

## **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 259 with a student enrollment of 493.

As an academic medical center, Creighton is committed to providing excellent medical care today. 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 University's labs are designed to encourage interdisciplinary learning and sharing of information among faculty and students.

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

### **Students:**

- In 2005, 4,962 people applied to the School of Medicine. Out of that number, 310 were accepted and 125 enrolled as medical students for the 2005-06 academic year.
- During 2005-06, there were a total of 493 medical students; 26 percent of these students were minorities.
- Every year, the University invites its medical graduates from previous years to help obtain residencies for its current graduates. Eighty-five percent of the school's medical alumni support the placement of medical school graduates in residency programs, which contributes to high-residency-acceptance rates.
- Year after year, 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 scores on the National Medical Licensing Examination, student-support systems, and Creighton University's national reputation.

**Graduate Students:**

(Data to be added soon.)

**Residents:**

(Data to be added soon.)

**Continuing Medical Education:**

- The Continuing Medical Education (CME) Division offered 64 courses and 29 Regularly Scheduled Conferences (RSC) in 2004-05. Course attendance totaled 5,616, and RSC attendance totaled 17,082. The CME Division continues to work closely with departments/divisions within the School of Medicine to oversee the courses and RSC to assure all activities are managed within the ACCME (Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education) and AMA (American Medical Association) requirements.

**Faculty/Physicians:**

- Creighton University physicians are locally, nationally and internationally recognized experts in minimally invasive surgery, bariatrics, urology, esophageal surgery, cardiac care, hernia, surgical oncology, peritoneal neoplastic diseases, hereditary cancer, osteoporosis, trauma and neurosurgery.
- Creighton University physicians and researchers are significant contributors to national health care and educational advancements.

**Clinical Services:**

- The Cardiac Center has initiated new clinical services in drug therapy (e.g. Natreacor 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 physicians 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 mechanics 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 bacterial resistance, cancer, hearing restoration, and conditions that affect bone growth and bone loss. They also are increasing their knowledge of the interaction of drugs, toxins and other substances with living systems.
- 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 hereditary cancer and osteoporosis. Through a major University commitment to its "Centers of Excellence" in medicine, the school is pushing hard to develop comparable front-runners in infectious diseases, diabetes, and molecular biology. An exciting new generation of research projects is underway.

#### **Centers of Excellence:**

- The Cancer Center and its staff are innovators in three major areas of cancer: 1) peritoneal neoplastic diseases, 2) breast cancer through same-day diagnostic breast care services, and 3) 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) at Creighton University 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 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). Dr. 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.