INVESTING IN THE FUTURE

Medical Scholarships for the UAB Huntsville Regional Medical Campus

Celebrating 40 Years of Medical Education Excellence in Huntsville, Mapping the Future of Health Care in North Alabama
Four Decades and Counting

For 40 years, the School of Medicine at UAB has enjoyed a dynamic medical education partnership with the Huntsville health-care community. At the UAB Huntsville Regional Medical Campus (HRMC), home of the UAB School of Medicine Huntsville Program and the UAB Health Center Huntsville, medical students work one-on-one with experienced physicians providing direct, hands-on patient care. The HMRC offers a comprehensive two-year clinical education program for junior and senior medical students; a three-year family medicine residency; a three-year internal medicine residency; and a continuing medical education program. The campus employs 30 full-time faculty members in five clinical departments: family medicine, internal medicine, obstetrics and gynecology, pediatrics, and psychiatry.

Huntsville’s clinical component has been planned from the outset as a community-based endeavor that incorporates the top-quality physicians, professional personnel, and clinical facilities already established in the area. The campus benefits from the expertise of an exceptional medical community by engaging more than 250 area physicians in various specialties as volunteer clinical faculty. Physicians and other health professionals throughout North Alabama work with the Huntsville campus faculty to teach undergraduates and Internal Medicine and Family Practice residents.
In 1971, the Alabama state legislature authorized the creation of the Huntsville program in response to the state’s urgent need for more primary care physicians, particularly in rural areas. Today, the problem of insufficient health care access remains a key concern of the UAB School of Medicine. Regional medical campuses are a critical element of UAB’s strategic plan to stem the shortage of physicians in underserved, rural areas and to increase the ranks of primary care physicians in Alabama. In addition to the campuses in Huntsville and Tuscaloosa, a new regional medical campus in Montgomery will welcome third-year medical students beginning in 2014, 40 years after Huntsville welcomed its first third-year students.

Increasing the number of physicians who are trained in primary care is critical to the future of health care in Alabama. More than 25 percent of family physicians in Alabama trained at the Huntsville RMC, home of the state’s first family medicine residency and still the only family medicine residency training program in North Alabama.

“The UAB Huntsville Regional Medical Campus was one of the earliest regional campuses in this country. Studies of regional campuses show that they do a better job of preparing primary care physicians, especially family medicine and internal medicine physicians,” says Robert M. Centor, M.D., FACP, regional dean and professor of medicine at the Huntsville Regional Medical Campus.

The Primary Care Scholars Program is nurturing and preparing the next generation of primary care leaders in Alabama.

Another key aspect of UAB’s primary care strategy is the Primary Care Scholars Program, which encourages students to maintain interest in primary care throughout medical school. The merit-based program provides annual scholarships of $10,000, mentoring, career modeling, and special leadership and service learning opportunities. Two Primary Care Scholars are chosen each year from each of UAB’s three regional medical campuses and the Birmingham campus.

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**Medical Education in Huntsville**

1971
Alabama legislature authorizes UA School of Medicine program at the School of Primary Medical Care of the University of Alabama in Huntsville

1973
Family practice residents begin training at UAH Family Practice Center and Huntsville Hospital

1974
Huntsville campus welcomes first full-time, third-year medical students

1995
Huntsville campus officially become part of UAB

2003
Huntsville RMC moves into new facility opposite Huntsville Hospital

2012
Huntsville RMC Internal Medicine Residency Program begins

2013
40th anniversary of resident training at Huntsville RMC

2014
40th anniversary of medical student education at Huntsville RMC
More than 25% of family physicians in Alabama trained at the Huntsville RMC.

Medical School Tuition

$29,000* per year [In-State]  
*average tuition and fees

$62,000* per year [Out-of-State]  
*average tuition

The average medical student graduates with $140,000 in debt.

3,230 primary care physicians

68.3 physicians PER 100,000 people

45th in the nation

Source: Association of American Medical Colleges, 2010

853 physicians have trained at the Huntsville RMC since 1974.
Our Opportunity

The UAB School of Medicine is stepping in to help solve Alabama’s primary care crisis. According to Ray L. Watts, M.D., president of UAB and former senior vice president for medicine and dean of the School of Medicine, regional campuses represent an important component and priority of UAB’s primary care strategic plan and will have a major impact on healthcare delivery throughout Alabama. We are seeking visionary philanthropic partners to help us in our effort to recruit and retain promising young medical students for the Huntsville Regional Medical Campus by providing scholarships to help ease their debt burden.

The increasing cost of providing our best and brightest students with a top-caliber medical education means tuition can become a major burden. This debt load—averaging $140,000 for graduating medical students—not only can make the medical school years difficult, but can influence a student’s choice of the medicine he or she will practice. A young person who feels called to primary care may nevertheless choose a specialty in which the pay is higher when faced with mounting student debt, thus contributing to the already critical shortage of primary care physicians across Alabama.

Your support through scholarship contributions can have a positive impact on the future of these promising medical students and on the quality of healthcare throughout the region. With your help, even more talented students can realize their dreams by focusing on their studies and clinical experiences rather than worrying about how they will pay back their student debt.

Deal Huntsville Scholarship Initiative

The William B. Deal, M.D., Medical Professionalism Huntsville Campus Scholarship Initiative aims to honor and memorialize Dr. Deal’s enduring legacy of service to and support for medical education in Huntsville by endowing a scholarship for the HRMC in perpetuity.

Dr. Deal, a former senior vice president of medicine and dean of the UAB School of Medicine, was a strong advocate for the HRMC, where he served as associate dean and helped to forge a new identity for the program. He was instrumental in making the HRMC an official branch campus of the UAB School of Medicine in 1995, and his collaboration with key stakeholders in the Huntsville medical community was integral to the 2003 opening of the new campus facility opposite Huntsville Hospital.

“I invite you to join me in making a gift in memory of one of my heroes and mentors, Dr. Will Deal,” says Huntsville Regional Medical Campus Dean Robert M. Centor, M.D., FACP.

Once it is fully endowed, this scholarship will be awarded annually to fourth-year medical students at the Huntsville campus who have demonstrated professionalism and character throughout their third year of medical school.
Scholarship Types

There are three main types of scholarships:

• **Endowed Scholarships** - exist in perpetuity; funds are invested and a portion of earnings is used to fund an annual award.

  The minimum threshold needed to endow a scholarship at UAB is $25,000, which can be made as a single gift or several combined gifts, as a pledge of up to five years, or as a part of an estate plan. The funds are professionally invested through the University of Alabama Pooled Endowment Fund, and a portion of the income is made available to fund the scholarship according to a spending rate—typically 5 percent—established and annually reviewed by the University of Alabama Board of Trustees. Annual reports are issued on the endowment status.

  An endowed scholarship at the $25,000 level generally produces $1,250 in scholarship dollars to be awarded, which currently pays for about 5 percent of one student’s in-state tuition. Though any support is appreciated, the School of Medicine’s ultimate goal is to have scholarship endowments funded at higher levels.

  When the minimum threshold of $25,000 is received for an endowed scholarship, a resolution formally establishing the scholarship is sent to the University of Alabama Board of Trustees for approval. Additional gifts can be made to the scholarship in the future, creating further opportunities for deserving students.

• **Sponsored Scholarships** - current-use funds are spent outright each year to support a student.

• **Combination Current-Use and Endowed Scholarships** - a portion of the gift is used to award a scholarship now and the remainder is used to establish or augment an endowed scholarship. For example, a donor wishing to establish an endowed scholarship of $100,000 might choose to give $25,000 each year for five years, with $20,000 used to build endowment and $5,000 awarded outright to a current student. This enables the donor to achieve the long-term goal and also enjoy the immediate rewards of supporting a student in the present.

**Double Your Impact**

Gifts from School of Medicine alumni to current-use scholarships will be matched dollar for dollar by the School through December 31, 2014.
Ways to Fund Scholarships

Whether endowed, sponsored, or a combination of the two, scholarships can be funded in several ways, or through a combination of these methods:

- **Gifts or pledges of cash** (pledges can be spread over five years)
- **Planned gifts** offer significant tax and estate benefits to the donor and his or her heirs. They create a lasting impact after one’s lifetime and establish a legacy for the donor or donor’s loved one. Planned gift examples include:
  
  - Bequests ~ Beneficiary Designations (life insurance or retirement plan assets) ~ Charitable IRA Rollover
  - Appreciated Stocks/Securities ~ Donor Advised Funds ~ Charitable Gift Annuities
  - Charitable Lead Trusts/Charitable Remainder Trusts

Gifts are typically made directly to the School of Medicine. However, donors may choose to make their gifts through the University of Alabama Medical Alumni Association. If the gift is for endowment, or involves a charitable trust or gift annuity rather than a simple bequest, the SOM Development Office can assist in determining the best way to accomplish the donor’s goals. All gifts to School of Medicine scholarships are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law.

Scholarship Recipient Considerations

It is recommended that scholarship criteria for an endowment agreement be as flexible as possible to allow for maximum benefit to the greatest number of students, no matter the changes that may occur to tuition and program structure in the future. While final selection decisions are made by the School of Medicine Scholarship Committee, donors may express preference for how their scholarships will be used. Establishing preference is not required, as more students may benefit when criteria remain flexible.

Examples of recipient criteria considerations include:

- A donor may specify that the scholarship be either need- or merit-based, or may choose to leave that decision to the School of Medicine scholarship committee.
- A donor may wish to support students who plan to pursue primary care, keeping in mind that students often make that choice in their third or even fourth years of medical school.
- Some donors wish to give preference to students from a particular region of Alabama, or to those who are the first generation of their family to attend college or medical school.

Each time the scholarship is awarded, the donor or his or her designee will receive information about the student recipient’s progress toward the goal of a career in medicine. Additional gifts can be made to the scholarship at any time in the future, creating more opportunities for deserving students.
To learn more about scholarships for the UAB School of Medicine Huntsville Regional Medical Campus, or if you would like to discuss the many ways you can give to support our students, please contact:

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Scholarship Giving Priorities

Deal Huntsville Scholarship Initiative
- Honors Dr. William B. Deal’s commitment to medical education in Huntsville
- When endowed, will award scholarships annually to fourth-year medical students at the HRMC
- Students are selected based on professionalism and character demonstrated during their third year of medical school

Primary Care Scholars Support
- Encourages students to maintain interest in primary care throughout medical school
- Merit-based program providing annual $10,000 scholarships, mentoring, career modeling, and leadership and service learning opportunities
- Two Primary Care Scholars are chosen each year from the regional campuses and the Birmingham campus

The School of Medicine Scholarship Fund
- Current-use funds are awarded to deserving students at the discretion of the dean and the scholarship committee
- Gifts from School of Medicine alumni are matched dollar for dollar by the school through 2014
- Scholarships allow the School of Medicine to attract and retain the best students, continuing the school’s high standards of excellence in teaching and research

“I am very grateful for this scholarship opportunity because it is important to keep my debt levels to a minimum so that I can pursue the area of medicine for which I am best suited. Unfortunately, the financial burden of student loan debt may influence medical students to forgo their desired medical field and pursue career paths primarily intended to defray those costs.”

~ Jason Ryan Lauer, Madison, Ala., first-year medical student and recipient of the Jane Knight Lowe Scholarship Endowment

Knowledge that will change your world