academic Programs (JOCAP). Two of the clinical affiliates are co-located with the College of Medicine buildings in central Peoria. St Joseph Medical Center is located in Bloomington. All of our affiliates are strongly committed to the educational mission of the College.

GME at the Peoria Campus developed a new centrally administered wellbeing curriculum in partnership with the Center for Wellbeing and Department of Psychiatry. The curriculum delivers 4 wellbeing focused educational activities for each program, an annual GME Leadership retreat, quarterly wellbeing events for program leadership, and a quarterly wellbeing newsletter. Peoria GME also launched a dashboard to assess program performance. The dashboard serves the primary functions of program improvement, identifying best practices and identifying programmatic and institutional trends. The topics for the dashboard are program demographics, duty hour violations, results of the resident and faculty ACGME surveys, accreditation status, board pass rate, scholarly activity, and results of the ACGME wellness survey.

Applications were submitted to the ACGME for two new programs: A residency program in anesthesiology and a fellowship in gynecologic oncology, both in partnership with OSF St Francis Medical Center.

**Rockford**

The University of Illinois College of Medicine at 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. All programs are in good standing and without citations. Sponsorship of the Monroe Clinic Rural Training Track in family medicine transitioned from UICOMR to the University of Wisconsin in July 2023 to align with all other programs in the SSM health system, which recently acquired Monroe Clinic.

The new Headache Medicine Fellowship graduated its first fellow in July 2023. The fellowship is a one-year training in the pathophysiology, recognition, and management of headache and associated disorders. The Department of Family and Community Medicine received a grant from the Winnebago County Mental Health Board to establish an addiction medicine fellowship. Planning for the program and the recruitment for a program director are underway with anticipated fellow enrollment in 2025 – 2026.

Two Rockford family medicine program graduates this year were the first to complete the HRSA-funded STRETCH-OB (Structured Training for Rural Enhancement of Community Health in Obstetrics) training track for residents planning to practice obstetrics in rural communities. This enhanced curriculum offers training in operative obstetrical techniques and complex obstetrical care management.

The UICOMR Dixon Rural Training Track residency earned Patient-Centered Medical Home (PCMH) recognition by the NCQA. The PCMH designation awards group practices that are team-based and employ evidence-based approaches to care to achieve successful outcomes for their patients. Our primary care programs prepare the trainees for full scope comprehensive practice that is efficient and effective.

The quality of our family medicine training programs is exemplified by honors received by two faculty this year. Joseph Ross, MD was named the Illinois Academy of Family Physicians (IAFP) 2022 Physician of the Year, and Rhonda Verzal, MD was recognized as IAFP’s Family Medicine Teacher of the Year.

# 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 2022-2023 recruitment cycle (i.e., those trainees who began our programs in late June 2023) all positions offered through the match were filled. Several preliminary surgery and preliminary medicine one-year positions in Chicago and preliminary surgery positions in Peoria were not offered in the Match and filled independently.

# Summary

The graduate medical education programs sponsored by the College of Medicine across our three campuses continue to thrive. 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 provide a strong foundation for the assurance of high quality health care throughout the state.

We are grateful to UI Health, 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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