



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

Academic Year 2020-2021

October 11, 2021

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 2020 through June 2021 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, 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).

Three 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, reporting to the regional dean or, in the case of Chicago, to the College's senior associate dean for educational affairs. As of 2019, the Carle Foundation serves as the ACGME Institutional Sponsor for those residency programs previously sponsored by the College of Medicine's Urbana campus.

Annual summary of the GME programs at each campus

Chicago

The Chicago campus sponsors 60 ACGME-accredited programs – 24 residencies and 36 fellowships – and oversees a number of 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. 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 the exceptions of 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, and an additional general surgery program based at Mount Sinai Medical Center.

There were multiple structural changes in the College's clinical affiliations during the year. Mercy Hospital and Medical Center, a valued clinical affiliate of the College of Medicine since 1970, was sold in May 2021. In anticipation of its potential complete closure, and given that the new ownership does not have experience managing a full-service general hospital or teaching hospital, alternative sites for the residency programs most affected (emergency medicine, radiology, and the Metro Group Hospital general surgery program) were negotiated and put into place prior to the hospital sale. The resulting realignment serves very well the needs of the College of Medicine, our GME programs, UI Health, and our remaining affiliated hospitals, most notably OSF Little Company of Mary and the Advocate Aurora Health system. Another change, unrelated to the Mercy Hospital sale, was the transfer of ACGME sponsorship of the internal medicine residency based at Advocate Christ Medical Center to Advocate Aurora, effective July 2021. Finally, UI Health continues to have low pediatric inpatient volumes, therefore the Pediatrics training program added rotations at Advocate Children's Hospital Park Ridge and Advocate Children's Hospital in Oak Lawn.

The ACGME conducted a site visit to review the institutional accreditation of the Chicago campus in October 2020; this resulted in renewed continued accreditation with the resolution of all previous citations and only one new minor citation. The next full periodic institutional accreditation survey will take place in 2028. Seven training programs had ACGME site visits. All 60 residency and fellowship programs in Chicago that are subject to accreditation by the ACGME have maintained continued accreditation; one, the neurosurgery residency, is currently carrying "continued accreditation with probation" status following a site visit this past year. A focused internal special review was conducted October 6, 2021, and another ACGME site visit for the program will occur in Fall/Winter 2021. The neurosurgery program leadership and the GME office continue to work closely together to monitor areas for improvement and its ongoing efforts to remove the probation from its continued accreditation status. The AY2020-2021 Resident Survey scores demonstrated marked improvement and are significantly closer to most ACGME accredited neurological surgery programs. The general surgery residency at Mount Sinai Medical Center had previously carried "continued accreditation with warning" status; the warning designation was removed in September 2020 after a follow-up site visit.

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 14 special reviews of programs, participated in the Medical Staff Executive Committee meetings, and met with ambulatory and department leadership to address areas for improvement of the trainees' experience. Furthermore, a series of seminars in professional development topics for faculty, program coordinators, and trainees was implemented. The sessions address areas such as Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion; Health Care Quality; Patient Safety; Professionalism; Supervision; Teaming; and Well-Being. Lastly, GME worked closely with Risk Management to increase residents' participation in patient safety efforts, including the development of the Resident Risk and Patient Safety Committee.

In April 2021, the university was notified that the Service Employees International Union (SEIU) and its subsidiary Committee on Interns and Residents (CIR) had filed a petition with the Illinois Educational Labor Relations Board, on behalf of and seeking to organize the Chicago campus residents and fellows

employed by the Board of Trustees. As of this writing, the appropriate bargaining unit has been certified and collective bargaining discussions will begin soon.

UI Health and the Chicago campus of the College of Medicine are among institutions participating in a major initiative, known as the Health Equity Pilot Project, being sponsored and funded by Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Illinois. There are two main aims of the project, 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 the State of physicians from racial and ethnic groups under-represented in medicine. The GME office is heavily involved in this effort, with the first steps including the creation of a new residency-faculty Diversity Council, under the leadership of Assistant Dean Keia Hobbs, MD, and the provision of workshops on holistic residency selection practices for program directors and members of residency selection committees.

Other new initiatives include the ACGME Equity Matters™ program, which supplies a framework for continuous learning and process improvement in the areas of diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) and anti-racism practices. Along with hospital and GME leadership, UI Health fellows and program directors have a seat at the table in this initiative. In related efforts to understand and address barriers to the recruitment of underrepresented in medicine physicians to our training programs, the GME office performed an in-depth analysis of recruitment data, as well as surveys of all under-represented in medicine residency applicants who interviewed for residency during the 2020-2021 match cycle. The results of these analyses were shared with program directors and other leadership.

Dr. Abigail Litwiller, associate dean for GME and ACGME Designated Institutional Official, announced in late spring that she would be leaving the university in August 2021. The search for her successor is underway as of this writing, with the existing GME leadership team augmented by the appointment of a second Assistant Dean, Dr. Claudia Lora, and with the senior associate dean for educational affairs serving as interim DIO.

Peoria:

The University of Illinois College of Medicine campus at Peoria now sponsors 21 ACGME accredited programs – 14 residencies and 7 fellowships. All programs, except for 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. As an ACGME Institutional Sponsor, the campus will begin a comprehensive self-study this year in anticipation of its ten-year site visit from the ACGME, scheduled for 2024.

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.

Two fellowships granted initial accreditation during AY 2019-2020 (in neonatal/perinatal medicine and pediatric hospital medicine) successfully recruited their first fellows for the current year, and a third new pediatric fellowship, in critical care, received initial accreditation this year and will begin recruiting.

Plans are also well underway for a second family medicine residency, in partnership with OSF St. Joseph Medical Center in Bloomington, as was first noted in last year's report.

Rockford

The institutional accreditation of the Rockford campus was reaffirmed by the ACGME in January 2021. The campus sponsors three family medicine residency programs and one fellowship in hospice and palliative care medicine. All are fully accredited without any encumbrances, including the rural training track in Monroe, Wisconsin, which achieved full continuing accreditation this year following its required period of initial accreditation.

The largest of the three residencies, based at Swedish American Hospital in Rockford, initiated a new "STRETCH-OB" (Structured Training for Rural Enhancement of Community Health in Obstetrics) track, funded by a \$2 million HRSA grant. Two residents in each class with a special interest in rural practice will gain additional training above and beyond the standard curriculum in operative obstetrical techniques and comprehensive medical management for the obstetrical patient. The other two residencies, in Dixon, IL and Monroe, WI also continue to train family physicians committed to rural practice. Two additional family medicine-based fellowships are under development, in headache medicine and sports medicine.

The impact of the ongoing coronavirus pandemic

Each of our campus communities experienced continued challenges related to the COVID-19 pandemic throughout the academic year. At no time, fortunately, was there a need to invoke "Stage 3" pandemic response status, an ACGME designation that allows sponsoring institutions to redeploy residents and fellows into areas of greatest clinical need, suspending for the duration the otherwise strict schedule of required rotations in various specialty areas. Each of our campuses had operated under Stage 3 conditions for much of the spring of 2020. In no instance was the progress of our residents or fellows toward completion of their requirements for training and board eligibility delayed by the pandemic conditions.

There remain, however, significant stressors in the workplace and changes to previous clinical care practices, much as are being experienced by physicians and other clinical care staff around the world. Residents and fellows across the university have full access to appropriate mental health services and employee assistance programs, and individual programs are taking additional steps to support the wellness of their trainees.

The pandemic also continues to alter several traditional aspects of the residency application and selection process, including strict limitations on the ability of final year medical students to experience visiting clinical rotations at other institutions or to visit in-person at the time of their residency interviews. The latter change, with most residency and fellowship programs conducting interviews virtually, continues into the present application cycle for positions starting in summer 2022.

Recruitment outcomes for the 2020-2021 residency and fellowship application cycle

The National Resident Matching Program (NRMP) is the principal source for recruitment of trainees. During the 2020-2021 recruitment cycle (i.e., those trainees who began our programs in late June 2021), all positions offered through the match were filled through the matching program. Several preliminary

surgery one-year positions in Chicago and in Peoria were not offered in the Match and filled independently.

Of note, the change to a virtual format for interviews did not appear to have a significant effect on the outcomes of the match process (i.e., there were no changes in the percentage of unmatched students or unfilled positions), either for our students and residency programs or at the national level.

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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