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UICOMP Faculty Receives Humanism Award for Establishing Southside Clinic

PEORIA, Ill. [May 1, 2017] – A University of Illinois College of Medicine Peoria faculty member was selected to receive the Leonard Tow Humanism in Medicine Award for establishing the Córdoba Health Clinic, a clinic located in South Peoria providing specialty care to patients with little or no insurance at little to no cost.

Dr. Wasim Ellahi, a gastroenterologist at Illinois Gastroenterology Institute and Clinical Assistant Professor at UICOMP, opened the clinic in 2016 to help bridge the gap for accessible and affordable specialty care, which is provided entirely by volunteers. The clinic includes cardiology, gastroenterology and pediatric gastroenterology, nephrology, oncology, and pulmonology.

Ellahi and eight members of the UICOMP class of 2018 were selected for membership in the local chapter of the Gold Humanism Honor Society (GHHS).

The student honorees are:

Gary Bhagat of Chicago

Chancelor Cruz of Peoria

Carley Demchuk of Park Forest, Ill.

Joseph Krob of Wheaton, Ill.

Saleha Mallick of Naperville, Ill.

Paulo Michelini of Ponta Grossa, Brazil

Mati Segev of Skokie, Ill.

Justin Steele of White Hall, Ill.

The new honorees will be inducted in conjunction with annual Student Awards Event on Thursday, May 4, 2017 at Jump Trading Simulation & Education Center. They also will receive recognition during their Convocation on May 5, 2018. The Gold Humanism Honor Society, sponsored by the Arnold P. Gold Foundation, exists to recognize outstanding humanistic activity among students. Over 100 medical schools have established active GHHS chapters.

A local GHHS Committee directed the selection process for Peoria. Faculty honorees are selected by the student body in a process overseen by the University Medical Student Council.

The University of Illinois College of Medicine at Peoria is one of four campuses that make up one of the largest public medical school in the country. UICOMP enhances the central Illinois region by educating more than 150 medical students and nearly 300 residents and fellows annually, performing the latest in research, attracting new physicians, and treating thousands of patients each year. Visit us online at <http://peoria.medicine.uic.edu>.

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