With the graduation of our inaugural class just eight months away, Carle Illinois College of Medicine is coming of age. Your continued support has been a driving force behind our success and is helping us fulfill our promise to our students, our university, and our community, to change the future of medicine.

We are proud to see our students and faculty contributing to groundbreaking research that offers new clinical insights and treatments to improve patient care. Through cross-disciplinary collaboration and innovation, our engineering-based medical school is leveraging technology and data to advance the practice of medicine.

As we look back on our accomplishments this past year, we are grateful for your partnership in this exciting, transformative venture to train the first generation of skilled and compassionate physician innovators. All of this is possible because of the generous support of faithful donors like you. Thank you!

King Li, MD, MBA
Dean
Your support for student scholarships and wellness programming has allowed Carle Illinois to attract and retain the best and brightest students.

The Carle Illinois College of Medicine welcomed 47 aspiring physician innovators as the Class of 2025, marking the first time the college has held four full classes of students. Eighty percent of the new class comes from an engineering or bioengineering background, while others have undergraduate or graduate degrees in advanced mathematics, computer science, and other quantitative disciplines. Carle Illinois’ inaugural class – all of whom received donor-supported full-tuition scholarships – will graduate in Spring of 2022, prepared to improve patient care and revolutionize medicine for decades to come.

Gifts to the Carle Illinois Founders’ Fund supported development and implementation of our paradigm-shifting curriculum that prepares the next generation of physicians to lead in the clinic, in research, and beyond.

Students completing their first year at Carle Illinois immerse themselves in hands-on research, clinical, academic and - in non-pandemic years - global experiences that prepare them to change health care in the future. This year, students in the immersive Discovery Learning course contributed to everything from brain tumor research to emergency medical treatment for diverse patient populations, to analyzing available COVID-19 vaccines around the world. This year, two Discovery Learning students went on to share their work with the broader research community, through professional journal publication and medical conference poster presentation.
Through the support of the Phyllis M. Wise Student Excellence Fund and the Innovation Fund, Carle Illinois students who excel have received support to pursue their goals, publish research, and develop groundbreaking strategies to change health care.

Unique to our curriculum’s emphasis on fostering medical innovation, Carle Illinois students work to create prototype-worthy ideas using technology, engineering, or data science to address healthcare issues. The Class of 2022 proposed more than 150 solutions to health care challenges that they identified during their core clinical clerkships. Each medical student in Carle Illinois’ inaugural class is working to complete a capstone project – developing one idea into a prototype worthy of translation and commercialization - and a data science project, using analytical skills and leveraging Big Data to solve real-world healthcare problems.

Your support for Carle Illinois College of Medicine has fueled interdisciplinary work that advances medicine.

A collaboration between the Carle Illinois College of Medicine and the Bioengineering Department in the Grainger College of Engineering, the new Artificial Intelligence in Medicine certificate program provides healthcare professionals with a foundational understanding of AI, machine learning, and how to apply digital technologies in their practice. Medical professionals who complete this online program will be better equipped to partner with computer science professionals, interact with vendors, advance healthcare delivery, improve patient care and, ultimately – shape the future of medicine.

For more information, contact Advancement at jhbreit@illinois.edu.