The mission of the Wayne State University School of Medicine is its stated purpose. The spirit of the school is its sense of purpose. At WSU, the two go hand-in-hand. The work performed by our faculty and students can not be separated from their values, their character—their spirit.

**The Mission of our Teachers:** Provide scientific education to medical students.

**The Spirit of our Teachers:** Train physicians to practice in a professional, compassionate and altruistic manner.

**The Mission of our Scientists:** Investigate the nature of disease.

**The Spirit of our Scientists:** Conduct research in a sharing community of scientists and in an environment of high ethical standards with consideration for future impact.

**The Mission of our Doctors:** Provide health care to the community.

**The Spirit of our Doctors:** Treat all patients with the highest standard of care and with utmost respect for their entire well-being.

In essence, the spirit of the school is its identity. It gives life and meaning to the actions of our students, faculty and leaders. I’d like to take this opportunity to commend Dean John Crissman who kept the School of Medicine on the right track during the past five tumultuous years. We remain committed to his vision and will vigorously advance our missions.

Sincerely,

Robert R. Frank, M.D.
Interim Dean
Spirit of Discovery

Pushing science to improve the world
The Wayne State University School of Medicine ranks 22nd among the nation’s medical schools with $134 million in total research funding, according to the latest reports by the National Science Foundation.

The school’s research office processed a record number of research proposals this past year, indicating the profound productivity of WSU faculty members in the basic and clinical sciences.

The National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS) has established Wayne State University as one of eight centers in the United States to study population health and health disparities. Led by John Flack, M.D., M.P.H., WSU’s newly established Center for African-American Urban Health will receive $6 million in funding to seek new ways to redress health disparities by identifying preventive strategies and therapeutic approaches to chronic diseases that plague this population, namely obesity, cardiovascular disease and cancer.

WSU led Michigan’s universities in the latest round of funding (2003) from the Michigan Life Sciences Corridor. Drs. Richard Everson and Michael Tainsky received significant funding for their projects.

The U.S. Department of Defense awarded a $5.8 million Breast Cancer Center of Excellence grant to Bonnie Sloane, Ph.D., to study innovative ways to detect breast cancer and monitor its treatment.

The Detroit Area Cancer Registry, a collaborative effort among the Karmanos Cancer Institute, WSU School of Medicine, Michigan Department of Community Health and area hospitals and physicians, received a $37 million grant renewal from the National Cancer Institute to continue collecting and maintaining cancer statistics through the Surveillance Epidemiology and End Results (SEER) registry. This data allows researchers to study environmental and geographical influences on the causes of cancer.

As director of the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences, Dr. John Flack improves the health of African Americans by helping to eliminate the disparities that plague them in the first place.

Dr. Ann Schwartz is a big-picture researcher who uses the SEER registry to study environmental and geographical influences on the causes of cancer.
• With a three-year, $1 million grant from the Michigan Economic Development Corporation, a new multi-institution Center for Excellence on environment and fertility hopes to turn the recent discovery of sperm in the genetic material called RNA into a variety of screening tests that will check men for PCBs, pesticides and similar pollutants that are believed to impede fertilization and/or normal fetal development, according to WSU center director Stephen Krawetz, Ph.D.

• Armed with more than $1.7 million in research funding from the National Institute of Drug Abuse, Mark Greenwald, Ph.D., associate professor of psychiatry and behavioral neurosciences, is helping heroin-dependent people cope with their addiction by investigating new medication interventions and behavioral incentives.

• Wayne State researchers continue to turn their big ideas into big research projects. Nearly 200 active WSU research projects are funded at $1 million or more. Recent recipients of such awards at the School of Medicine include:

  - Ikuko Kato, Ph.D., $2.5 million from the National Cancer Institute to study public health strategies in fighting colorectal cancer
  - Rodrigo Andrade, Ph.D., $1.7 million from the National Institute of Mental Health to study brain receptors and the biological basis underlying mental disorders
  - Robert Freedman, Ph.D., $1.7 million from the National Institute of Mental Health to study sleep disturbances
  - Ananda Prasad, M.D., Ph.D., $1.5 million from the National Institute for Allergy and Infectious Diseases to study the role zinc plays in human immune functions

• Challenging the traditional primate order and genus classifications, WSU researchers reported that humans and chimpanzees are very closely related in gene expression profiles of the brain and in functionally-important DNA, which codes for proteins and is shaped by natural selection. These two reports authored by Morris Goodman, Ph.D., Monica Uddin, Ph.D., and Derek Wildman, Ph.D., and colleagues in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences provide further evidence that chimpanzees are more like humans than gorillas and support placing chimps and humans on the same branch of the evolutionary family tree.

• The WSU School of Medicine Faculty Senate presented its 2004 Faculty Research Excellence Awards to Alexander Gow, Ph.D., assistant professor, Center for Molecular Medicine and Genetics; Deborah Ellis, Ph.D., assistant professor, Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Neurosciences; Zora Djuric, Ph.D., assistant professor, Department of Internal Medicine; Fazlul Sarkar, M.D., professor, Department of Pathology; and Michael Shy, M.D., associate professor, Department of Neurology

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Fishermen on the Detroit and St. Clair rivers are under close watch by Stephen Krawetz, Ph.D., who is studying links among fish consumption, contaminant exposures and fertility issues.
• A more integrated approach to education has brought all teaching programs—in medical school, residency and professional practice—under the leadership of Dr. Robert R. Frank as associate dean for academic and student programs.

• With the appointment of Dr. Frank to interim dean, Dr. Maryjean Schenk, chairman of the Department of Family Medicine, has been named interim associate dean for academic and student programs. Dr. Schenk will be devoting her efforts to providing overall leadership to the school’s undergraduate medical education enterprise, with a focus of leading the 2006 LCME accreditation process. During this time, Dr. Schenk also will continue to serve as chair of the Department of Family Medicine.

• As director of the M.D./Ph.D. joint degree program, Dr. Ambika Mathur will help attract medical scientists to WSU.

• New combined degree programs reflect the varied interests and skill sets of our students. Health related programs in business and education, a master’s degree in science, and a dual M.D./Ph.D. program are now available to give students a competitive edge.

• WSU innovated a Pocket PC program that encompasses new technologies in teaching, learning and evaluation via hand-held computers. This technology-enhanced learning advancement was developed by Dr. Kenneth Ginsburg, assistant dean for clinical science education, and Dr. Matt Jackson, associate professor of immunology and microbiology.

• The MedStart program, established by Dr. Silas Norman, assistant dean for admissions at the WSU School of Medicine, provides mentoring, research experiences and leadership training to 20 students annually who are accepted into undergraduate and medical school at Wayne State University, Northern Michigan University and Michigan Technological University.
• A new mentoring program allows students to have personal faculty physician mentors to address questions and concerns about their careers and profession.

• Faculty members have successfully integrated clinical medicine knowledge, skills and attitudes across all four years of medical school.

• The School of Medicine has committed to building an Education Commons in conjunction with the Shiffman Medical Library to house new and innovative education programs.

• To enhance student education, WSU has established a standardized patient program that recruits healthy “patients” from the community and teaches them how to role play for students and residents. This program is directed by Maurice Kavanagh and Ron Spalding in conjoint teaching services.

• Grand rounds in obstetrics and gynecology are transmitted to 25 area hospitals through new technology programs in continuing medical education.

• About 30 percent of all practicing physicians in Michigan received all or part of their medical training at WSU. Forty-three percent of all practicing physicians in the Detroit tri-county area (Wayne, Macomb and Oakland counties) received all or part of their medical training at WSU.

• Fully 89 percent of WSU’s 1,056 medical students are from Michigan, making the School of Medicine the leading provider of medical education for Michigan residents.

• WSU School of Medicine accepts matriculates from nearly every county in the state, giving preferential consideration to residents of underrepresented (rural) areas.

• WSU is a national leader in programs to boost the number of underrepresented minorities in medical school. WSU ranks 13th of the 125 medical schools in the country in the number of underrepresented minority graduates. It ranks first nationally in the number of Arab-American physician graduates.

• WSU is an important provider of medical education not only to the state, but also throughout the United States. The school ranks among the top quarter of medical schools in the country for the number of graduates who become university faculty.

• The number of applicants to the WSU School of Medicine increases every year. In 2004 alone, 2,785 students applied to medical school for an opportunity at some 260 slots.

• Technology-enhanced learning is a major advancement for WSU which is the alpha site for testing, using and developing personal digital devices (PDDs) for medical education. CampusMobility and the WSU School of Medicine have contracted to create the largest wireless/handheld initiative for any U.S. medical school. WSU medical students are using PDDs to: collect patient information during clinical internships, access Web-based course content, participate in interactive learning sessions, complete computer-based exams, do real-time faculty evaluations and prepare for the United States Medical Licensure Exam (USMLE).

Third-year student Chris Guyer knows that experience is a great teacher. He helps organize the annual “Night in the E.R.” at Detroit Receiving and Sinai-Grace hospitals to give students interested in emergency medicine true grit learning situations. WSU faculty and residents believe an enhanced and integrated curriculum gives medical students an edge in their clinical training, basic science education and professionalism.
• Nearly 3,000, or 34 percent, of Michigan’s practicing primary care physicians are Wayne State University School of Medicine alumni.

• WSU alumni primary care physicians are responsible for 12 million health care visits annually to residents of the state of Michigan.

• WSU faculty at Detroit Medical Center hospitals provide 59 percent of care for newborns with the most complicated health conditions in Detroit. In fact, faculty at Hutzel Women’s Hospital care for 21 percent of newborns in the tri-county area who are classified as having the worst health problems; other area hospitals individually care for 7 percent or less. Although WSU faculty members care for a disproportionately large share of the area’s sickest newborns, they continue to provide the highest quality care based on key obstetrical indicators, such as complication rates in deliveries, numbers of C-sections, etc.

• At Children’s Hospital of Michigan, WSU pediatric faculty care for almost half (48 percent) of all hospitalized Wayne County children. This represents 62 percent of the Detroit market for pediatric services. Ninety-five percent of the 68,260 emergency room visits to CHM were Wayne County residents.

• Wayne State University faculty physicians at the Barbara Ann Karmanos Cancer Institute treat 40 percent of all cancer patients in Detroit. Karmanos manages 96,000 outpatient visits and 5,700 patient discharges annually; conducts more than 350 clinical research studies; and answers 154,000 calls to its cancer information phone line.

• Jack Ebright, M.D., and Robert R. Frank, M.D., were finalists and honorees for the 2002-2003 Humanism in Medicine Award from the Association of American Medical Colleges. Eric Ayers, M.D., was honored in 2003-2004.
• Jeanne Lusher, M.D., distinguished professor of pediatrics, was honored by Congresswoman Carolyn Kilpatrick and the American Medical Women’s Association as a Local Legend from Michigan. This distinction recognizes women physicians and is a companion project to an exhibition created by the National Library of Medicine titled “Changing the Face of Medicine: Celebrating America’s Women Physicians.”

• *Crain’s Detroit Business* honored three School of Medicine faculty members – Drs. Robert R. Frank, professor of internal medicine and interim dean, Isaac Powell, professor of urology, and Eli Goldberg, assistant clinical professor of pediatrics – as “Health Care Heroes.” Dr. Frank is cited for his dedication to community service and for integrating community service into the medical curriculum. Dr. Powell is noted for his work in prostate cancer screening and treatment, especially among African-American men. Dr. Goldberg is noted for his Kids Kicking Cancer program for pediatric cancer patients at Children’s Hospital.

• The Karmanos Cancer Institute gave its Compassionate Caregiver Award to David Bouwman, M.D., WSU professor of surgery, who considers patient care his first priority. Dr. Bouwman is director of the Alexander Walt Comprehensive Breast Center and leads the institute’s Breast Cancer Multidisciplinary Team.

• Swift assessment of cancer treatment success allows Anthony Shields, M.D., Ph.D., to tailor chemotherapy and radiation quickly as patients’ bodies respond individually to various treatments. Using novel techniques, Dr. Shields is able to see evidence of life in cancer tumors, rather than rely on simple size measurements to determine if cancer has been eliminated. As a professor of internal medicine at Wayne State, and associate center director of clinical research at the Karmanos Cancer Institute, Dr. Shields’ tumor metabolism research has become a hot topic and has attracted significant funding.

He’s been named to the Best Doctors list; he received the 2004 Pfizer Humanitarian Award; and he was nominated for the 2004 Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC) Humanism in Medicine Award. Dr. Eric Ayers, assistant professor of internal medicine and pediatrics, pays special attention to substance abuse and HIV prevention with his African-American patients. It’s a considerable problem that needs to be addressed, he says.
Generously sharing our skills and resources

Spirit of Service

and

Generously sharing our skills and resources

...
• WSU ranks first in the nation for the number of graduates who plan to stay in-state to practice. Approximately 60 percent of our graduates stay in Michigan to practice upon graduation.

• Nearly every county in Michigan is serviced by practicing WSU medical school graduates, with significant out-state representation: outside the tri-county Detroit area, 16 counties have 200 or more practicing WSU medical graduates.

• Wayne State University resident physicians are an important source of medical care as part of their supervised training experience; they help to provide the “safety net” care to individuals who could not afford care from other sources.

• Of the city of Detroit’s 690 primary care physicians, 350, or 40 percent, are WSU/DMC physician residents-in-training. Graduate medical education is an extremely important source of primary health care to Detroit residents.

• The Detroit Medical Center provides 25 percent of all Medicaid care in the state; 70 percent of that care is delivered by WSU faculty and residents under supervision.

• Recognizing the extraordinary commitment WSU medical students make to the metro Detroit community, in 1998, the School of Medicine began allowing students to earn co-curricular credit for their participation in sponsored outreach and volunteer activities. Today, more than 250 students participate in various programs and activities, providing outreach and care through such efforts as: community health expos, Reach Out to Youth, Cover the Uninsured Week, Young Doctors of Detroit, MPAC, and programs to help curb smoking, obesity and other health hazards.

Jennifer Taylor organized a cohort of WSU students and faculty members to take Brain Awareness Week lessons into area schools and the Detroit Science Center. Kids of all ages were encouraged to touch human brains and learn more about how they work and how to avoid damage.
Leading an outreach effort for homeless people in Detroit, Dr. Iltefat Hamzavi also serves as director of the Institute for Social Policy and Understanding, committed to studying U.S. domestic and foreign policy and understanding its impact on various communities.
Setting standards and driving improvement

Spirit of Leadership

Setting standards and driving improvement
• Consistently recognized for providing quality patient care, 102 members of the Wayne State University Physician Group were cited as leaders in their fields in the latest Best Doctors in America list published by Best Doctors, Inc.

• The WSU School of Medicine research “Honor Roll” has grown to include more than 50 faculty members who have attracted two or more federal grants, lending great distinction to their research efforts.

• The Wayne State University School of Medicine’s Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology recently was ranked first in research awards by the National Institutes of Health with more than $16 million in total grants.

• The WSU Department of Emergency Medicine ranks first among the nation’s medical schools for research expenditures in its field—more than $2 million in 2001-2002—according to the Association of American Medical Colleges Clinical Department Data Report, 2001-2003. The research grant funding per faculty member averaged about $102,000. Primary research foci for emergency medicine includes cerebral resuscitation and acute coronary syndrome/congestive heart failure.

• Wayne State University’s neurology and neurosurgery programs at Harper University Hospital ranked 18th in the country, according to the latest list of America’s Best Hospitals published in U.S. News & World Report. These programs continue to be a strategic research focus for the school and great strides are being made in the research and care of stroke, multiple sclerosis, epilepsy and other neurologic conditions.

• Honored as distinguished professors by the Wayne State University Board of Governors in 2004 were Kenneth Honn, Ph.D., in the Department of Radiation Oncology and the Barbara Ann Karmanos Cancer Institute and Bhanu Jena, Ph.D., in the Department of Physiology.

• As dean of the WSU School of Medicine from 1999-2004, Dr. John Crissman accomplished many goals on behalf of the school. He negotiated a contract renewal with the Detroit Medical Center and the University Physician Group; he helped the Karmanos Cancer Institute gain renewal as a federally designated cancer center; and he successfully led the effort to bring the Perinatology Research Branch to Detroit. These efforts, among many others, have strengthened the school and secured its missions of research, education and patient care for the future.

Dr. MaryJean Schenk, chair of family medicine and interim associate dean for academic and student programs, is working closely with leaders of Wayne County and the city of Detroit to improve primary care services for citizens in our community.

Leading the efforts of the University Physician Group, Dr. Stephen DeSilva ensures that Wayne State doctors are held to the highest standards of care.
Committing to the community's longevity and future

Spirit of Growth

Committing to the community's longevity and future
Growing the graduate science program has been the goal of Ken Palmer, Ph.D., who established a combined M.D./Ph.D. program to recruit and train the finest physician-scientists.

In 2003, Wayne State University secured a 10-year $125 million contract with the National Institutes of Health to operate the Perinatology Research Branch, a multidisciplinary program that explores and improves the field of premature labor and congenital anomalies—the major causes of perinatal morbidity, long-term neurologic handicaps and developmental deficits in children.

Charles Shanley, M.D., has been appointed chief of the WSU Division of Vascular Surgery. Dr. Shanley, an alumnus of the medical school, is creating a cohesive strategy for managing cardiovascular disease that could serve as a model for quality vascular care.

Charged with expansion of neuroscience and neurorecovery programs, Jay M. Meythaler, M.D., J.D., was named chairman of the Department of Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation at the Wayne State University School of Medicine and Rehabilitation Institute of Michigan.
• A $25 million Education Commons will be built on the medical school campus to increase enduring medical education opportunities for students, alumni and affiliated physicians. The 24-hour access building will contain learning laboratories, patient examination and surgery training modules, technology-enabled learning tools and study areas, along with many comfortable amenities.

• With the entering class of 2007, the WSU School of Medicine has increased its class size with the addition of 14 full tuition scholarship positions per year. Four of those scholarships are dedicated to M.D./Ph.D. candidates and another 10 are used to attract top-choice, first-rate candidates.

• Further strengthening the cancer programs of WSU and the Barbara Ann Karmanos Cancer Institute, Karmanos acquired major clinical facilities for cancer patients that the Detroit Medical Center and institute had jointly managed for 10 years. This transition will provide even greater opportunities for critical cancer research and cancer care for the community.

Dr. Robert Frank’s vision for a one-stop med-ed shop will be complete with the building of the Education Commons, a new facility providing educational resources for medical students, WSU alumni and community physicians and health care workers. The Education Commons will be built above Shiffman Medical Library and will be joined by a walkway to Scott Hall.
betterment Enacting social change Enacting social change and betterment Enacting social change and betterment Enacting social change and betterment Enacting social change and betterment Enacting social change and betterment Enacting social change and betterment Enacting social change and betterment Enacting social change and betterment Enacting social change and betterment Enacting social change and betterment Enacting social change and betterment Enacting social change and betterment Enacting social change and betterment Enacting social change and betterment Enacting social change and betterment Enacting social change and betterment Enacting social change and betterment Enacting social change and betterment Enacting social change and betterment Enacting social change and betterment Enacting social change and betterment Enacting social change and betterment Enacting social change and betterment Enacting social change and betterment Enacting social change and betterment Enacting social change and betterment Enacting social change and betterment Enacting social change and betterment Enacting social change and betterment Enacting social change and betterment Spirit of Advocacy
• The Wayne State University School of Medicine plays a major role in the Detroit Health Care Stabilization Workgroup and the Detroit-Wayne County Health Authority, both of which are developing sustainable health systems for under- and uninsured citizens in the community.

• Driving improvement in the public health status of metropolitan Detroit, the WSU School of Medicine has established the Institutes for Population Studies, Health Assessment, Administration, Services and Economics (INPHAASE). This initiative serves to identify predictive risk factors in particular communities and populations and to learn how to manage risk and improve the health and economic conditions of urban areas. The causes for health disparities are complex and include genetic, environmental and social factors, all of which are coming under intense investigation through INPHAASE.

• WSU physicians are committed to keeping their services in the city of Detroit where they are most needed. For example, groups of concerned doctors have stirred up grass-roots support under the leadership of Dr. Herbert Smitherman, Jr., former director of DMC Health Centers, to lobby elected government officials to ensure quality care for under- and uninsured citizens of metro Detroit.

Advocating and influencing policy on behalf of under- and uninsured citizens in metro Detroit, Dr. Herbert Smitherman, Jr., is serving patients in Detroit clinics and will not rest until health care accessibility and equality is a reality.

Urban children have unique health needs and WSU medical students who participate in Health FOCUS understand their issues. Every year, Health FOCUS hosts a conference to address community issues that impede the delivery of proper health care to urban children. Aimee Espinosa, class of 2007, explained that the theme of the 2004 conference was "Be the Voice of Detroit's Youth" and rallied health professionals to be advocates.
• Wayne State University’s chapter of the American Medical Student Association hosted a regional conference on “The Faces of Healthcare Disparities.” These concerned future physicians explored access to care issues, universal health care, urban and public health, and held an anti-tobacco rally to improve the health of the community for the future.

• Medical student John Staško is using photography for societal change with his photography exhibit titled “People of Detroit: A Living Project.” His traveling collection brings a human element to the region’s health care crisis through its depiction of Detroiters and their health concerns.

• The WSU Department of Community Medicine recently established Detroit’s only Master in Public Health Program. The program will prepare practitioners in three areas of concentration: quantitative health science, public-health practice and occupational and environmental health—all of which serve to improve community-based services and overall health status.

• To recognize his many years of providing research and patient care advances for people with multiple sclerosis, Robert Lisak, M.D., chair of the Department of Neurology, received the Advocate of the Year Award from the Michigan Chapter of the National Multiple Sclerosis Society. Deena Lisak, R.N., his wife, was awarded the Richard Ennis Volunteer of the Year Award.

John Staško, one of WSU’s non-traditional medical students, is concerning himself with disenfranchised groups like truck drivers, who generally don’t get adequate health care. His study is surveying their needs to make recommendations about improving access to care for citizens on the road.
Dean’s Report

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