

ACADEMIC MEDICAL CENTERS 101

Visit a University of California hospital and you'll see dedicated staff carrying out the three missions that make academic medical centers unique: Specialists treat critically ill patients. Medical students learn at their side. Clinical researchers review study results that may change how medicine will be delivered. By providing that vital intersection of treatment, teaching and research, UC's five academic medical centers are taking care of not only their current patients but the future health of California.

CARING FOR PATIENTS

UC's academic medical centers are firmly rooted in their communities, serving uninsured, Medicare and Medi-Cal patients as a major referral center and public safety net. UC medical centers treat half of all transplant patients and one-fourth of extensive burn care victims in California. UC has extended its commitment to those in need by agreeing to partner with Los Angeles County to reopen Martin Luther King Jr. Hospital in underserved South Los Angeles in 2013.

TRAINING HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS

Nearly half of five medical students in California learn through UC—the largest health sciences training program in the country. UC's innovative PRIME program aimed at training doctors for underserved communities has led to the first substantial increase in UC medical student enrollment in 40 years. Pending state support, UC Riverside is preparing to open a medical school in 2013, with medical education plans under consideration at UC Merced, both regions in critical need of more doctors. UC Davis' nursing school welcomed its first students in fall 2010.

ADVANCING MEDICAL CARE THROUGH RESEARCH

UC has improved health care through research that has produced breakthroughs such as the nicotine patch, cochlear implants for hearing disorders, the Herceptin breast cancer treatment and advancements in MRI and PET technology. UC researchers and their discoveries helped launch the biotech industry and have played a key role in its growth and its contributions to the state's economy. UC also is examining better ways to care for patients, launching a Center for Health Quality and Innovation.

SUSTAINING THE MISSION

Academic medical centers must operate as self-sustaining businesses just like private, for-profit hospitals. Because of a strong commitment to care for the medically vulnerable, academic medical centers must treat enough privately insured patients to cover the uncompensated health care costs of uninsured, Medicare and Medi-Cal patients. Also, they must balance their role as a safety net with the need to treat patients with highly advanced medical conditions that require state-of-the-art equipment and technology.

The needs are even greater for UC academic medical centers, which help support medical education. To do so, UC must negotiate payments with private insurance plans, control costs and collaborate with policymakers to ensure adequate Medicare and Medi-Cal reimbursements.

- Since 2002, state support to UC medical schools has fallen from 14% of their total budget to 8%.
- UC medical centers receive less than 1% of their total budget from the state.
- UC medical centers provide significant unreimbursed and charity care—more than \$460 million systemwide last year.

PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE

UC academic medical centers also reinvest as much income as possible to support the employees and hospitals that enable their world-class work. To meet patient needs and seismic-safety requirements, UC Health has invested in a new patient tower at UC Davis and new hospitals at UC Irvine and UCLA, with UC San Francisco building a new hospital complex and UC San Diego planning to expand its facilities.

At the core of every academic medical center's vision is enhancing the infrastructure to create and share medical knowledge. This takes human capital. Attracting the best talent to UC Health, and retaining them, is UC's highest priority and key to remaining a vibrant force in health care.

UC HEALTH AT A GLANCE

Education: 16 health professional schools in dentistry, medicine, nursing, optometry, pharmacy, public health and veterinary medicine; UC trains nearly 50% of medical students and medical residents in California

UC Campuses With Medical Centers: Davis, Irvine, Los Angeles, San Diego, San Francisco

Facilities: 10 hospitals, fourth-largest health care delivery system in California

Staff: 5,000 faculty physicians, more than 36,000 hospital staff, including 10,000 nurses

Patient Population: 40% of UC patients are uninsured or covered by Medi-Cal

Services: Services: 142,000 inpatient admissions and about 3.8 million outpatient visits, including 274,000 emergency room visits a year; all five UC medical centers have neonatal intensive care units; UC operates or staffs five Level 1 trauma centers and provides 50% of all transplants and 25% of extensive burn care in California

Total operating revenue (fiscal year 2011): \$6.5 billion

