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Peoria among 10 U.S. sites to pilot new medical student training

PEORIA – (Sept. 8, 2014) The University of Illinois College of Medicine is among a select few U.S. medical schools chosen to lead a highly competitive pilot program to better prepare medical students for entering residency and providing patient care without direct supervision.

Called the Core Entrustable Professional Activities for Entering Residency, the project's goal is to close the gap between expectations and performance that medical students have on day one of their residency training.

"Trust is a central concept of safe and effective healthcare – patients must be able to trust their providers and health care providers must be able to trust one another," said Meenakshy Aiyer, MD, Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, University of Illinois College of Medicine at Peoria. "We were thrilled to be among the chosen few who will help lead this critical project. I think it illustrates the significant innovation already taking place within our four campuses at the College of Medicine."

More than half of the U.S. LCME-accredited medical schools applied to the Association of American Medical Colleges to participate, however, only 10 were selected. The University of Illinois College of Medicine and its four sites – Peoria, Chicago, Urbana and Rockford – applied as a single entity.

The AAMC recently adopted 13 Entrustable Professional Activities that every graduating medical student should be able to perform at the end of their medical school training. Each school will focus on different areas as part of the pilot. It is anticipated the College of Medicine will focus on four key areas: communication and care during patient transition, such as when a patient checks out of a hospital; recommending and interpreting common diagnostic tests as they relate to cost and safety; learning to work with varying health care professions as part of a team; and identifying areas of system failure to initiate improvement and a culture of safety.

Work on the project in Peoria will begin immediately with some of the educational activities incorporating simulation education at Jump Trading Simulation & Education Center.

About the University of Illinois College of Medicine at Peoria (UICOMP)

One of four campuses that make up one of the largest public medical schools in the U.S., the University of Illinois College of Medicine at Peoria educates more than 150 students annually and more than 270 residents and fellows within 18 graduate programs with its hospital affiliates.