

The University of Illinois
College of Medicine Rockford

Class of 2021

*Convocation
Ceremony*

Saturday, May 1, 2021 · 11:00 a.m.



UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS
COLLEGE OF MEDICINE | ROCKFORD

The Hippocratic Oath

Now being admitted to the profession of medicine, I solemnly pledge to consecrate my life to the service of humanity. I will give respect and gratitude to my deserving teachers. I will practice medicine with conscience and dignity. The health and life of my patient will be my first consideration.

I will hold in confidence all that my patient confides in me. I will maintain the honor and the noble traditions of the medical profession. My colleagues will be as my family. I will not permit considerations of race, religion, nationality, party politics or social standing to intervene between my duty and my patient.

I will maintain the utmost respect for human life. Even under threat I will not use my knowledge contrary to the laws of humanity.

These promises I make freely and upon my honor.

Convocation Ceremony

May 1, 2021 - 11:00 a.m.

Processional

Opening Remarks

Alex S. Stagnaro-Green, MD, MHPE, MHA

Regional Dean

Professor, Departments of Medicine, Obstetrics and Gynecology and Medical Education

University of Illinois College of Medicine Rockford

Mark I. Rosenblatt, MD, PhD, MBA, MHA

Executive Dean

Professor, and Head of the Department of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences

University of Illinois College of Medicine

Distinguished Faculty Speaker

Connie Vitali, MD

Assistant Dean for Medical Education - Retired

Professor of Clinical Pathology

University of Illinois College of Medicine Rockford

Presentation of James E. Rebel Award and Introduction of Student Speaker

Terri B. Blevins, EdD

Assistant Dean for Student Affairs

Research Assistant Professor

University of Illinois College of Medicine Rockford

Class Remarks

Christian Schmidt

Doctor of Medicine Candidates

Mitchell S. King, MD

Associate Dean for Academic Affairs
Chair, Department of Health Sciences Education
Professor of Clinical Family Medicine
Department of Family and Community Medicine
University of Illinois College of Medicine Rockford

Hugh Clements-Jewery, Ph.D.

M1 Course Director, Physiology
Director of Phase 1 Curriculum, UICOM Rockford
Clinical Associate Professor
Department of Health Sciences Education
University of Illinois College of Medicine Rockford

Connie Vitali, MD

Alex S. Stagnaro-Green, MD, MHPE, MHA

Mark I. Rosenblatt, MD, PhD, MBA, MHA

Hippocratic Oath

Alex S. Stagnaro-Green, MD, MHPE, MHA

Closing Remarks

Alex S. Stagnaro-Green, MD, MHPE, MHA

Recessional

Ceremonial Traditions

The Mace – An ornamental staff that dates back to the Middle Ages when it was a metal-clad wooden club used as a weapon in battle. Its military significance declined as newer weapons evolved, and the mace became a symbol of authority for public officials or legislative bodies. A mace is carried by the presiding convocation ceremony official at the College of Medicine.

The Academic Procession – A tradition that dates back hundreds of years. It manifests and promotes collegiality of thought and action while serving as a mechanism to maintain appropriate distinctions. This academic march embodies the color and glory of academic regalia and recognizes the lofty academic achievement by its primary participants – the graduates.

Hoarding Ceremony – The hooding ceremony symbolizes the awarding of the degree. The significance of hooding recognizes academic achievement in higher education.

Hoods are lined with the official color or colors of the college or university conferring the degree. For the University of Illinois College of Medicine, hoods are lined in UIC colors, flame and indigo satin. A green velvet border on the hood identifies medicine as the academic discipline of the degree.

Academic Regalia – Consists of cap, gown and hood originated during the twelfth century at European universities. It was worn primarily for warmth. Subsequently, the material of the gown and lining, and shape of the hood, represented the economic and social, as well as the academic status of the wearer.

The **doctor's gown** is empress style with velvet facing on the front and three bars of velvet across the sleeves. The color of the facing and bars is designated by the University and represents the academic subject to which the degree pertains.

Caps are considered part of the academic regalia. Cap shapes and styles have varied historically from round to square and from soft to stiff. The Oxford cap was a hard, square mortarboard style with a center tuft. A tassel replaced the tuft in the 19th century and remains the standard. College of Medicine graduates wear an eight-cornered, black velvet tam with a gold tassel.

The **AQA key** designates election to Alpha Omega Alpha Honor Medical Society. The **honors medallion** signifies Graduation with Honors. The **humanism medallion** identifies selection to the Gold Humanism Honor Society.

James Scholars – Graduates are designated by Edmund J. James medallions on blue ribbon.

Medical Specialty Stoles – In a ritual unique to the University of Illinois College of Medicine, graduates wear stoles that symbolize the specialty training area chosen within the discipline of medicine. Graduates entering a residency training program that combines more than one specialty wear a stole for each specialty. The length of the stole is determined by academic faculty rank. Department heads and chairs wear fringe stoles. Stoles worn by professors and associate professors are ninety-six inches in length; stoles worn by assistant professors, instructors and residents are seventy-two inches in length. Graduate stoles are fifty inches in length, and worn only at Convocation.

Stole Colors

Anatomy and Cell Biology - Maroon

Anesthesiology - Eggshell

Biochemistry and Molecular Biology - Burnt Orange

Child Neurology - Lilac

Dermatology - Real Gold

Emergency Medicine - Teal

Family Medicine - Capri

Internal Medicine - Bright Gold

Microbiology and Immunology - Silver

Molecular Genetics - Lime Green

Neurology - Azure Blue

Neurosurgery - Crimson

Obstetrics and Gynecology - Kelly Green

Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences - Peach

Orthopaedics - Orange

Otolaryngology—Head and Neck Surgery - Purple

Pathology - White

Pediatrics - Azusa Maroon

Pharmacology - New York Red

Physiology and Biophysics - Brown

Plastic Surgery - Scarlet

Psychiatry - Royal Blue

Radiation Oncology - Emerald

Radiology - Burnished Gold

Rehabilitation and Physical Medicine - Old Gold

Surgery - Scarlet

Surgical Oncology - Sungold

Urban Health Program - Pewter

Urology - Turban Gold

Class of 2021



Diane Alkatout

Hometown: Romeoville, IL
Education: The University of Chicago, BA, Biology
Specialty: Internal Medicine
Residency: University of Illinois College of Medicine, Chicago, IL



Drew Amador

Hometown: Orion, IL
Education: St. Ambrose University, BS, Biology
Specialty: Family Medicine
Residency: University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics, Iowa City, IA



Justin Bailey

Hometown: Olney, IL
Education: Southern Illinois University Edwardsville, BS, Biology
Specialty: General Surgery
Residency: University of Tennessee College of Medicine, Chattanooga, TN



Abraham Baker

Hometown: DeKalb, IL
Education: Northern Illinois University, BS, Biology, Minors in Chemistry and Psychology
Specialty: Internal Medicine
Residency: Loyola University Medical Center, Maywood, IL



Liana Beauchamp

Hometown: Kingston, IL
Education: Augustana College, BA, Biology and Pre-Medicine
Specialty: Family Medicine
Residency: University of Illinois College of Medicine/Unity Point Health-Methodist, Peoria, IL



Christy Behnam

Hometown: Hasakah, Syria
Education: Northeastern Illinois University, BS, Biology
Specialty: Dermatology
Residency: University of Wisconsin Hospital and Clinics, Madison, WI
Grand Strand Regional Medicine Center, Myrtle Beach, SC (Transitional)



Aisha Bhatti

Hometown: Glenview, IL
Education: University of Illinois at Chicago, BS, Biological Sciences
Specialty: Anesthesiology
Residency: University of Illinois College of Medicine, Chicago, IL



Nicole Blumenstein

Hometown: Willowbrook, IL
Education: Arizona State University, BM, Opera Performance
Specialty: Otolaryngology
Residency: University of Illinois College of Medicine, Chicago, IL



Calee Bresnahan

Hometown: Minonk, IL
Education: Illinois Wesleyan University, BA, Biology
Specialty: Family Medicine
Residency: University of Illinois College of Medicine/Unity Point Health-Methodist, Peoria, IL



Enrique Ceppi

Hometown: Elmwood Park, IL
Education: University of Illinois at Chicago, BS, Biology, BA, Psychology
Specialty: Psychiatry/Family Medicine
Residency: University of Cincinnati Medical Center, Cincinnati, OH



Irisha Clark

Hometown: Joliet, IL
Education: University of Illinois at Urbana/Champaign, BS, Community Health
Specialty: Emergency Medicine
Residency: Ascension Providence Hospital
Michigan State University College of Human Medicine, Southfield, MI



Daniel Corredor

Hometown: Chicago, IL
Education: Northeastern Illinois University, BS, Biology
Specialty: Family Medicine
Residency: MacNeal Hospital, Berwyn, IL



Timothy Cox

Hometown: Metropolis, IL
Education: Murray State University, BS, Biology
Specialty: Family Medicine
Residency: Southern Illinois University, Carbondale, IL



Marissa Davis

Hometown: Bolingbrook, IL
Education: Vassar College, BA, Biology
Specialty: Psychiatry
Residency: Medical College of Wisconsin Affiliated Hospitals, Milwaukee, WI



Jinit Desai

Hometown: Lisle, IL
Education: University of Illinois at Chicago, BA Philosophy, BS Neuroscience,
Specialty: Psychiatry
Residency: UCLA Semel Institute for Neuroscience, Los Angeles, CA



Bradley Dulee

Hometown: Bloomington, IL
Education: Monmouth College, BA, Biochemistry
Specialty: Pediatrics
Residency: University of Alabama Medical Center, Birmingham, AL



Michelle Fok

Hometown: Pleasanton, CA
Education: University of California, Los Angeles, BA, Psychology
Specialty: Internal Medicine
Residency: Kaiser Permanente, Oakland, CA



Corey Hazekamp

Hometown: Hawthorne, NJ
Education: University of Colorado, BA, Ecology and Evolution
Specialty: Emergency Medicine
Residency: Lincoln Medical Center, Bronx, NY



Ernesto Hernandez

Hometown: Yuma, AZ
Education: University of Arizona, BS, Neuroscience and Cognitive Science,
BS, Molecular and Cellular Biology
Specialty: Emergency Medicine
Residency: Advocate Christ Medical Center, Oak Lawn, IL



Colin Kavanaugh

Hometown: Yorkville, IL
Education: Bradley University, BS, Health Science
Specialty: Family Medicine
Residency: University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health, Madison, WI



Akash Khurana

Hometown: Barrington, IL
Education: University of Illinois at Urbana/Champaign, BS, Molecular and Cellular Biology
Specialty: Internal Medicine
Residency: Case Western-University Hospitals Cleveland Medical Center, Cleveland, OH



Jonathan Knisley

Hometown: Greenfield, IL
Education: Washington University in St. Louis, BA, Political Science
Specialty: Emergency Medicine
Residency: University of Illinois College of Medicine, Chicago, IL



Annalyse Kohley

Hometown: Bartlett, IL
Education: Boston University, BA, Neuroscience, BA, Psychology
Specialty: Pediatrics
Residency: University of Arkansas College of Medicine, Little Rock, AR



Niwen Kong

Hometown: San Francisco, CA
Education: University of California, Berkeley, BA, Molecular and Cell Biology
Specialty: Internal Medicine
Residency: University of Southern California, Los Angeles, CA



Jenna Kyriazes

Hometown: Des Plaines, IL
Education: The University of Chicago, BA, Biological Sciences with a specialization in Endocrinology
Specialty: Pediatrics
Residency: University of Chicago Medical Center, Chicago, IL



Jessica Luo

Hometown: Chicago, IL
Education: University of Illinois at Urbana/Champaign, BS, Molecular and Cellular Biology
Specialty: Plastic Surgery-Integrated
Residency: Loyola University Medical Center, Maywood, IL



Jared Madden

Hometown: Big Rock, IL
Education: University of Illinois at Urbana/Champaign, BS, Molecular and Cellular Biology
Specialty: Diagnostic Radiology
Residency: Rush University Medical Center, Chicago, IL
AMITA Health Saint Francis Hospital, Evanston, IL (Medicine-Preliminary)



Jennifer Main

Hometown: Galesburg, IL
Education: University of Illinois at Urbana/Champaign, BS, Molecular and Cellular Biology
Specialty: Emergency Medicine
Residency: University of Illinois College of Medicine Peoria OSF, Peoria, IL



Alexandra McVicker

Hometown: Herrin, IL
Education: Southern Illinois University Carbondale, BS, Biological Sciences
Specialty: Anesthesiology
Residency: University of Tennessee Graduate School of Medicine, Knoxville, TN



Jayaram Mohan

Hometown: Scottsdale, AZ
Education: Washington University in St. Louis, BA, Chemistry with a Biochemistry Focus
Specialty: Internal Medicine
Residency: Rush University Medical Center, Chicago, IL



Meagan Nowlan

Hometown: Coffeen, IL
Education: Truman State University, BS, Biology
Specialty: Family Medicine
Residency: Union Hospital, Terre Haute, IN



Michael Obregon

Hometown: Orland Park, IL
Education: Loyola University, BS, Biology
Specialty: Internal Medicine
Residency: Southern Illinois University School of Medicine & Affiliated Hospitals, Springfield, IL



Saagar Pamulapati

Hometown: Hartland, WI
Education: Case Western Reserve University, BA, Medical Anthropology
Specialty: Internal Medicine
Residency: Mercyhealth Graduate Medical Education Consortium, Rockford, IL



Cesar Ramirez

Hometown: Naperville, IL
Education: University of Illinois at Chicago, BS, Biological Sciences, BA, General Psychology
Specialty: Psychiatry
Residency: University of Wisconsin Hospital and Clinics, Madison, WI



Cody Ratermann

Hometown: Damiansville, IL
Education: Washington University in St. Louis, BA, Anthropology
Specialty: Family Medicine
Residency: ProHealth Waukesha Memorial Hospital, Waukesha, WI



Angela Ray

Hometown: Mokena, IL
Education: The University of Alabama, BS, Psychology
Specialty: Pediatrics
Residency: Children's Hospital, Los Angeles, CA



Lauren Rivkin

Hometown: Wilmette, IL
Education: Duke University, BS, Neuroscience
Specialty: Pediatrics
Residency: Stanford University Programs, Stanford, CA



Ryan Schaab

Hometown: Dixon, IL
Education: University of Illinois at Urbana/Champaign, BS, Molecular and Cellular Biology
Specialty: Internal Medicine
Residency: University of Tennessee Health Science Center, Memphis, TN



Christian Schmidt

Hometown: Lake Forest, IL
Education: Yale University, BA, Biology
Specialty: Psychiatry
Residency: Medical University of South Carolina, Charleston, SC



Hailey Sellek

Hometown: Paxton, IL
Education: Southern Illinois University Carbondale, BS, Biological Sciences
Specialty: Family Medicine
Residency: University of Illinois College of Medicine/Unity Point Health-Methodist, Peoria, IL



Parshva Shah

Hometown: Schaumburg, IL
Education: University of Illinois at Urbana/Champaign, BS, Molecular and Cellular Biology, BS, Psychology
Specialty: Neurology
Residency: Stanford University Programs, Stanford, CA
Santa Clara Valley Medical Center, San Jose, CA (Medicine-Preliminary)



Bailey Swan

Hometown: Belvidere, IL
Education: American International College, BS, Biology
Specialty: Family Medicine
Residency: Memorial Hospital, South Bend, IN



Armin Tadayyon

Hometown: Hoffman Estates, IL
Education: University of Illinois at Chicago, BS, Biology
Specialty: Anesthesiology
Residency: University at Buffalo School of Medicine, Buffalo, NY



Shannon Thoele

Hometown: Quincy, IL
Education: Quincy University, BS, Biology, BS, Chemistry
Specialty: Psychiatry
Residency: University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics, Iowa City, IA



Changtai Tian

Hometown: Fremont, CA
Education: The University of Chicago, BA, Biology
Specialty: Internal Medicine
Residency: Rush University Medical Center, Chicago, IL



Angelica Ukaigwe

Hometown: Calumet City, IL
Education: University of Illinois at Urbana/Champaign, BS, Molecular and Cellular Biology
Specialty: Internal Medicine
Residency: Tulane University School of Medicine, New Orleans, LA



Riley Van Velsor

Hometown: Galesburg, IL
Education: Monmouth College, BA, Biopsychology
Specialty: Neurology
Residency: University of Florida College of Medicine-Shands Hospital, Gainesville, FL



Emily Wheat

Hometown: Clinton, IL
Education: University of Illinois at Urbana/Champaign, BS, Molecular and Cellular Biology
Specialty: Family Medicine
Residency: Genesis Health Systems (Quad Cities), Davenport, IA

College of Medicine and National Honors

Graduates who are elected to Alpha Omega Alpha Honor Medical Society (AQA), earn Graduation with Honors, or are selected for membership in the Gold Humanism Honor Society, wear adornments that depict these honors. The AQA green and gold cords, the Honors medallion, the Gold Humanism Honor Society medallion and the James Scholar medallion are placed over the doctoral robes of the medical graduates, each hanging by a ribbon.

Alpha Omega Alpha Honor Medical Society

This national medical honor society was founded at the University of Illinois College of Medicine in 1902. Its purpose is to recognize and perpetuate excellence in the medical profession. Members are elected on the basis of scholarship, personal character and potential leadership. Students elected to AQA receive the organization's insignia key and wear the green and gold cords.

Lauren Rivkin	Christy Benham	Changtai Tian
Ally Bochenek	Nicole Blumenstein	Akash Khurana
Alexandra McVicker	Jinit Desai	

Graduation with Honors

Students who have demonstrated outstanding academic achievement earn the distinction of Graduation with Honors. Honors graduates are selected College-wide based on academic performance throughout their four years of medical school. The Honors medallion represents the College's founding goals of education, research, medical care and public service; the green ribbon is the color of the discipline of medicine.

Christy Behnam	Nicole Blumenstein	Ally Bochenek
Jinit Desai	Ernesto Hernandez	Akash Khurana
Jennifer Main	Alexandra McVicker	Jayaram Mohan
Angela Ray	Lauren Rivkin	Parshva Shah
Changtai Tian		

Gold Humanism Honor Society

Arnold P. Gold Foundation

Students selected for membership in the Gold Humanism Honor Society exhibit outstanding humanism in medicine and integrity as medical students. The Gold Foundation defines humanism as "encompassing those attitudes and behaviors that emanate from a deep sensitivity and respect for others." The image on the medallion, a stethoscope in the form of a heart, represents the humanistic goals of the foundation.

Enrique Ceppi	Irisha Clark	Jinit Desai
Michelle Fok	Michael Gonzalez	Jennifer Main
Ryan Schaab	Christian Schmidt	Hailey Sellek

James Scholar Program

The Edmund J. James Undergraduate Honors Program was established for undergraduate students on the Urbana-Champaign Campus in 1959. The James Scholar Program at the University of Illinois College of Medicine Rockford began in 1972. The James Scholar Program is an academic honors program for highly qualified students that stresses independent study and requires a robust research project culminating in a presentation at the campus Research Day. James Scholar graduates are designated by Edmund J. James medallions on blue ribbons.

Aisha Bhatti	Nicole Blumenstein	Enrique Ceppi
Bradley Dulee	Akash Khurana	Saagar Pamulapati
Parshva Shah	Bailey Swan	

College of Medicine Rockford Student Awards

James E. Rebel Award

This award is presented in memory of James E. Rebel, a member of the Charter class, who died following an automobile accident during his senior year. The recipient, chosen by the senior class, exemplifies Jim's personal characteristics of dedication and enthusiasm for learning medicine and personal sensitivity towards patients, fellow students, and others.

Jennifer Main

Dr. Assir Daniel DaSilva Scholarship

This scholarship was established in memory of Dr. Assir Daniel DaSilva, a Class of 2000 College of Medicine Rockford graduate, who was killed while doing an international elective in Brazil his senior year. The recipients exemplify Dan's outgoing personality and sense of humor, intellectual curiosity, dedication to medicine, sensitivity to patients, and appreciation for diversity.

Enrique Ceppi

Dr. Gary Button Rural Primary Care Medicine Award

This award is named in memory of Dr. Gary Button, a graduate of the medical school and family practice residency program in Rockford. Dr. Button was a longtime family physician in Harvard, Illinois, and faculty member in the Department of Family and Community Medicine and the Rural Medical Education (RMED) program. The award is given to a student who exhibits the qualities and characteristics of Dr. Button, is dedicated to a career in primary care, and committed to practicing in a rural community.

Liana Beauchamp

Dr. L.P. Johnson Scholarship

This scholarship, in honor of Dr. LeBaron Paul Johnson, is presented to a fourth-year medical student at the College of Medicine Rockford who, during the second and third years of study, has shown interest and achievement in family medicine.

Bailey Swan

Glenn D. Netto Humanitarian Award

This award was established in memory of Dr. Glenn Netto, a class of 1980 College of Medicine Rockford graduate, who loved teaching medical students and served in various roles at the Rockford campus. The recipient of this award is a compassionate and motivated individual who embodies the attributes Dr. Netto felt were important in being a great physician: a community servant, a life-long learner, an excellent educator, and a great listener. This award is given to an M4 who is dedicated to a career in a primary care field.

Angela Ray

Enrique Ceppi

University of Illinois College of Medicine Student Awards

Best Performance Among Students Choosing a Surgical Career	Justin Bailey
Outstanding Performance on Surgery	Jinit Desai
Adolph A. Rostenberg, Jr. Award in Dermatology	Angelica Ukaigwe
Raymond Zbick Memorial Award in Anesthesia	Alexandra McVicker
Charles Spencer Williamson Award	Abe Baker
Donald H. Wortmann Pediatric Award	Lauren Rivkin
Excellence in Emergency Medicine Award	Jennifer Main
Excellence in Family Medicine Award	Emily Wheat
Excellence in Obstetrics and Gynecology Award	Ally Bochenek
Excellence in Clinical Dermatology	Christy Behnam
Granville A. Bennett Award	Christian Schmidt
Otto Saphir Scholarship (Excellence in Pathology, Junior Year)	Jayaram Mohan
David Mortimer Olkon Memorial Award	Jinit Desai
Outstanding Performance in Medicine Clerkship	Akash Khurana
Tom C. Reeves Memorial Award (Outstanding Classmate, Junior Year)	Nicole Blumenstein Jennifer Main
Dr. Robert H. Harner Award for Excellence in Cardiology	Changtai Tian
UIC CMR Dr. Gary And Terry Rifkin Scholarship Fund	Jayaram Mohan
Craig E. Booher MD Community Health Scholarships	Daniel Corredor

Golden Apple Faculty Teaching Awards

Chosen by the Class of 2021

Phase 1 – Excellence in Teaching

Aftab Merchant MBBS, FCPS
Clinical Professor, Course Director for Anatomy & Embryology
Department of Health Sciences Education

Phase 2 – Excellence In Clinical Clerkship

Charles R. Welford, MD
Clinical Associate Professor, Clerkship Director
Department of Medicine and Medical Specialties

Phase 3 - Excellence in Clinical Clerkship

Errol C. Baptist, MD
Clinical Professor
Department of Pediatrics

Excellence in Primary Care Experience

Joseph Ross, MD
Associate Professor, Director for Rockford Family Medicine
Residency Program
Department of Family and Community Medicine

Class of 2021 Doctor of Medicine Candidates Residency Training by Specialty

ANESTHESIOLOGY

Aisha Bhatti
Alexandra McVicker
Armin Tadayyon

DERMATOLOGY

Christy Behnam

EMERGENCY MEDICINE

Irisha Clark
Corey Hazekamp
Ernesto Hernandez
Jonathan Knisley
Jennifer Main

FAMILY MEDICINE

Drew Amador
Liana Beauchamp
Calee Bresnahan
Daniel Corredor
Timothy Cox
Colin Kavanaugh
Meagan Nowlan
Cody Ratermann
Hailey Sellek
Bailey Swan
Emily Wheat

INTERNAL MEDICINE

Diane Alkatout
Abraham Baker
Michelle Fok
Akash Khurana
Niwen Kong
Jayaram Mohan
Saagar Pamulapati
Ryan Schaab
Changtai Tian
Angelica Ukaigwe

NEUROLOGY

Parshva Shah
Riley Van Velsor

OTOLARYNGOLOGY

Nicole Blumenstein

PEDIATRICS

Bradley Dulee
Annalyse Kohley
Jenna Kyriazes
Angela Ray
Lauren Rivkin

PSYCHIATRY

Marissa Davis
Jinit Desai
Caesar Ramirez
Christian Schmidt
Shannon Thoele

PSYCHIATRY/FAMILY MEDICINE

Enrique Ceppi

DIAGNOSTIC RADIOLOGY

Jared Madden

GENERAL SURGERY

Justin Bailey

History of the College of Medicine Rockford

The University of Illinois College of Medicine is one of the largest medical schools in the country and its four campuses share a curriculum with the goal of graduating physicians who are not only exceptional clinicians but who are also caring, compassionate, culturally competent and skilled at communication. While students at each campus acquire the knowledge and skills needed for whatever medical specialty they might choose, each campus has its own character.



Known for its rural medicine program, focus on health disparities, emphasis on fostering independent learning, and community-based education, the University of Illinois College of Medicine Rockford was founded in 1971, with the charter class admitted in 1972 and the first graduation held in 1975. The oldest part of the Rockford campus dates back to 1915 when the facility served as



a tuberculosis sanitarium. In the late 1960s, a group of community physicians approached the University of Illinois encouraging them to develop a medical school at the former sanitarium and promising that community physicians and the local hospitals would commit their time, energy and resources to provide



the clinical education. We are fortunate in that Rockford community physician faculty members continue to integrate medical students into their practices and into the care of their patients at a responsibility appropriate to their level of training, an opportunity few schools offer. Supplementing the community experiences, a core of full-time faculty members mentor and guide students in their education, research, and choice of specialty.

Located on a beautiful 20-acre, wooded site, the College has become a center for internationally recognized research efforts funded through grants awarded by government agencies, private foundations and other resources. The former tuberculosis sanitarium has transformed into the UIC Health Sciences Campus- Rockford. In addition to the College of Medicine, with its Doctor of Medicine Program, Master of Science in Medical Biotechnology Program and research initiatives, the campus is home to the University of Illinois College of Pharmacy at Rockford and the UIC College of Nursing Advanced Degree Program.



The Staff of Aesclepius



Aesclepius was a legendary physician and god of medicine. He was the son of Apollo and Coronis, a beautiful maiden of Thessaly. Angry because Coronis was unfaithful to him, Apollo killed her and took his infant son, Aesclepius, to be raised by the centaur Chiron. Aesclepius learned all that Chiron knew about the art of healing and soon became a great physician. When Aesclepius committed the unpardonable sin of raising a man from the dead, Zeus killed Aesclepius with a thunderbolt.

Aesclepius' staff was sacred to him. He is almost always shown with it. The simple staff is entwined by a single serpent. The staff suggests the wandering of the itinerant physician. The serpent, because of its periodic sloughing of skin, represents the renewal of life and health. Through time, the graphic Aesclepiian sign of the staff and sacred snake became the internationally recognized symbol of the medical profession.

The similar symbol of a staff with two snakes surmounted by wings is widely used by the medical profession. It is actually the caduceus or wand of Hermes, messenger of the gods and protector of merchants and thieves. Why this seems to have replaced the staff of Aesclepius as a symbol for the medical profession is not known. It may be due to an error in the designation of the caduceus by the Medical Corp and/or for aesthetic reasons because of the symmetry of the wand of Hermes.



Congratulations!

Welcome, New Alumni

Stay connected.

University of Illinois College of Medicine Rockford

Like us on Facebook · Follow us on Twitter@uicomrockford · Join us on LinkedIn