The University of Illinois College of Medicine at Peoria has this mission statement:

**Lead Collaboration to Improve Health**

The vision of UICOMP is: *The University of Illinois College of Medicine at Peoria makes measurable improvements in personal and population health through integrated innovative research, education and patient care programs.*

The following actions occurred to support this vision:

**EDUCATION**

The largest impact this year has been in the area of education. UICOMP will become a full four year school in 2017. In addition, the campus in Urbana will be phased out and the curriculum will be transformed across the three remaining sites. This transformation will broadly impact teaching at all levels of training, and require new basic science faculty, significant remodeling of the physical plant and enhanced intercampus collaboration.

**Undergraduate** – Academic Affairs has involved over 40 faculty and 15 students in 11 different taskforce committees related to campus expansion. This has occurred while still continuing to provide excellent medical student education. In addition, the faculty have provided 3 workshops, 7 poster/oral presentations and 4 peer-reviewed publications. Academic Affairs has continued its tradition of innovative curriculum including the addition of M2 simulations, the enhancement of the student research day and the implementation of a longitudinal skills course in the M3 year. The positions of Assistant Dean for Technology Enhanced Curriculum and Assistant Dean for Pre-clinical Curriculum and Evaluation were filled. The challenges are the reliance on volunteer faculty, the need to develop new curriculum while still delivering the old, the pressure USMLE 1 performance places on students and the lack of adequate resources.

**Graduate Medical Education** – All residencies are fully accredited although both OB and Vascular Neurology are accredited with warning status. All 74 residency positions were filled through the 2016 match (3 in radiology filled during SOAP and 4 in family medicine filled in the DO match). There are a total of 276 residents and fellows. The initial class of Psychiatry residents graduated in 2015. GMEC initiatives included: health equity ongoing at the Sisters Clinic; efforts at creating a Quality and Safety Faculty Development Program; enhanced engagement of residents in PI/PS; the delivery of a wellness curriculum; and a health disparities retreat.

**Post-Graduate/Fellowships** – We added a new Simulation Fellowship this year – this fellowship is not eligible for ACGME accreditation. We anticipate resubmitting our request for an additional fellowship in pulmonary-critical care.

**Postgraduate–CME/Faculty Development** – The 7th cohort of Caterpillar Scholars graduated in December of 2015. A series of teleconferences from the Department of Medical Education in Chicago have been offered to our faculty. The “Residents as Teachers” Program was also provided. On the CME level, 62 activities including 18 new activities were approved for CME.
The library is very active teaching students, residents, and faculty. They host the Medical Informatics elective and a portion of the EBM (Evidence-Based Medicine) learning that occurs during epidemiology. The library provides consultative support for literature searches essential to the research and educational missions. The library spaces are highly utilized by students. The library was fortunate to recruit Deborah Lauseng as the new Regional Head Librarian and this brings the library up to full staff.

DEPARTMENT and PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Cancer Biology and Pharmacology: Dr. Soares has filled 3 of 4 positions that were committed as part of his recruitment. The three positions filled were in cancer microbiomics, cancer immunology, and cancer metabolism. Recruitment is still underway for a person in cancer computational genomics and systems biology. The Department is closely linked with community partners and remains focused on the strategic goals of cancer and neuroscience research. The Department has published 24 articles, 18 abstracts and 2 book chapters. The Department is also responsible for the delivery of the M2 Pharmacology course.

Center for Outcomes Research: COR published 14 articles and 17 abstracts to date in 2015-2016. In addition, Dr. Asche served as the editor of a book entitled “Applying Comparative Effectiveness Data to Medical Decision Making: A practical guide.” COR has also had a PCORI patient-centered research grant and is moving forward in conjunction with the MS Center on an MS Flow Sheet.

Dermatology: The new Dermatology elective is well received and combines on-line learning with the core curriculum from the American Academy of Dermatology with clinical experiences and a case report. The Department has no salaried faculty but is supported by several volunteer faculty and a volunteer chair. The Department will likely receive an endowed Professorship which would help provide protected academic time for a practicing clinician.

Emergency Medicine: In its second year, the Department of Emergency Medicine continued to evolve adding a full-time support person, increased faculty development and being instrumental in the creation of a new simulation fellowship. Students on their ICM experience rotate through the ED as do M3 students on IM. The EM Department provided an M4 elective to 42 students, educated 38 EM residents and provided rotations to 64 residents from other disciplines.

Family Medicine: Dr. Zacharias has continued the enhancement of the Family Medicine clerkship adding dentistry, nutrition and population health. The RSPP has seen enhanced interest from RIMSAP and traditional students. The Family Medicine residency is dually accredited (MD/DO). The Women’s Health Fellowship has two Fellows this year under Dr. Na’Allah’s leadership.

IRB/IACUC/IBC - The IRB achieved AAHRPP accreditation. Dr. Soares, as Senior Associate Dean for Research, has assumed the responsibilities of Institutional Official. The Human Research Protection Program is assuming additional compliance activities. The IACUC and the IBC both continue to assure compliance with regulatory standards and best practice.
**JUMP:** UICOMP is continuing to increase its use of simulation. The Jump Center provides a location for core events such as the white coat ceremony. The curriculum is increasingly adding simulation with some sessions starting in the M2 year. The M4 intern prep course is heavily simulation based and is required of all students. This year we added tours of Jump to our medical student interviews.

**Medicine:** The Department continues to be challenged by the sheer volume of patient encounters as well as difficulty recruiting and retaining both infectious disease faculty and academic hospitalists. There is a perception that the inpatient service to education balance is inappropriate both for residents and for attendings. In addition, the pay has not kept pace with the service expectations. This has contributed to the loss of faculty and closure of the ID clinic.

**Medicine-Pediatrics:** The Medicine-Pediatrics Program has continued its tradition of retaining physicians in Illinois with three of its current graduates being retained. Med/Peds faculty occupy critical roles in UGME and GME positions and receive teaching and leadership awards. There was a total of 19 scholarly activities. The service/education balance issues noted for the medicine department are also impacting the Med/Peds Program.

**Neurology:** The Neurology Department continues to support the M2 neuroscience course, the M3 mind/body component of Psychiatry and the M4 Neurology rotation. INI (Illinois Neurological Institute) is continuing to grow with increased service demands. Recruitment is a challenge particularly in some of the subspecialties. Dr. Kattah had numerous publications. Dr. Wang also shows a lot of scholarly activity and has recently become engaged in some of the basic science research as well. The Vascular Fellowship recruited a Fellow for 2016-2017 and was reaccredited as a Comprehensive Stroke Center. There is increasing emphasis on academic activity and productivity. The INI and the MS Center are working closely with the Center for Outcomes Research.

**Neurosurgery:** The residency program recruited 2 residents within their top 9. The specialty programs continue to grow including vascular, complex spine, brain tumor, pediatrics and functional. The OR now has an intraoperative MRI. The Neurosurgery program remains active at Unity Point as well as OSF. Similarly to Neurology, the Department is benefiting from INI’s increased focus on academic activities. Dr. Klopfenstein, Dr. Dinh and Dr. Tsung are all linked to the Department of Cancer Biology and Pharmacology.

**OB-GYN:** Dr. Steve Thompson continues to serve as Interim Chair. The Department has had a challenging year with changes in structure due to the creation of a non-university laborist model, the anticipated loss of two faculty and an ACGME site visit which resulted in continued accreditation with warning status. The Department is actively recruiting and has successfully recruited Dr. Elkattah and is hopeful of adding additional faculty this summer.

**Pathology:** Dr. Joseph, as Interim Chair, led a seamless transition upon Dr. Geiss’s retirement. Dr. Joseph is being proposed to be named permanent Chair. She has also been able to recruit additional community pathologists into teaching roles. The Pathology Department has been heavily engaged in the M1 workgroup and will play an important role in the new integrated curriculum. Dr. Pinson teaches extensively in Pharmacology as well as Pathology and leads the Pre-clinical Task Force. Dr. Sarah Martin has done an excellent job in Neuropathology.
**Pediatrics:** The Department is in the rebuilding phase following the loss of faculty and damaged faculty morale. UICOMP and CHOI/OSF healthcare have been engaged in a year-long planning process with ECG consulting with the intent of more closely and formally integrating the academic department and CHOI. The Department had a significant financial deficit but this has been corrected. The department’s scholarly work includes 85 presentations/posters, 52 publications, 40 abstracts and 9 books/chapters. The Department is working with OSF Healthcare leadership to create a stronger regional presence for Pediatrics.

**Psychiatry:** Psychiatry graduated its first class of residents in spring 2015. The residency remains fully accredited. The Department is finding it difficult to successfully recruit additional psychiatrists to meet both clinical and teaching obligations. The working relationship with Unity Point Health Methodist is strong. The M2 Psychiatry course continues to go well as does the M3 rotation. Scholarship from the residents and faculty is increasing. Dr. Bruce serves as the Scholarship Director.

**Radiology:** Dr. Meagher is the new Chair of Radiology. The reorganized lecture schedule has increased resident satisfaction. The Department is working on an IR/DR residency position. The department teaches medical students ultrasound, and also teaches in five of the six clerkships. They have seen a growth in the number of visiting students. Radiology anticipates a close relationship within the newly created anatomy curriculum.

**Surgery:** The surgery department had new leadership this year under Dr. Steve Marshall who is serving as Interim Chair. Dr. Marshall has developed a strategic plan white paper and began to share the plan and accept feedback. The goal is to enhance regional referrals through strengthening of surgical specialization. The rural surgical training in Canton has been well received by the residents. The Department had 9 peer-reviewed publications and 17 posters/presentations. Dr. Marshall received the Faculty of the Year Award.

**PATIENT CARE**

CHOI/OSF Healthcare and UICOMP are working with a consultant to more closely integrate the academic department and the patient care delivery system. The ECG group is the consultant. The anticipated outcome is a more effective integrated strategic planning process, improved physician recruitment/retention; enhanced recognition as an academic Children’s Hospital and better integrated patient care. This will also address fiscal issues within the Pediatric Department. The loss of ID physicians and the rapid turnover in UHATs hospitalists is putting increased pressure on the patient care missions of the department and the teaching/service ratio. Psychiatry is challenged to recruit an adequate number of faculty to fulfill the teaching and patient care needs.

**FISCAL**

UICOMP is currently fiscally solvent and should complete the year without significant deficits. The campus operated without a budget this year until last week. It then received a 10% cut in its State Funds which translates to about a 25% cut in GRF. The continual declines in the State budget are a challenge as this money supports the student educational infrastructure. The need to accommodate the renovation costs; plus the star-up costs for new faculty; plus the replacement of aging infrastructure are putting a strain on UICOMP’s fiscal health.
CHANGING ENVIRONMENT

The decision to start a new medical school in Urbana and the resulting decision to move the M1 students to Peoria in the fall of 2017 will have profound impacts on our campus. Bringing the M1’s here will be great for our students and allow us to maximize and integrate their education. It will also create challenges in faculty recruitment, fiscal support, space, faculty time and energy. In the end run however, this will be a great asset to our community.

CONCLUSIONS

- The University of Illinois College of Medicine at Peoria remains focused on medical student and resident education in the context of patient care delivery.
- The 2017 addition of M1 students and the associated curricular transformation will be the most significant changes to occur at UICOMP since its implementation in 1970. It is a tremendous opportunity which will benefit UICOMP and our students but also will present significant challenges.
- Senior Associate Dean for Research, Dr. Soares, has led the recruitment of additional Cancer Biology researchers in 4 strategic areas, tightened relationships with INI/OSF for seed funding and brought an increased focus on Wellness and Compassionate Care training.
- Fiscal health remains an issue with declining margins for healthcare, rising overhead costs and an increasingly insolvent State of Illinois.
- UICOMP will need to adapt to the changing healthcare environment through continued mutually beneficial strategic alignments with our community partners.
- Innovative education with enhanced inter-professional and simulation components is benefitting our students and residents.
- We are thankful for a highly motivated and energetic faculty.