Creighton University School of Medicine
Fact Sheet

Overview

In the Jesuit, Catholic tradition of Creighton University, the mission of the School of Medicine is to improve the human condition through excellence in educating students, physicians and the public; advancing knowledge; and providing comprehensive patient care.

The school, established in 1892, boasts a full-time faculty of 278 with a student enrollment for the 2008-2009 academic year of 503.

As an academic medical center, Creighton is committed to providing excellent medical care. It also is dedicated to preparing tomorrow's health professionals for the medical challenges and opportunities that lie ahead in patient care, teaching and research.

Creighton University has a national reputation for quality patient care and a large number of faculty and research programs with international reputations.

The Hixson-Lied Science Building and Criss Health Science Buildings are the centerpieces of a major initiative to provide Creighton undergraduates and health professionals with science facilities that encourage discovery, teaching, research, leadership and interdisciplinary collaboration.

Students:

- Rowen K. Zetterman, M. D., serves as dean of the School of Medicine.

- For the 2008-09 academic year, there were 5,718 applicants to the School of Medicine for 126 seats.

- During 2007-2008, 506 medical students were enrolled; 20 percent of these students were minorities.

- Creighton students founded and run the Magis Medical Clinic, a free clinic for uninsured and underinsured people that is staffed by volunteer physicians.

- Creighton University medical graduates are offered residency training in excellent medical centers from coast to coast. In addition to Creighton, institutions from Stanford to Mayo to Massachusetts General select Creighton graduates for reasons that include Creighton's comprehensive clinical training, rigorous academics, excellent student performance, outstanding student support and mentoring systems, and Creighton University's national reputation.

Continuing Medical Education:

February 2009
• The Continuing Medical Education (CME) Division offered 70 courses and 26 Regularly Scheduled Series (RSS) in 2007-2008. Course attendance totaled 4,378, and RSS attendance totaled 16,070. The CME Division continues to work closely with departments/divisions within the School of Medicine to oversee the courses and RSS to assure all activities are managed within ACCME (Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education) and AMA (American Medical Association) requirements.

Faculty/Physicians:

• Creighton University Medical Center is one of the nation’s leading teaching hospitals and one of the world’s most diverse medical communities. Students train with hundreds of the region’s most accomplished health professionals.

• Creighton University physicians are locally, nationally and internationally recognized experts in minimally invasive surgery, bariatrics, esophageal surgery, cardiac care, hernia repair, surgical oncology, peritoneal neoplastic diseases, hereditary cancer, osteoporosis, and trauma.

• Creighton University physicians and researchers are significant contributors to national health care and educational advancements.

• Creighton Medical Associates (CMA) is a network of physicians and support staff associated with the University. Every day nearly 300 CMA physicians provide high quality primary and specialty care to patients at Creighton University Medical Center and in offices located throughout the Omaha metropolitan area.

• There are ten endowed chairs in the School. They are:

  o **The Peekie Nash Carpenter Endowed Chair in Medicine**, Richard F. “Barry” Murphy, Ph.D.
  o **The Dr. Harry E. Stuckenhoff Endowed Chair in Surgery**, Robert J. Fitzgibbons, Jr., M.D.
  o **The Dr. Roland L. Kleeberger Endowed Chair**, Donald R. Frey, M.D.
  o **The Tenet Healthcare Endowed Chair in Healthcare Efficacy**, Eugene C. Rich, M.D.
  o **The Dr. Harold J. Bonnstetter Endowed Chair in Preventive Medicine**, Brian Loggie, M.D.
  o **The Dr. Arnold W. Lempka Endowed Chair in Surgery**, R. Armour Forse, M.D.
  o **The Charles F. and Mary C. Heider Endowed Chair in Cancer Research**, Henry T. Lynch, M.D.
  o **The Sheila and Dr. James J. Shea Family Endowed Chair in Anesthesiology**, James L. Manion, M.D.
  o **The Dr. Paul S. Mahoney Endowed Chair in Radiology and Medical Imaging**, Martin L. Goldman
  o **The August H. Bergman, M. D., Endowed Chair in Cardiology**, Aryan N. Mooss, M. D.
Clinical Services:

- The Cardiac Center has initiated new clinical services in drug therapy (e.g., Natrecor infusions for heart-failure patients) and therapeutic interventions (e.g., carotid stenting to prevent stroke).

- The popular and expanding Clinical Diabetes Program recently earned certification from the American Diabetes Association for its diabetes education services.

- New clinical facilities in west Omaha provide greater access to key programs such as cardiology, dermatology, nephrology and rheumatology.

- Several new faculty members have been recruited in highly sought-after areas such as pulmonary critical care, nephrology, gastroenterology, cardiology, hematology-oncology, general internal medicine, and medicine-pediatrics. These physicians are incorporating a variety of new techniques that strengthen our clinical services, such as endoscopic ultrasound and advanced care in sleep medicine.

Research:

- A strong desire to make a difference in patients' lives drives the research efforts at Creighton University's School of Medicine. Research is essential to learning about the underlying mechanisms of disease and new ways to prevent and treat disease.

- Researchers in the School of Medicine departments of biomedical sciences, medical microbiology and immunology, and pharmacology are making discoveries in the areas of atherosclerosis, bacterial resistance, cancer, hearing restoration, and conditions that affect bone growth and bone loss. They also are increasing our knowledge of potential therapeutic targets to facilitate drug discovery.

- Research grants have supplied Creighton University with the resources for the creation and expansion of state-of-the art core facilities in confocal microscopy, flow cytometry, genomics, morphology, and proteomics as well as other shared facilities. These facilities provide University biomedical researchers opportunities for inter-disciplinary collaboration, interaction, and development of team research projects utilizing state-of-the-art technology and equipment. The facilities are designed to allow the free flow of information and collaborative work environments.

- The School of Medicine is an international leader in research regarding several major debilitating diseases including cancer and osteoporosis. Through a new strategic plan, the school is pushing hard to develop comparable leading programs in infectious disease, cardiovascular disease, nutrition and metabolism, and neuroscience. An exciting new generation of research projects is under way.

- A landmark study conducted at Creighton University suggests that most Americans and others are not taking enough vitamin D, a fact that may put them at significant risk for
developing cancer. The research shows that boosting your vitamin D3 intake can significantly reduce your risk of breast and other cancers.

**Centers of Excellence:**

- The Cancer Center and its staff innovators in three major areas of cancer: 1) peritoneal neoplastic diseases; 2) breast cancer, through same-day diagnostic breast care services; and skin cancer and melanoma. Additionally, the staff treats a variety of solid organ tumors, such as colon, pancreas and appendix.

- The Osteoporosis Research Center is a 40-year effort that has resulted in an international center of excellence in bone research. This team carries out basic science research, which is laboratory based; clinical research involving volunteer participants; patient care, including state-of-the-art evaluation, diagnosis, and treatment; and referral services for physicians.

- The focus of the Center for Research in Anti-Infectives and Biotechnology (CRAB) is on many aspects of antimicrobial chemotherapy, ranging from drug discovery to the molecular mechanisms of antibacterial resistance among bacteria; antibacterial resistance in the clinical laboratory; and new drugs and novel drug combinations to treat resistant bacteria.

- The Hereditary Cancer Center (HCC) was formerly established in 1984 with the primary objective of conducting comprehensive research projects dealing with cancer of all anatomic sites. It is devoted to cancer prevention resulting from hereditary-cancer syndromes, with particular attention given to surveillance and management programs melded to the natural history of these particular disorders.

- The center’s or HCC commitment has evolved significantly into the molecular genetic age. Germ-line mutations have been found in countless cancer-prone kindreds with particular emphasis on hereditary breast-ovarian-cancer syndrome; the familial typical multiple mole melanoma (FAMMM) syndrome in association with pancreatic cancer; and the hereditary nonpolyposis colorectal cancer (HNPCC) syndromes, also referred to as the Lynch Syndrome (named after Henry Lynch, M.D., HCC director). Lynch developed what are now regarded as the cardinal principles of cancer genetics: early age of onset of the disease, specific pattern of multiple primary cancers, and Mendelian patterns of inheritance in hundreds of extended families worldwide.